



Do Everything with Love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

October Newsletter 2021



A note from Mrs Christopher

October is a month of change. The temperature cools, the daylight shortens and the season begins to change with splatters of autumnal colours and symbols scattered around outside. Somehow, summer seems a distant memory and the feeling of hibernating thoughts enter some of our heads! What a wonderful world we live in with such beauty evident all around us.

October is also the month of the Rosary prayer. The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. Last summer, we gave rosary beads to all the children during May, the month of Mary, and taught them how to say the Rosary prayer. This is a prayer that we hope the children will remember over the years. Please encourage your child to explain to you how to say the rosary as this will help them remember. (the link below will help).

The feast was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572) in the year 1571 to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The pope attributed more to the "arms" of the Rosary than the power of cannons and the valour of the soldiers who fought there.

As a child, my parents taught me how to kneel down each night and say the rosary together for about 10 minutes. At this stage of my life, I joined in but did not fully realise the impact prayer could have in my life. I did question the point of ritual and prayer life later on in my teenage years but I would always find myself coming back to it- almost like a dietary need, the need for stillness and reflection which adds strength to my being. My mother will be 90 this year and she still says the rosary prayer daily. Her belief is that her prayers help to protect her family, friends and the world. Rosary beads are used to support the prayer and help the person to focus. However, the beads are not essential for saying the actual prayer.

Click the link below to find out how to say this powerful prayer at home.


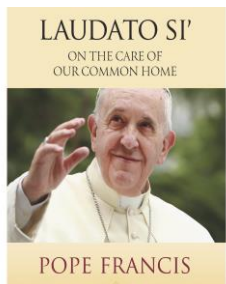
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/prayers-for-home-joyful-mysteries/>

Have a good half term everyone and keep safe,

Mrs Christopher



Our New Y5 Eco warriors- campaigning for a better future in their preparations for COP26 in Glasgow



‘Listen to the cry of
the earth and the cry
of the poor’



Our new Eco warriors are already preparing a short eco movie to show the rest of the school and to send to the next G7 meeting – **COP26** which takes place on November in Glasgow. You may remember last year, our school took part in the CAFOD campaign 'Our eyes are watching you' when a whole circle of eyes, from all the children at Plymouth CAST schools, was displayed at the meeting in Cornwall last summer. This year, as well as a movie, all KS2 children are recording themselves singing 'The Earth Song' which will be sent to the G7 group via our diocese and Caritas. 'Caritas Internationalis' is a confederation of organizations operating in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. Collectively and individually, their missions are to work to build a better world, especially for the poor and oppressed.

<https://www.caritas.org/>



Parents Meetings week commencing 1st November

Parents meetings after half term will take place virtually by Google meet for Years 1-6 and by zoom for Reception class parents.

For Years 1-6, teachers will resend username and passwords for your child's google meets today or tomorrow. By Wednesday 20th October, you will be able to log in to your child's google classroom account and click the link in the class stream to sign up for a virtual meeting time. The meeting days will be Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th November between 3:30 & 5:30 pm. Please email the class teacher if you are unavailable on one of these days or if you would prefer a phone call.

For Reception class parents, Mrs Hall will send a link and allocated slot for either Tuesday 2nd or Wednesday 3rd November (between 3:30 and 5:30 pm). Please email Mrs Hall or the office if you are unavailable on one of these days or if you would prefer a phone call.

Please remember to use the new emails if you need to contact your child's teacher
eg. s.reader@**smsiwool**.dorset.sch.uk



Winter Uniform & Wellies in school

After half term, all children are expected to be in the winter uniform (white shirts, ties, trousers/ skirts) See the link if unsure: <http://www.smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk/website/uniform/4437>

We also ask all children to bring in wellies which they can leave in school and wear when they are on the field. All classes now have zip up outdoor covers to keep the wellies in so they are easy to access from outside. This will help stop muddy shoes and wet socks!

Thank You!



Thank you to all your donations for the harvest liturgy. The volunteers at Wareham food bank have told us that this will be received by all the families in our local area who need support at this time.

Thank you for being so generous

Attendance Update

100%

Well done everyone for your attendance at school this half term. The whole school figure so far this year is 95.5%. Our goal is 95%+ so currently we are on track.

We have noticed an improvement in punctuality this term too – well done everyone for your efforts in getting your child to school on time- this makes such a difference to the beginning of the day. Next term, we will be celebrating full attendance days i.e. ‘everyone in school days’ by adding an extra minute of playtime for any day with full attendance. This is to celebrate good health as well as good learning habits.

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The new school council representatives for each class have had a few meetings already this term and are rising to the challenge of this responsibility. Well done everyone, we look forward to hearing about the new ideas from your classes. School council requests from the past have resulted in the school purchasing new picnic benches made from recycled plastic bottles and the new outside table tennis equipment.



Dates for your diaries:

- **Thursday 21st October** - Last day of term
- **Friday 22nd October** - Additional Holiday day - (Just to clarify the reason for this date- the jubilee additional bank holiday falls within the summer half term holiday for 2022)
- **Monday 25th October-Friday 29th October** - Half term
- **Monday 1st November** - Staff inset day
- **Tuesday 2nd November** - All children back at school
- **Thursday 18th November** – Whole school flu Immunisations
- **Monday 22nd November** – Rise Theatre visit

Phonics & Reading at home

On the link below you will be able to access phonics guides for parents and lessons to use at home which will reinforce the sounds children are learning at school. Although it states Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 videos, these are really **for all children** who need that little memory jerk in remembering the sounds they met earlier on in school. This will help them to fill the gaps and gain confidence in their reading and spelling.

Year 2 children did not have their official phonics screening last June due to the pandemic so the Department of Education have asked for an official assessment of Year 2's in December. All the children will be assessed on their phonics knowledge to see if they have reached the age related expectation. Our English Lead is Mrs Reader, she and Mrs Dale will keep parents informed of what the children need to practise in order to reach this age related standard. If you have any concerns about your child's phonics progress or would like to talk this through, please arrange a meeting with Mrs Reader and Mrs Dale.


https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw/videos

The 'High 5' Reading Challenge Update

I'm delighted to announce that some children have now received their 25 reading signature certificates. Well done children, keep up the practice and you'll notice the difference it makes. Maybe some of you could make a poster with book recommendations to entice others into the magical world of reading? If you can, we will advertise these on our new outdoor notice board on the playground for all to see.



The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
-- Dr. Seuss

A black and white illustration of the Cat in the Hat, standing and looking towards the text.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The deadline for applying for a secondary school place is **October 31st**. If your child is currently in Year 6 you will need to complete the online application form to apply for the secondary school of your choice. Please see:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-or-upper-school.aspx>