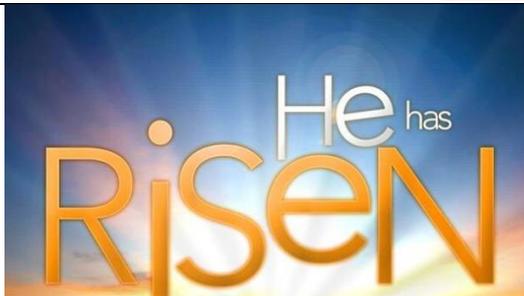




# NEWSLETTER

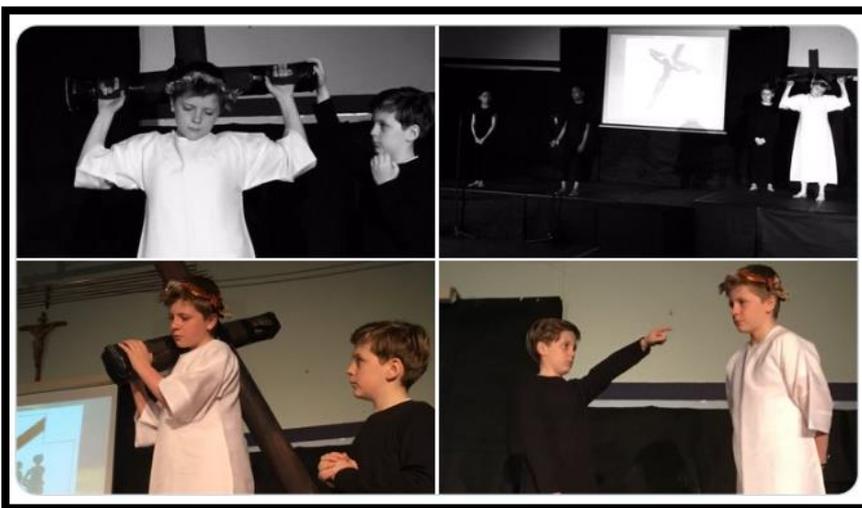
We are growing together on our journey of achievement

[www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk)



Dear Parent, we hope that you all had a lovely Easter break. It is hard to believe that we are starting the last term of the academic year – how time flies!

Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days, ending on Pentecost. So for the next four weeks the children will be studying 'Easter' in their RE lessons. To find out more please visit the school website: <http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/learning/religious-education/easter-2/>



**Holy Week at School** - I would like to thank all the teachers who made Holy Week special for our children by preparing liturgies, planning R.E. learning and enjoying Easter arts and crafts after school activity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children for participating in the **Stations of the Cross**. Children from St. Josephs and St. Margaret Clitherow helped to lead the stations of the cross during lent at St. Joseph's Church. Deacon Aidan thanked all the staff and children who attended and gave a truly wonderful and uplifting Stations of the Cross liturgy at Joseph's Church.

**Passion Play:** Our Y5 children also gave a very memorable and emotional Passion Play on the last day of term. Thank you Year 5

## **Easter Reflection** by Sr. Bridget O'Connell FMA "Remember how he told you"

In birth and in new life, Jesus is Risen

When the night is dark, we know the dawn will bring the morning, Jesus is Risen

In our world so full of suffering, the people of hope, who reach out and give time and energy to ease the pain they see, Jesus is Risen.

In a time of grief when a wave of loss surrounds us and then there comes a moment of peace, Jesus is Risen When there is forgiveness in the face of hurt and disappointment, Jesus is Risen

These Easter days are a time to remember all that "He has told us" in our own life stories.

**Deputy Headteacher Position:** I am delighted to inform you all that Mrs Philpott was successful in her application for the position of permanent Deputy Headteacher. She has been a wonderful asset over the past couple of years and the governors are pleased with her performance in the interview process.

**Summer Uniform:** The children are welcome to return after Easter in their summer uniform. Please see website for details:

<http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

### Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

What does 90% attendance mean?

- ❖ 90% attendance = ½ school day missed every week!
- ❖ One school year at 90% attendance = 4 weeks of learning missed!
- ❖ Over 5 school years of school = ½ school year missed!
- ❖ All children and young people nationally whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be persistent absentees.

