



Do Everything with Love
(1 Corinthians 16:14)



March Newsletter 2022

Update from Mrs Christopher

Dear Parents,

We are now almost 3 weeks into our Lenten journey and the staff and children have been **praying each day** for the people of Ukraine that they will be safe and have welcoming arms reaching out from all around the world. Pope Francis has asked us all to pray because prayer is a powerful entity all by itself. Please join us in spirit each day by saying our 'walking together' synodal prayer below every morning.

Our Pupil Chaplains in Y6 have been thinking ahead about how we can **help the people of Ukraine**. After a discussion, they have decided that they would like to raise money to support the Ukrainian refugees who come to this country. We have met with a representative from the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) and want to organise a sponsored walk event on Tuesday 29th March called 'Walk a mile in their shoes'. Please read the section below written by our pupil chaplains to find out more details.

Mental health and well being has been a prime topic of discussion at our school this half term. As well as referring to the 5 elements of mental health in assembly each week (as mentioned in the February newsletter and shown again below), we have created a simple mental health and well being 'vision statement' of what our school has to offer to support the mental health and well being of everyone in our school. At St Mary & St Joseph's we are:

- Ready to listen to each other
- Ready to support each other
- Ready to LOVE



One of the most important things for us all to remember is that we are never alone. As a Catholic school, we remind the children daily that Jesus is always there and is always ready to listen to us through prayer and through each other. As well as this, we have spoken to the children about how, in school, they can choose a trusted adult if they ever want to talk about something that is worrying them. The last few years have been very difficult for children as they have been exposed to the worries associated with COVID19, the current media coverage of war in Ukraine and the worries associated with the rising cost of living that will affect all families over the coming months. Good advice always includes the word 'listen'. If we listen, we will begin to understand their worries and we can support them and try to alleviate anxiety.

Best wishes,

Mrs Christopher



Our Walking Together Synodal Prayer

Father, we thank you for the love you have shown us in the gift of Jesus, your Son. We thank you for the gift of the Church, through which you show us that you are always with us and are always at work in our lives.

As we journey together to Synod 2023 help us to become the Church that you are calling us to be. May your Holy Spirit be powerfully at work among us. Strengthen each of us and guide Francis, our Pope and Mark, our Bishop. Help us to respond to the challenges of our times in new ways to bring your love to all our sisters and brothers.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord. AMEN

STAFFING NEWS

Mrs Reader (Teacher) will be leaving our school at Easter to teach at a school closer to her home. She has worked here for 15 years and has also been our English lead taking the school forward in the new phonics programme Read Write Inc. We will miss her greatly and want to thank her for her great contribution to this school over the last 15 years.

Mrs Mac (TA) will be retiring at Easter to enjoy more time with her family. She has worked at this school for 26 years and has helped many children especially through her pastoral (ELSA) role. She will also be missed greatly by us all and we want to wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.

Mrs Merry (TA) will also be leaving our school as she has decided on a change of career joining the 'carer' workforce later this month. We wish her well on this challenging and rewarding work which is admired by us all. We also thank her for her support role at St Mary & St Joseph's over the last 12 years.

'Walk a mile in their shoes' Pupil Chaplain's SPONSORED EVENT



Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are the pupil chaplains of St Mary & St Joseph's and we would like to do a sponsored event to help others. We are thinking ahead about the people of Ukraine and how we can help them. After a discussion, we decided that we would like to raise money that will support the Ukrainian refugees who come to this diocese as well as other families already here that also need support. We would like to do this in partnership with the Catholic Children's Society (CCS). See the link below for information on how they support children and their families in this diocese:

<https://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk/>

The event we want to do is called **'Walk a mile in their shoes'** and will involve each of us children walking around the school track for a mile on **Tuesday 29th March.**

To make it more meaningful and to add a little fun, we are asking that they walk this mile in other shoes eg wellies, flippers, slippers.

Your child will be given a sponsor form to use and we will also parentmail this form. Once the event is completed the sponsor money can either be paid directly into the CCS account (see sponsor form for details) or can be sent into school. Please send all completed forms to us so we can total the amounts raised and send these to CCS altogether. We would like to count, bank and post the forms by the end of term so **please send these in by Monday 4th April.**

Yours sincerely,

Tegen, Jess, Ryan, Emily, Mollie, Izzy



PTFA UPDATE!

Thank to you all for supporting PTFA events and to the hardworking team behind the scenes. The PTFA have now raised enough money to pay for the coach on each class school trip – fantastic news! There is also enough extra funds raised to provide the following activities:

- Science workshop activity sessions in the summer term
- Drama workshops from the 'Rise theatre' team who help us to actively reflect on how we can care for our planet and environment.
- More equipment (and storage containers) for lunch playtimes selected by the school council team after consulting with their class peers.

