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January 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. Happy New Year, we are all looking forward to a happy and healthy 2023. 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. 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.

A big, big, thank you also for all your help and support at our Christmas market - we raised an awesome £1012.28! All the children really enjoyed making items to sell and getting involved.

A letter will be sent out from the PTFA with information about forthcoming meetings and events soon.

If you are interested in joining the PTFA, please talk to the office or a PTFA member. They accomplished so much last term and had fun doing it.

As you will know from my email, we were very sad to hear of the death of one of our parents. The children have all come in to school and will all have the chance to talk if they need to. If you need any support, the following websites may help:

[Dorset HealthCare :: Find local bereavement support](#)

[Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children \(winstonswish.org\)](http://winstonswish.org)

[Home \(mosaicfamilysupport.org\)](http://mosaicfamilysupport.org)

As I said in my email, if any children or parents would like to send in a drawing, poem or words, we will collate and send to the family. Please could these be sent in by Friday 13th January.

Our thoughts and love go to the family.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Pantomime - 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.

We welcome two Year 3 teachers, Mrs Alfazema and Mr Pyrke, and we are delighted they have joined us.

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 £3.50 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 healthy cereal, porridge, fromage frais, fruit and a selection of hot and cold drinks—all for £3.50 per child! Themed breakfast every half term e.g. Cowboy breakfast, French breakfast, chocolate week. Interested? Need any more information? Contact the office

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

We are having another "All eat together" day this month - date to be confirmed - 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.

The interim payments for the Year 5 (when they will be in Year 6) visit to PGL in September are due by 24th March, 28th April, 26th May and 23rd June. If you have not paid the deposit for this trip, please pop into the office asap to discuss if you would like your child to attend. For the Leeson House visit an initial deposit is due by 27 January and 24th February. We sent out payment plans last term to help with costs so that they can be spread out throughout the year. Please try and keep to them and if you have any concerns regarding payment, please contact the school office as we expect all our children to attend.

The Year 4 residential visit to Carey Camp is from Thursday 4th – Friday 5th May. A letter with more details and a payment card will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Last term a number of Year 6 children enjoyed completing their level 1 and level 2 certificates with our new cycling proficiency coach Ben Timberlake. During the summer term, we hope 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.

Winter bugs and GAS (Strep A/Scarlet Fever) are more prevalent in the winter months. Please follow the guidance from [Public Health Dorset](https://www.dorset.nhs.uk/public-health/).

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.



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.

I have attached the school term dates for 2023/24 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.

Please be aware that the Government have set a Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles on Monday 8th May and so the school will be closed that day. This is also Year 6 SATS week and so the SATS will now run on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are hoping to run our SATS breakfast that week. Mr Field will give you more information nearer the time.

The next parent's evenings will be held on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th February. We hope you have found the Parent Pledge letter and meeting helpful. We will continue to tweak these. Any feedback will be much appreciated.

The next Family Learning week will be the week of 11th March, the focus being Science Week. A letter with the activities available will follow next month.

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.

Karen Wrixon
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 4th January 2023	Return Back to School	
Monday 16 th January	NSPCC Assembly	
Wednesday 18 th January	Years 3 and 4 Dodgeball Leisure Centre TBC	
Thursday 19 th January	KS2 Boccia – Shillingstone	