

St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



14th September 2023

Message from Mrs Terrey

We have all been working very hard in our new classes, focusing on writing our first independent piece of writing at the start of the year. Across the school the children are developing their understanding of place value. French lessons are going well with the Year 3 children learning how to introduce themselves in French. Year 6 enjoyed their Victorian day and have continued to learn about life in Victorian times.

Dates for your diary	
Flu immunisations years R-6	19.09.2023
Last day of term	20.10.2023
Parent teacher meetings (booking via parentmail to open nearer the time)	17.10.2023
Parent teacher meetings (booking via parentmail to open nearer the time)	19.10.2023
Individual photos to be taken by Fraser photographers	28.11.2023



Lunchtimes

I would like to clarify to you about the lunchtime arrangements, which have been implemented across the school to support continued improvements with behaviours. As previously there are 2 sittings. These timings remain unchanged. KS1 children at first from 12-12.25pm during this time KS2 are supervised for their outdoor break. At 12.30pm a whistle is blown and the children line up and come into the hall. This second sitting is from 12.30pm-12.55pm. Lunch staff provide children with a 5 min warning that lunch is finishing. The new arrangements are that the children do not leave the hall when they have eaten until directed by staff. The children have the same length of time to eat as previously.

St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE REQUESTS

It is essential that children form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. St Mary & St Joseph's is committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

St Mary and St Joseph's has agreed the following:

- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education but is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- St Mary & St Joseph's will monitor the attendance of our pupils and work closely with Dorset county council's School Attendance Service to support children whose attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided.
- If a child is ill, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. St Mary & St Joseph's operates a targeted "First Day Call" system, which means if they had not received a message from you, they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. If no contact is made then the Head teacher plus another staff member will complete a home visit.
- No leave of absence will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.
- We are therefore informing parents/carers that, should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, the request will not be routinely granted. It is essential that any requests are made in writing in advance for the attention of the Head Teacher. Any absence which has not been authorised by St Mary & St Joseph's will be recorded as "unauthorised" and this has the potential to impact on your child's overall absence figure and could result in legal action.

St Mary & St Joseph's is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve, and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Lots of fun at Mr Kelly's multiskills club in the sunshine!



St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Afterschool Clubs

The following clubs are offered for children until the end of the Autumn 1 Term .

The clubs are either lunchtime or after school (as below) and can be booked using Parentmail.

Tues	TT Rockstars	KS2	Mr Pickavance	Lunchtimes
Tues	Maths	Year 6	Miss Cheeseman	3.15pm-4.15pm
Weds	Board games club	Years 2&3	Miss Mallon	3.15pm-4.00pm
Thursday	Lego club	KS2	Mrs Pattinson-Smith	3.15pm-4.15pm
Friday	Poetry drama and movement	KS2	Miss Dowling	3.15pm-3.45pm

Mr Kelly's clubs are chargeable and have limited numbers

Tuesday 3.15pm-4.15pm – Years 4 & 5

Wednesday 3.15pm-4.15pm – Year 6

Thursday 3.15pm-4.15pm – Years 2 & 3

Collection will be at the main playground.

The school is seeking to appoint a clerk to the governors

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body to inform you that there is currently a vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors. The Governing Body of St Mary and St Joseph's meets early evening once every half term and discusses the school's management, development and achievements. The Clerk to the Governors, is required to minute these meetings and carry out administrative tasks for the Governors. The Clerk to the Governors is a paid position for 2.5 hours a week but in reality, there will be some weeks where you work more than 2.5 hours (when you have a meeting) and others where you won't need to work at all. Apart from meeting attendance, working hours are flexible. Experience of minute taking would be an advantage but full training and support will be provided for the role.

St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Parent governor vacancy

We are currently looking for a parent governor to take a position on St Mary & St Joseph's Local Governing Body. We are looking for someone to help the school fulfil the three core functions of a governing body as outlined by the Department of Education:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We are currently looking for a parent governor who has a child attending this school with the following:

1. Has an interest in the performance of the school
2. Has a desire to contribute to and represent the community
3. An enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
4. Time to attend one monthly evening meeting
5. Time to attend learning walks and various meetings held during the school day

The role of a governor is voluntary and yet comes with significant expectations of performance from the Government through Ofsted. You will need to ask yourself, can I give the level of commitment required to do the role well and to best serve the school?

St Mary & St Joseph's school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

If you are interested please apply in writing to the headteacher at office@smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk If you require further information regarding the role, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Headteacher

S Terrey

Mrs Sarah Terrey