**Don't forget to book tickets for the exciting circus event on Friday May 20th.
Contact: rebeccacady123@aol.co.uk**

The PTFA are looking for more members to join the committee. If you would like to be part of the team, please let Mrs Nation or Mrs Christopher know via the school office. Remember 'many hands make light work' and we need more people on this committee.

WORLD BOOK WEEK 2022 (25 year anniversary)

Book week was a great success. Our author David Lawrence Jones started the week with a lively assembly where he explained how he became a writer and finished with his Bookman appearance! The children have been so enthusiastic about his books and it has encouraged some of our reluctant readers to want to read. We all had a lovely time celebrating World Book Day- children and adults! All made excellent efforts with their costumes which they enjoyed showing and sharing with each other.



The children spent the day focusing on a particular text in class and teachers ensured there were lots of activities to complete around the chosen text.

Also, each class learnt a poem and which we performed to each other at the end of the school day to perform our class poems to the rest of the school.

We hope you've all enjoyed spending your book token!

Please see the photos of the author assembly and the wonderful dress ups on World Book day on the following school website link. http://www.smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk/website/march_2022/598367

The 'High 5' Reading Challenge Update

I'm delighted to announce that lots of children have now received their 150 reading signature certificates and some whole class awards have reached 75. We are still in the process of doing up our school library and waiting for new furniture. The ideas of the children are helping us in deciding how we can make this room a magical place to be.

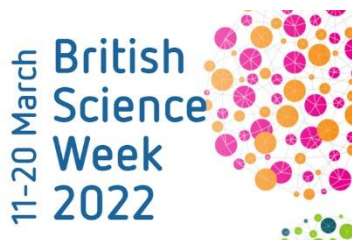


If you are finding it difficult to get your child to read at home, please let the class teacher know so they can offer little incentives that may help.

Year 2 Greenpeace Visitor

On Monday 7th March, Sycamore class had a visit from Mr Doug Skinner, a local Greenpeace speaker from Swanage. He gave us a presentation all about how we can help protect our oceans. We learned that anchors can disturb seahorse habitats along Studland Bay so new Eco Buoys have been installed. He talked about how we can help by recycling and reusing plastics. Mr. Skinner explained how animals eat plastic thinking it is food. We were introduced to Ocean food chains and found out the names of the largest and smallest sea creatures. He brought along a Spider Crab to show us and some fishing nets. He showed us a picture of a whale washed up on the beach that had eaten lots of plastic. We are going to do a beach clean on our trip to Lulworth Cove this week. Photos can be seen on the class website page link: http://www.smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk/website/sycamore_class_y2_2021-2022/569528

Year 2 are also currently having Forest school sessions on Fridays with Miss England. Please ensure that the children wear everyday clothes (not their best as they will get muddy) - comfortable, warm and waterproof clothing on those days please. After half term, Year 1 will do Forest school, then Year 6 for the final half term of the year.



This year we have had a great time exploring the British Science Week theme of 'Growing' through various interesting experiments. Year 5 investigated the effect of temperature on growing spring onions and dissected flowers. Year 1 have grown cress, whilst Year 2 have done a set of mini experiments with fruit. Year 3 and 4 had a great time learning about birds of prey with a live demonstration. Year 6 even grew slime! The week aims to raise the profile of science, celebrating the importance of it in our lives and learning about exciting the huge variety of exciting science careers. Have a look on the class pages next week to see some of the work we have been doing.

We are looking forward to having science workshops in the summer term.

Mrs Henderson – Science leader



Governors needed for our school.



Dear Parents,

Our chair of Governors- Win Sheldon- is keen to recruit more Governors for our school. Governors work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to drive the strategic development of the school and raise standards of achievement. The role involves 7 meetings over the year (mostly online) and responsibilities for subject areas to discuss with the relevant teachers and report back to the Governing team. If you are interested, please email Mrs Christopher via the school office. The Governors are particularly looking for people to take on responsibility for P.E and Health & Safety but will consider other subject areas too if you have a particular interest.

Dates for your diary

Friday 18th March Red Nose Day

Tuesday 29th March Sponsored Walk Day

Wed 30th March – Friday 1st April Year 4 to New Barne

Friday 8th April Last day of term 1:30pm finish

Thursday 14th April Maundy Thursday

Friday 15th April Good Friday

Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday

Monday 25th April Return to school

Friday 20th May PTFA Circus event at school