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January Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and we are all looking forward to a happy and healthy 2020. A big thank you to everyone for all your cards and gifts, they were very much appreciated.

Also a huge thank you for all your support in the autumn term. It has been lovely to see so many parents and carers coming in to school to help. A special thank you to those who walked with us to all the activities such as the choir and to the church and helped at the Christmas meal. We couldn't do the activities without your help and so it is much valued. We would welcome anyone else who would like to come in and help at any time.

PTFA News

A big, big, thank you also for all your help and support at our Christmas market - we are awaiting the total. All the children really enjoyed making items to sell and getting involved. The children also enjoyed our first Pyjama Party Night! Once again a big thank you to the PTFA for organising everything, the success was down to all the amazing organisation and your support.

If you are interested in joining the PTFA, please let either the office know or a PTFA member. They accomplished so much last term and had fun doing it. The next PTFA committee meeting is being held on Tuesday 14th January at 3.30pm.

The Children all thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Pantomime. A massive thank you to Mrs Strudwick for arranging the visit and also a big thank to the PTFA who helped with the cost. Without this support the price would have been considerably higher. The children were all a credit to you and we received several comments on how well behaved they all were.

Surveys

Thank you for returning the parent and travel surveys. Your responses and comments really help us to examine our practices. We will be discussing these and looking at how we can update our practices to help. The Travel Plan will be published later in the year. Thank you to everyone for not using the staff car park at dropping off and picking up times. This remains a huge health and safety concern from the travel surveys. We would ask that if you have permission to park in the



**Dates for your diary
this month**

January 16th

All eat together day.

January 24th

Parents Focus Group meeting.

car park you drive very slowly, particularly when coming in and out of the car park as children are using the crossing. The Governing Body are continuing to investigate the possibility of a barrier on the driveway into the car park.

I would also ask that children do not walk in the road or across the car park when vehicles are moving. If you think you are entitled to park in our car park, please speak to myself or the school office.

Meetings

We will be holding a parent online safety session on 5th February at 2.15pm. Please come along if you can as it is so important to be informed about the dangers the online world can present.

I will also be holding a parent information session on our Relationship, Sex and Health Education on 5th March at 2.15pm. Do come along to see our resources and ask any questions.

Wrap around Care

Our Breakfast and After School clubs are being well supported and the children who attend are having fun with the activities. If you would like to book your child in for a session, they are £3.00 per hour. Breakfast Club at William Barnes is a relaxed and sociable place to have a healthy start to the day. No need to book, just pop along anytime from 7.30 a.m. Choose from a selection of healthy breakfast options.

After School club runs from 3.15—5.15 p.m. and we do ask that you book for this in advance but in an emergency please phone the office to book.

All eat together

We are having another "All eat together" day on Thursday 16th January and would like all Key Stage 1 children to participate in a hot school lunch that day. We appreciate that some children still prefer to have a packed lunch, and for those children who have not ordered a meal we have still booked a hot lunch so that they can try it as well as having their normal packed lunch.

Bikeability

Last term a number of year 6 children enjoyed completing their level 1 and level 2 certificates with our cycling proficiency coach Ben Timerberlake. During the Summer term we are hoping to offer a level 3 course to those children who are interested in dealing with heavier traffic conditions, similar to those we have in Sturminster in the mornings and after school. When the children have completed their level 3 certificate they will be allowed to cycle to school, if their parents write a signed letter giving their permission.



School Closure

We always try to keep the school open, but many members of staff have a long journey and weather conditions at this time of year can mean a large number are unable to get here. Hopefully it will not happen this year, but in the case of school closure due to adverse weather please listen to local radio stations for announcements or log on to <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices> where a list of closed schools is posted. We will text all parents so please check your mobile phones and ensure we have your updated telephone numbers.

Uniform

As a reminder children should be in the correct uniform at all times. This includes Black Shoes and Black/grey or white socks or black/grey or green tights. Plain white shirt. Plain dark green pullover sweatshirt or cardigan. Plain grey or black skirt, pinafore dress, trousers or shorts. Low heeled shoes. Trainers are not suitable for day wear in school.

Wrap up in winter

Can I also remind you to ensure your child has appropriate clothing for outdoors - we expect children to go out to play and also learn in the outdoor environment, even when it is cold or a little wet. So please ensure they have a coat at all times.

Dates

I have attached the school term dates for 2020/21 with the training days. As you are aware, a few years ago the Government introduced strict rules about not taking holidays during term time. This means that I am unable to authorise any absence for holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances so please make every effort to book your holidays outside term time. Of course it is essential to inform the school office of any absence for whatever reason.

Parents Evening

The next parent's evenings will be held on 25th and 26th February. The book fair will be open during this week - please come and support the fair as much as you can as 50% of the money raised can be spent on books for our school. The next Family Learning week will be the week of 11th March. World of Work letters will be sent out if you are interested.

Parents Focus Group

Our next meeting will be on Friday 24th January at 2.15pm.

Welcome back to what promises to be a very exciting and busy term. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any more information about any items in this letter. I look forward to seeing you all around school.

With Best Wishes

Karen Wrixon

Headteacher