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| 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.  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. We have all worked together to ensure the wellbeing and the continued academic progress of all our pupils. The fact that we have had such an amazing term is due to our amazing partnership. We are sorry to have said goodbye to Mrs Palmer as she moves on to new ventures and we thank her for all her hard work during her time with us. We are also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Hughes at the end of this term and thank her for her time at our school  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.  If you need advice or support regarding your child, you can email [**dhc.snadmin.hub@nhs.net**](mailto:dhc.snadmin.hub@nhs.net) or call 01929 557 558 with your child’s details and a contact number.  Over the past few years with the pandemic the staff and I have been reflecting on 100% attendance certificates and book tokens at the end of the year. With the ongoing effects of covid, and the appearance of flu we have decided not to continue the 100% certificates and book tokens so that no child feels pressure to attend school when unwell. We will continue with our termly raffle prize so that for every week a child has attended all week they will have a ticket in the raffle to win a family prize. We also have the class attendance cup at the end of the week when Key Stage 2 go up top and Key Stage 1 go on the climbing frame and bikes.  Attendance is of extreme importance for children to make progress and so I will still be meeting with parents and carers if there is a concern about your child’s level of absence so that we can look at what support can be offered.  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 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.  **Parent Pledge**  You will be receiving a form to inform you whether your child is on track or needs support to reach age related expectations at the end of the year. You will be invited to a meeting to discuss how we can work together to make progress.  If your child is on the SEN register you will be invited to a meeting to discuss their Individual Education Plan targets and progress towards these.  At the end of this term all teachers will be sending out a short report as usual written by your child on how your child is progressing and what their English and Maths targets are. I hope you will find this useful.  Thank you for all the shoeboxes; they will be much appreciated.  **School Car Park**  A reminder that the staff car park is only for the use of staff members, visitors and parents granted permission. For those granted permission they need to arrive before 8.30 and after 3.30 or before 2.45. Even if the barrier is up, please do not use the school car park. We sometimes leave it open if a visitor is arriving early or a staff meeting is running late to avoid congestion at the wall.  **Governor Vacancies**  There are currently vacancies for three co-opted governors and will soon also be a vacancy for a Local Authority Governor and a Parent Governor as current governors’ terms of office come to an end in the spring. Full governing body meetings are held once a term at 6.00 pm. If you would like to apply for this very rewarding role or find out more about the requirements, please contact Mrs Wrixon or Mrs Dunkley-Jones, the Clerk to the Governors ([c.dunkleyjones@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:c.dunkleyjones@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk))  **Queen’s Green Canopy**  We are delighted to have our school marked on the Queen’s canopy map:  <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>  We have several events happening to make the time pass very quickly up to the holiday!  **Pantomime**  Our whole school Pantomime is on Tuesday 13th December. The bus will leave promptly at 9.00 am. Please ensure your child is in school by 8.45 am at the latest. Children will be able to go straight to class at 8.30 am.  **Non-School Uniform Day**  On Monday 5th December, we have a non-school uniform day for children to bring in prizes for the raffle. This could be food, drink, Christmas decorations, toiletries, toys and puzzles etc. Each class has a different colour:  Reception Green  Yr 1 Red  Yr 2 Blue  Yr 3 Purple  Yr 4 White/ silver  Yr 5 Gold  Yr 6 Rainbow  **PTFA Christmas Market**  Please come and support the PTFA Christmas Market on Friday 9th December which is being opened by the School Choir and the whole school on the playground. 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.  **Christmas Service**  The Christmas Service is at St Mary’s Church on Monday 12th December at 2.00pm*.* The Reception class will play the parts of the characters in the Christmas Story and some of our Year 6 s will read the Christmas Story.  This year, our whole school Christmas lunch will be in the school hall on Wednesday 14th December. A letter has been sent out regarding this.  The children can wear non-school uniform- particularly Christmas jumpers! We will not be having parent helpers in this year.  Years 1 and 2 will be holding their Christmas production in the school hall on Thursday 8th December at 9.30 am.  After school clubs (apart from After School Club!) will not run during the last week of term (from Monday 12th 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.  **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 Football, Tennis, and Tag Rugby. 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 to take part in a club and have fun!  Thank you  From The School Sports Ambassadors  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 16th December is the last day of term – we finish at 3.15pm for the Christmas holidays, and we are back at school on Wednesday 4th January 2023.  Attached is details of Sturminster Christmas events.  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. We hope that the New Year will bring health and happiness to all.  Please can I inform Year 6 parents that due to the Bank Holiday for the King’s Coronation on Monday 8th May the SATS will now be on the Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th May. Please can you ensure that your child attends all that week.    Best Wishes  Karen Wrixon  Headteacher |
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