Thursday Update

22nd October 2026

Halloween Half Term!

We break up today for Half Term. **Tomorrow** and **Monday 2nd November** are **INSET Days** - meaning the school is closed for students.

Pupils should return to school on Tuesday 3rd November.

A Message from Mrs O'Donoghue

It's hard to believe we've already reached the end of our first half term! Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. It was lovely to have the opportunity to discuss the children's progress and celebrate their achievements together. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

As we head into the half term break, we hope everyone enjoys some well deserved rest and time with family and friends. Don't forget, the clocks go back this Sunday - giving us an extra hour in bed! Have a safe and happy half term, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another fantastic term.

Secondary School Applications

A reminder for Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline to apply for your child's secondary school place is 31st October. Please ensure your application is submitted before the deadline.

Attendance Award

19/10/2026 - 22/10/2026



Poppy Apeal

Poppies will be available to purchase from the School Council before and after school from Wednesday 4th November.

Staff Announcement

After 13 wonderful years at St Joseph's, **Mrs McMaster** is retiring. We thank her for her dedication and wish her all the very best for the future!

Thank You



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(Previously Twitter) @StJosephsPoole

Safeguarding Contacts: Mrs O'Donoghue Mr McQuaid Mr Carter Miss Taylor Mrs Hardwick Mr Gardner

Dates for your Diary

Friday 23rd October	INSET DAY
Monday 2nd November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3rd November	• Return to school after half term • Reception and Year 1 Fire Engine Visit
Wednesday 4th November	Year 4 Hooke Court Residential
Monday 9th November	EYFS Open Morning **9.15am**
Wednesday 11th November	Year 6 WW1 Hooke Court Trip (Consent & Payment via ParentPay please)
Friday 13th November	Children in Need - Children to wear spotty non-school uniform! (Donation of £2 via ParentPay please)
Monday 16th November	School Nurse Drop-In Session
Tuesday 17th November	Wear odd Socks for Friendship Day
Wednesday 18th November	Year 6 Depart for Avon Tyrrell Residential Trip
Friday 20th November	Year 6 return from Avon Tyrrell
Tuesday 24th November	School Photos - Individual and Siblings
Wednesday 25th November	• Year 5 Mass at Our Lady of Fatima • Y2 - Great Fire of London Workshop (consent and payment via ParentPay please)
Tuesday 1st December	PTFA Christmas Choir 2.45pm - 4.30pm
Thursday 3rd December	Y5 Athelhampton Trip! (More details to follow)



Half Term activities in BCP Libraries



Drop in during opening hours*

Boscombe Library: Dancing spiders craft

Branksome Library: Pumpkin craft and Halloween treasure hunt

Broadstone Library: Game time! Make your own board game and get a star for Library Legends

Castlepoint Library: Gruffalo craft, treasure hunt and activity sheets

Christchurch Library: Halloween badge maker, pumpkin suncatchers, cobwebs and spiders, and treasure hunt

Creekmoor Library: Gruffalo treasure hunt and craft activities

Ensbury Park Library: Rocking Fox Craft

Hamworthy Library: Drop-in Gruffalo activities all week

Highcliffe Library: Halloween hunt and takeaway activity sheets

Kinson Library: Torch craft and treasure hunt

Oakdale Library: Make a jellyfish!

Parkstone Library: Halloween-themed children's craft activities and colouring

Rossmore Library: Treasure hunt

Southbourne Library: Halloween treasure hunt, colouring and craft

Springbourne Library: Halloween crowns and spooky character craft

Westbourne Library: Paper plate Gruffalo craft, autumn leaf craft and treasure hunt

West Howe Library: Autumn treasure hunt and Halloween decoration colouring

Winton Library: Make a monster headband, learn to draw a spider web, hunt for Halloween characters

***Check individual library opening times before visitng**

Friday 23rd October

Winton Library: Gruffalo pumpkin carving demonstration 15:00 - 16:00

Monday 26th October

Broadstone Library: Welcome Gruffalo Granny! Listen to a reading of the new book followed by Gruffalo activities. 14:00

Canford Heath Library: Pat's French for all the family! 14:15 - 15:15 **booking required**

Highcliffe Library: Junk model monster 12:00- 16:00

Tuckton Library: Meet children's author, Rachel Bright. Games, drawings and Rachel will be chatting about her books. (Ages 3-8)

Tuesday 27th October:

Rossmore Library: Gruffalo stories and colouring 10:30

Canford Cliffs Library: Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30

Creekmoor Library: Gruffalo Granny story time 11:00

Oakdale Library: Explore Learning - A Knight's Journey workshop 11:00 - 12:00 (ages 5-9) **booking required**





Wednesday 28th October

- **Broadstone Library:** Drop-in microscopy session. Lots of interactive microscope actvities to have a go at.
- **Canford Cliffs Library**: Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30
- **Rossmore Library**: Halloween crafts 11:00 - 17:00

Thursday 29th October

- **Boscombe Library:** Bat Craft with Upon County Park **11:00- 12:00**
- **Canford Heath Library:** Gruffalo Granny story time , treasure hunt and craft 10:30 start
- **Tuckton Library:** Free street dance workshop by by Mad4Dance 15:00 - 16:00 (ages 5 - 10) **booking required**
- **West Howe Library**: Spooky Stories and scavenger hunt 10:00 - 11:00
- **Winton Library:** Gruffalo Granny Toddler Time 14:15

Friday 30th October

- **Canford Cliffs Library:** Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30
- **Canford Heath Library:** Brilliant bats with Upton Country Park. Join in for bat facts and make your own flapping bat. 11:30 - 12:30
- **Castlepoint Library:** Gruffalo story time 14:30
- **Highcliffe Library:** Decorate your own Halloween wreath 12:00- 16:00
- **Westbourne Library:** Gruffalo Granny story time 10:00

Saturday 31st October

- **Canford Heath Library:** Halloween drop-in craft 10:00- 12:00
- **Highcliffe Library:** Monster mask making 10:00- 12:00



All activities are FREE!

