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December 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is difficult to believe that we are in December already! It has once again been a wonderful start to the new school year.

We are very pleased with our Year 2 and Year 6 assessment results from summer 2019. Indeed we are delighted with the progress of all our classes. I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work and all our parents and carers for their hard work and support as we know working together means success.

At the end of this term all teachers will be sending out a short report on how your child is progressing and what their English and Maths targets are. I hope you will find this useful.

Despite colds, coughs and bugs our whole school attendance so far is 97% which is our target—hopefully we can keep it this high or above. Our cleaners steam clean our toilets weekly and we always remind the children to wash their hands! Hopefully the flu nasal spray will also help. We do ask that if your child has the norovirus please keep them off school for the full 48 hours from time of sickness. If your child is off for any reason please contact the school office before 9.00 a.m. The school office staff do chase up absences but if your child is absent and we hear no reason, they will be marked as unauthorised. It is also very important to stay wrapped up as the seasonal weather continues to be very changeable, and children are walking to and from various venues over the next two weeks. Please make sure your child has a coat every day, even if it seems sunny in the morning. Please also name all items of clothing - it is then very easy to return a lost item of clothing to a child. Also, children do need a pair of sensible school shoes which are waterproof, as well as PE plimsolls and trainers. Our site means that every class has to move around outside between classes and the hall, and it is important for children to have the right kit at the right time.

Staffing news

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Hannah Dyke is expecting a baby. Mrs Dyke will be going on maternity leave just after February-half term, and we are delighted to say that Ms Jemma O'Rourke will be returning to cover Mrs Dyke's maternity leave.



Dates for your diary

Sat Nov 30th

Choir singing at the lights switch on at 12pm

Weds 11th Dec

Non school uniform for prizes for the raffle.

Thurs 12th Dec

Whole school
To Pantomime

Fri 13th Dec

PTFA Christmas Market

Tues 17th Dec

Choir singing at the Pyramid Concert at Sturminster Newton High School

Tues 17th Dec

Nativity and Carol service at St Mary's Church 2pm- Parents welcome

Weds 18th Dec

Whole School
Christmas Lunch
(Non school uniform)

We have several events happening to make the time pass very quickly up to the holiday!

Christmas News and Events

Our whole school Pantomime is on Thursday December 12th. Please remember to bring in a packed lunch and a bottle of water for your child as they will be out for the whole day.

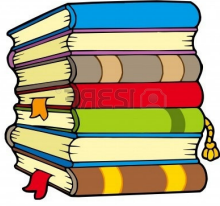
On December 11th we have a non-school uniform day for children to bring in prizes for the raffle. This could be food, drink, xmas decorations, toiletries, toys and puzzles etc. Each class has a different colour. Reception-Purple 1-Green 2-Yellow/orange 3-Blue 4-Red 5-Silver/white 6- Gold. Thank you for your continued support.

Please come and support the PTFA Christmas Market on Friday 13th December which is being opened by the School Choir and the whole school on the playground if fine and the choir in the hall if wet. Father Christmas will arrive once the choir has performed. The PTFA have worked very hard to make this event a success so we just need you to come with your child/ren for the fun to happen! All classes will have items to sell, if they are specific to the child then the class teacher will give you the option of buying the item. There will also be games for the children to play. All classes will stay in their own rooms this year.

The Choir will be performing at the Pyramid Concert on Tuesday December 17th. They will also perform at a few venues around the town. They have been asked to perform at the turning on of the lights on 30th November, meeting at 11.45, more details have been sent out. Their performances will culminate at our own school Nativity and Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Tuesday December 17th at 2.00pm. The reception class will play the parts of the characters in the Christmas Story. This is always a very enjoyable event so please join us at St Mary's Church. Letters to the choir about all the events have been sent out.

This year, our whole school Christmas lunch will be in the school hall on Wednesday December 18th. A letter has been sent out regarding this. The children can wear non- school uniform- particularly Christmas jumpers! It is traditional for every child and member of staff to sit down and enjoy this meal altogether in our school hall. We still require helpers to serve the meals if you are available. Please see the office staff.

Years 1 and 2 will be holding their Christmas production in the school hall on Thursday December 19th at 9.30am. A letter has come out for you to book tickets.



Other News

Thank you all for your wonderful support for our Book Fair. You spent £430.30 which gave us in commission £198.16 to spend on books in our classrooms. Thank you all so much.

After school clubs (Apart from After School Club!) will not run during the last week of term (from 16th December) unless the teacher informs you otherwise. Clubs for the spring term will not be on for the first week of the term. Letters will be sent out advising you of which clubs will be run at the beginning of next term.

Parent Focus Group

We would still very much like to run a parent engagement focus group. If anyone is interested in coming we will meet again on Fri 17th January at 2.15pm. Please come along if you are interested to find out more.

Sturminster Newton Orchestra

Will be hosting a Christmas Concert party on Sat 7th Dec at the Exchange at 11.00am. Entrance is free but any donations will be gratefully received to help support music making at our school.

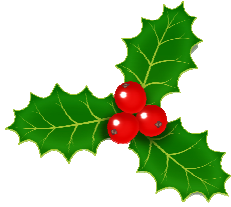
Department of Education

As you may be aware the Department of Education has passed legislation to include mandatory relationships and health Education to the National curriculum for Primary schools from 2020. I will be sending out leaflets with information in this week and will hold the updated parent-information meeting earlier this year to enable you to ask any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions before this.



Sports Ambassadors

A note from all of the sports ambassadors, We would like to let you know that sports ambassadors are trying to get many of our pupils to be more active. We have been working hard to think of different activities to make their sporting life more exciting. The sports clubs your child might be interested in taking part in are Basketball, Football, Tennis, Dodge ball, Tag Rugby and Netball. There are some other clubs that go on in the summer time and are not suitable for the winter. Usually every term you will receive a clubs letter in which you can sign and give in for your child to go every week. We would like to try and encourage all of you. Thank you From The Sports Ambassadors



School Closure

In the event of closure we will inform Dorset County Council and the information will then be available on the website and on the local radio stations, Breeze and Heart. We will also text all parents to inform them of the closure.

Friday December 20th is the last day of term - we finish at 3.15pm for the Christmas holidays, and we are back at school on 7th January 2020.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to make this term so successful. The children have all been a credit to yourselves.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

With Best Wishes

Karen Wrixon

Headteacher