**Healthy Lunch:** It has come to the attention of the lunch time controllers that a number of lunch boxes look more like a sweetie bag than a wholesome midday meal. We understand that preparing the school lunch box is like walking a tightrope. Between balancing the nutritional needs of growing children while offering foods they will actually eat can be challenging. With a third of a child's total food intake for the day being consumed at school, it is important that the bulk of food included in your child's lunch box provides much needed nutrients, vitamins and minerals for energy and growth. The **first thing** that needs to be considered when packing a lunch is a good source of carbohydrate for energy. For most children, this will be a sandwich but may also be a wrap made from flatbread, or from cracker biscuits or rice and corn cakes. It is known that wholegrain varieties of breads and cereals are digested more slowly than more processed white varieties and are likely to keep children fuller for longer, so choose wholegrains wherever possible.

Unfortunately, it does seem that many parents are over filling their children's lunch boxes with snack food. A more realistic approach is to include one small snack food in your child's lunch box each day and replace the others with nutritious snack choices i.e. fruit, sliced vegetables, reduced-fat flavoured milk, cheese sticks, yoghurt, cheese and crackers, mini-muffins and low-fat cookies.

Another option would be the nutritional based school dinners that are available daily.

**Nut Allergy:** We have pupils in school who are allergic to peanuts and need to be in a nut free environment. We request that all parents do not provide any products which contain nuts in their child's lunchbox.

**New Reading Scheme – Reading Buddy Online!** And presentations too! We have exciting news about our new reading scheme, 'Reading Buddy Online'. Your child(ren) will be bringing home their own individual login details. Please keep this login safe.

#### **Oxford Reading Buddy**

We are delighted that our school will be using Oxford Reading Buddy. This is a digital reading service to support children's reading development at home and at school. It contains hundreds of digital books and book-quizzes all matched to each child's reading ability. Please log into Oxford Reading Buddy when your child brings home their sign-in-card and encourage them to use it regularly. If you don't have a tablet or PC at home the service works on smartphones as well. For more information go to this address and choose Parent Support:

<https://support.oxfordreadingbully.com/>

**Standardised Tests:** The summer term is a very busy time for Reception Year, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6. In each of these years groups the teachers' assessments are sent to the Department of Education. The staff try to minimise the stress and these assessments should hopefully go unnoticed in all year groups bar Year 6.

During the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Year 6 children have to sit formal tests for Reading, Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation and Maths. The Year 6 children have worked very hard all year and we wish them all every success.

**Supporting children of all ages during exam time:** As we start to move towards exam season in all schools, Young Minds has launched advice for parents about supporting their children during what can be a stressful time for all.

Tips include:

- Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
- Remain positive and hopeful!
- Let them know their feelings are valid and normal, but also offer support and solutions where possible.
- Anxiety is often worst at night and this means it is useful to encourage good bedtime routines.

You can find out more [here](#)

**Volunteering:** If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer and joining a great team, could you please inform the office of your interest. If you would like to find out more information with regards to the role, then please make an arrangement to speak with Mrs. Dunlop or Mrs. Philpott.

**Staff Car Park:** Please can we remind parents and visitors that the school car park is for staff only and can only be used by parents before 8.30am and after 4.45pm. Please understand that we require all parents to abide by this rule as this requirement is in the interest of safety of all. Thank you for your cooperation.



**A big thank you, St. David's Nursing Home!** I would like to personally thank St. David's, Ascot for the loan of its minibus which has wheelchair access. St. David's lent the bus free of charge to the school so that one of our pupils could still experience the fun of travelling with his peers in a bus. This excitement of travelling with peers on a bus is something we may take for granted. One had only to see the excitement on Nikolas' face to realise that the effort and generosity of St. David's Nursing Home was worthwhile. Thank you!



The children in Y3, 4 & 5 had a great day at Butser Ancient Farm where they experienced life in the stone age – sitting around a fire in a period typical house, making yarn, drawing on stones, digging in an 'archeological site' and even weaving a fence with saplings – a great day had by all.

**School Closure – INSET Days:** Please note the final INSET days of the school year will start on Monday 22nd July meaning that the last day of the school year will be Friday 19th July 2019. Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly. All term dates for this year and next academic year, 2019-20 are on [our website](#) to aid planning of family holidays.

**Recommended Day out!** The Big Tree Climbing Company (<https://www.bigtreeclimbing.co.uk/>) in Westmoreland Park was recommended as fun day out. They offer a fun and safe way to enjoy woods from a new perspective. *‘You'll be closer to the trees in all their glory and to the insects, birds and other animals that live in them. Have a bird's eye view of the woodland floor as you look down through the leaf canopy and see what the squirrels see.’*

**Family Events:** Dear Parents, we will not be having a summer fete this summer. In its place we will have a family day in September. Further details will be sent out at a later date.