



Do Everything with Love
(1 Corinthians 16:14)

December Newsletter 2021



A note from Mrs Christopher

We have made it to the end of our first term this school year! Autumn always seems a very long term and the seasonal change can be difficult with the darker mornings and evenings. I'd like to thank all the children and staff here at St Mary & St Joseph's for working so hard this term to keep everyone safe – I feel immensely proud of each and everyone. We all would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and we thank you for your reliable support and trust over this strange term – thank God we've made it to the end safely. Keep safe and well everyone over the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you next year on Wednesday Jan 5th.

Merry Christmas everyone and have a happy, safe new year!

Mrs Christopher

A Christmas Blessing

May love come alive within your heart
As Christmas time draws near.
May hope fill each room you decorate
And bring joy to those you hold dear.
May peace be before you at every meal
And faith ring through every song.
For Christ is alive, the light of the world
May he bless you all season long.

100 Reading signatures!!

I am delighted to say that Giyan has already got 100 reading signatures this term. A special mention to Jasmine who is also making a special effort to get to 100 by reading more. We do accept 2 reading signatures a day (morning & night reads) but we also don't want to encourage racing to get signatures as this would detract from the whole enjoyment of reading.

New Phonics Programme for Reception (Maple), 1 (Elm), 2 (Sycamore) & 3 (Beech)

After half term, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and some Year 3 children will be introduced to our new Phonics Scheme, 'Read Write Inc' as part of our early reading approach. Read Write Inc (RWI) is a complete systematic and structured literacy programme developed by Ruth Miskin. It meets the demands of the new national curriculum, giving your children the best chance of success. **One main change will be the way reading books are distributed.** We have purchased a large number of books that will support your child's learning, and these are linked with the phonemes taught in class.

During the transition phase starting January 5th 2022, the children will only take home a story book of their choice. Instead of a phonics-reading book, we will email a link to a virtual phonics lesson (linked to the sounds they are learning that week in school). This will be a chance for your child to learn the new methods and terms used in the lessons as well as help you to support your child with their reading. After 4 weeks (from Feb 7th), the specific sound books will then be sent home with your child (or an equivalent ebook) along with a storybook to share. Your child will be given a login and password to access the ebook website 'Oxford Owl'. We are confident that this programme will ensure all children get the best opportunity to reach the standards they need to be at.

Christmas on the SMSJWool Website -Don't miss the virtual shows!



Our advent reflections in the Church and in class at the start of each day have helped the children to be still and calm and enabled them to reflect on preparing themselves for Christmas. On our website on the '**links**' tab are a collection of Christmas story videos read by some Year 5 & 6 children as well as an advent carol service where each class has contributed in parts. Please find time to watch these as you prepare for Christmas, I'm sure your children will want to share these with you. The children also will particularly enjoy watching our teacher elf dances!

Reception & Key stage One children have performed nativity services in the hall. These will be uploaded on to the December 'news' tab on the website tomorrow (last day of term). The younger children especially, have enjoyed the experience of being on stage, performing to their peers. We hope you enjoy watching these performances and services and that they will help get you all into the Christmas spirit!

Being safe during the Christmas break

Please, please follow Government guidance over the Christmas period to keep the infection rate as low as possible in our area. If any of your children test positive up to December 20th, please email the following school link:

covidalert@smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk

If we do have a case in this time, we are obliged to parentmail the families of all children in that class informing that they arrange a PCR test.

'Life to the Full' – our Relationships, Health & Sex Education programme (also known as PSHE)

We have been using this programme for one year as well as topping up with some of our previous programme resources (SCARF). We would like to remind you of the parent portal page which enables you to look at what is being taught – especially more sensitive topics. Please click on the link below for the parent portal and type in the following details to log in. Please feel free to give feedback by or ask questions about the programme by emailing the class teacher.

School Username: mary-joseph-bh20

School Password: blue-wood

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

P.E. Uniform Reminders

Please remind your child that on PE days, they must wear **plain black or plain navy tracksuits**- there are an increasing number coming in with colourful stripes or other shades of clothing.

PTFA UPDATE!

Well done to all the PTFA members and the volunteers who helped with wrapping last Friday. There has been an amazing grand total of £1,121.24 – absolutely fantastic! Thank you everyone.

.....'Save the Date'.....
We have an exciting Summer PTFA event for the whole family during the afternoon and evening of **Friday 20th May**. Please add this date to your calendars. More details to follow next year!

Christmas Poetry challenge

Poetry is a great way to introduce children to speaking aloud and performing. This Christmas, your child might like to learn a poem off by heart to perform to the family over the festive period. Here is a link with some ideas.

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/literary/our-favourite-christmas-poems>