

Message from the acting Headteacher

The staff have all been excited to welcome the children back to school this week. We have a short, but busy, half term ahead with lots of testing going on. If you have any concerns about your child at this time, please contact their class teachers in the first instance. The Summer term is always full of activities and this week we have a number of children who will be visiting Castle Court School, a preparatory school near Corfe Mullen, to take part in a cross-country event. This is an exciting opportunity for some of our children to meet pupils from lots of other schools and enjoy some competition.

Pope Francis

The news of the death of Pope Francis was received with sadness across the world this week. He will always be remembered as a force for good in the world and was equally concerned with human rights, the environment and dialogue between different faiths. As the first Pope from the Southern hemisphere and as the first Jesuit to lead us, he is a symbol of the universal appeal of the Catholic Church. Despite his incredibly important vocation, Papa Francesco remained a deeply human figure who shared joy in life. We will all remember him fondly.



Dates

Tuesday 29th April - Year 6 NHS Heights and Weights

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday - School Closed

Friday 23rd May - Last day of term

Stay Safe

As the evenings get lighter everyone seems to spend more time outside. This means we may spend more time allowing the children out on their own. We live in a busy area with lots of traffic and parents and carers may want to use the following videos about road safety.

This video discusses when to let children cross the road independently:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyCGJcvU6kU>

Parents of pre-school children will find advice here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3f4P0nUIVKw>

This video has advice for parents of children in KS 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAiCqJvGAdM>

This video has advice for parents of KS 2 children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxMp4Wpbks4>

Staff spotlight

Miss Roberts is a well-known face around school and currently teaches in Year 3. She has been teaching for five years and is always cheerful and smiling in school. Like many of our staff, she is a local and was born in Bournemouth. When she's not working incredibly hard at school, Miss Roberts likes to spend time with her cats Bert and Betsy who were rescue kittens. Miss Roberts also enjoys fishing and recently caught her first conger eel. In July, she will be taking part in The Mighty Hike for Macmillan Cancer Care.



Community News

The cost of living has not got any easier and an estimated 1 in 5 of the UK population live under the poverty line. This can often result in families being unable to get enough food or food that is of a suitable quality. If you feel that this affects you, the Kinson and West Howe foodbank may be able to help. Details of how to access their services are on the website or you could ask to talk to the pastoral team at school. Any discussions held with the school will always be treated confidentially.

<https://kinsonwesthowe.foodbank.org.uk/>

Mission Moment

This week, we'd like to celebrate the kindness of Claire Hallums who gave up her playtime by being a good friend and helping another pupil who had hurt themselves. Claire also celebrated her birthday this week. What a great week!



May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary

May is a special time across the globe as we take time to consider Mary and her relationship to God and to us. According to Pope Francis, Mary is the road God travelled in order to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach Him. He also said that Mary is "a work of art" which is "in perfect harmony with God's plan for her".

On Thursday we will undertake our annual Mary procession around the school. We would be delighted if children would like to bring flowers to help us celebrate. This can be anything from a single flower to a posy!

Wear Red for St George

On Monday the 28th of April we are encouraging those children who would like to do so to "wear red for St George." St George's Day has been moved from the 23rd of April this year due to the clash with Easter. This move last happened in 2019. As the

patron saint of England, his day gives us a chance to think about what we value in our country and to think on his virtues of bravery and courage in the name of God used in the service of others.

I'd like to end this week's newsletter with a prayer for Pope Francis:-

Gracious God,

You know our needs even before we ask

and heed our faltering prayers, spoken and unspoken.

Hear our voice above the murmurs of sorrow

for it is the voice of confusion

seeking your still small voice of calm.

Hear our voice as we give thanks for your faithful servant

for it is the voice of praise

joining with sadness and joy.

Hear our voice as we pray for the future

for it is a voice of hope

longing to see your Church made whole.

Hear our voice as we watch with those who deliberate

for it is the voice of humility

asking for their wisdom and discernment.

Hear our voice as we pray in solidarity with the poor

for it is the voice of peace

searching for justice.

O God, hear the voice of the voiceless

for it is the voice of silence

crying out from the cross

through whom your Spirit may be heard

and your will be recognised.

For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.