

In Dorset

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**Head teacher**

**Mrs. Melanie Austin**

**16th October 2017**

**Autumn 2017: Newsletter No. 3**

Dear Parents and Carers

 What a great pleasure it was to welcome so many of you to our Harvest celebration last week, which was relocated at the last minute due to inclement weather. We’ve never had such an impressive turnout and I’m so sorry we ended up with standing room only! We were very proud of the children’s delightful contributions and lovely singing. Many thanks to Rev Dominic Doble for joining us and sharing such a positive inclusive message at the end. Thank you for all your generous donations which have now been delivered to the Food Bank and other local venues.

**Parent workshops/ Learn with your child.**

On Tues 31st October at 9.10 we are inviting parents and carers to come along to the school hall, where some pupils and staff will be sharing a few tips on how you can support your child with writing. On Wed 15th November at 9.10 we invite you for our popular Read with a Relative or Friend, when you can enjoy sharing a book informally with your child/ relative (you may well be joined by a few others!) A similar maths event will take place in January.

**Parent Consultations**

By the time you read this letter meetings will have begun. We do hope to reach all our parents for this important progress meeting so if you haven’t managed to make an appointment yet, please see the class teacher, who will arrange to meet you as soon as possible.

**Wear Bright for Sight**

Many thanks for all your generosity- we raised £144.41 for the Dorset Blind Association and had a lovely day all dressed in a rainbow of colours.

**Life Education van**

Everyone enjoyed visiting the van and learning some Science and Healthy Living facts alongside Harold the Giraffe, who appears to have had a major makeover!

**Parking**

We have been asked by some of our neighbours for more considerate parking at drop off and pick up time, especially on the corners of Spring Gardens and Oakwood. There is plenty of space for parking in Lewell Way, which is just a couple of minutes’ walk from the school.

**Poppies**

This year we will be selling poppies and other items to support the Royal British legion. Last year we raised £227! Poppies will be on sale from Tuesday 31st October until Friday 10th November.

 As a school, we always commemorate Remembrance Day and this year we will be holding our annual ceremony for peace on Friday 10th November. Children will have the opportunity to post messages of peace in the peace pole in the secret garden. Yr 3 will visit the Broadmayne war memorial.

**Attendance**

In the Summer I mentioned that the Local Authority would be adopting a more rigorous approach to unauthorised holiday absences: this may involve imposing fines on families whose children are absent without authorisation for 10 sessions or more (5 days) in the space of 12 weeks. DASP schools will be following this policy and I attach a letter which all schools have been asked to send out.

**Starlings**

 On October 12th 22 of the Starlings singing club went along to Kingston Maurward conference hall to sing for the delegates at the annual Dorset Music conference. They sang their hearts out and we were very proud! The next planned performance is for some senior citizens of Broadmayne and we are hoping to take all 30 Starlings!

I hope you have a lovely half term week, with time to recharge ready for the whirlwind of November and December!

******Yours sincerely

Melanie Austin



 **DASP Attendance Statement**

It is essential that children and young people form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career, the schools within the Dorchester Area School Partnership (DASP) deem attendance of 95%+ to be good. All DASP Schools are committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance and to supporting parents and carers to achieve good attendance for the children and young people in their care. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their children attend school. To ensure this all schools in DASP have agreed the following:

* It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education it is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
* Schools will monitor the attendance of pupils and work closely with Dorset County Council’s School Attendance Service to support parents and carers, children and young people where attendance levels are causing concern.
* Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child’s health continues to affect their education, schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided to support good attendance.
* If a child is ill or absent from school it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. DASP schools all operate a targeted “First Day Call” system, which means they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. Please be aware that schools have a duty to safeguard pupils; failure to inform school or respond to a call from school may result in your child being reported as missing to police or Children’s Services.
* Leave of Absence should not be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances. The definition of exceptional circumstances is where requests are rare, significant and unavoidable.
* It is essential that any requests for leave of absence for holidays, family events or any other reasons are discussed with your child’s Head Teacher prior to the request being made as they cannot be approved unless they are deemed as exceptional circumstances. Any absence which has not been authorised by your child’s school will be recorded as “unauthorised”. In line with Dorset County Council policy, if a child has 5 days (or 10 sessions) of unauthorised holiday within a period of 12 weeks, a penalty notice of £60 per parent may be issued by Dorset County Council, which if not paid within 21 days will double to £120. If this remains unpaid, parents will be prosecuted in the magistrates’ court.

DASP is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

**DIARY dates**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Time** |
| **OCTOBER** |  |  |
| Mon 16thTues 17thWed 18th | Parent consultations Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 4  “ all classes “ Yr Rec, Yr 1 | 3.30-5.30 “ “ |
| Tues 17th | Yr 4 trip to the Nothe Fort |  |
| **Mon 23rd-Fri 27th** | **HALF TERM** |  |
| Mon 30th | INSET day- no school |  |
| Tues 31st | Back to schoolWrite from the start workshop for parents & carers Yr R Vision Screening  | 9.10-10.009.00am |
| **NOVEMBER** |  |  |
| Fri 3rd | Individual photos |  |
| Tues 7th | Governors’ Finance committee | 8.15 am |
| Fri 10th | Remembrance day Peace Pole ceremony |  |
| Mon 13thMon 13th | Anti-bullying fortnightFlu inoculation (optional) for Yr 1- Yr 4 |  |
| Wed 15th | Read with a relative/ Every child a reader | 9.10-10.00 |
| Fri 17th | Children in Need (non- uniform day)Wellbeing Open morning-all parents and carers invited | 9.00amTBC |
| Mon 20th | School nurse drop in | 9.00 am |
| Thur 23rd | Yr R trip to The Thomas Hardye School | 11.00am |
| **DECEMBER** |  |  |
| Mon 11th | Christmas play in school hall | 1.45 |
| Tues 12th | Christmas play in Broadmayne Village hall “ | 9.30 am6.00 pm |
| **Fri 15th** | **Last day of term; Christmas party lunch** |  |
| **Tues 2nd Jan 2018** | **First day of Spring Term** |  |

Spring term dates: Tues 2nd Jan 18 – Thurs 29th March

 Inset Day: Fri 9th Feb

 Half term: Mon 12th Feb – Fri 16th Feb

Easter holidays: Good Friday 30th Mar – Fri 13th Apr

Summer term dates: Mon 16th Apr – Tues 24th July

 Inset Day: Weds 25th July

Half term: Mon 28th May – Fri 1st June