



NEWSLETTER NO 3 14 OCTOBER 2022



Dear Parents

Although we published a newsletter last week, there are some messages I need to share this week. The next Newsletter will be published on **Friday 4th November**.

In all of our newsletters we want to celebrate and highlight the learning taking place in school, in each year group. The focus for our *Celebrate Learning* update in this newsletter is reading.

Celebrate Learning



EYFS We have enjoyed our whole class reading lessons which are supporting us to develop our reading comprehension. The text we have used is Elmer, which is a favourite of the children. We have considered the characters and the 'problem' in the story and learnt some of the key vocabulary used by the author. We have particularly enjoyed using 'freeze frame' moments to act out parts of the story and discuss them as a class. This story also fitted in well with our phonics learning this week, as one of our sounds was 'e' for 'elephant'!

YEAR 1 This week we have been reviewing the new sounds that we have learnt. In paired reading, we have read each sentence three times to our partner increasing fluency and expression each time. In shared reading, we have enjoyed focusing on the story Tiddler by Julia Donaldson. We have learnt new vocabulary and put it into our own sentences. As a class we joined in with repetitive phrases and with a partner, we discussed the characters and the plot. Using a freeze frame, we showed how Tiddler was feeling when he was lost. We are looking forward to sharing the story of Winnie and Wilbur by Valerie Thomas next week.



YEAR 2 To promote enjoyment of reading, Year 2 have daily reading for pleasure sessions where the children can choose from a selection of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. We have been learning and reciting a new poem each week, which the children have enjoyed. Each week Rupert (our reading bear) goes home with one child from each class to share stories together. Year 2 have fluency sessions three times a week to support reading with accuracy, speed and expression. The children have enjoyed shared reading sessions to support reading for meaning. Every week we share a special story, which we re-read to promote a love of reading.



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In **YEAR 3**, we are reading 'The Secret Seven' by Enid Blyton. The children are really enjoying this adventure story. To support you child, try reading other Enid Blyton books, such as 'The Famous Five' or 'The Magic Faraway Tree'. In English, we are studying the poem 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. The children are now writing their own version of this poem. Their ideas have been very creative and imaginative. Well done, Year 3!



In **YEAR 4** we have been focusing on poetry. We have read *The Sound Collector* by Roger McGough. We have learnt about what a *stanza* is and have read the poem together as a class, looking closely at its structure. We have tried hard to include some rhyming words in our own poems. We have also been reading *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll together as a class.

Pupil Progress

Mrs Di-Pede, Mr Watts and Mrs Cload, our SENCo, are meeting with all class teachers to review the children's progress so far this term and ensure aspirational targets are set to ensure the children achieve the very best they can and receive the support they need. We call these Pupil Progress meetings and they occur at regular intervals during the school year. Teachers will talk to you about your child's progress and targets at Parents' Evening in November.

What is clear from these meetings is the correlation between support from home and how well pupils are doing in school. Your help and encouragement really does make a difference.

You can help your child and we can help you. Please book an appointment for Parents' Evening. Your child's teacher who will be happy to share ideas and strategies.

Parents' Evening - Save the Date!

An online Parents' Evening will take place on **WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER**. More information will be sent via ParentMail, in due course.



Social Media

Online parent forums have their place, however, they sometimes confuse parents with inaccurate information, which isn't helpful. We always encourage parents to speak with us directly with any queries or concerns in order to avoid any unnecessary worry. Staff in school are the people you should speak with. We are the best people to help you.

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Site Security - Perimeter Fence

In the interests of safety, children should not be encouraged to talk to family members or friends walking by our perimeter fence. It is confusing for the children and doesn't support the messages we share about keeping safe from strangers.

Our staff are asked to be vigilant and report instances of this nature, as part of our Safeguarding procedures. Parents, family and friends can help us by avoiding walking alongside the perimeter fence when our children are likely to be outside playing.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Harvest Service - Collection of Donations

Our Harvest Service takes place on Wednesday 19th October. If children would like to make a tinned or packaged food donation, please ensure this is handed into a member of staff at each Year group door, when you drop your child at school on Wednesday.



Parents are asked to ensure that any food sent in is well within its 'sell by' or 'best before' date. All donations will be boxed up and donated to local families in greatest need.

Parking - Please be part of the solution - not the problem.

The school is not responsible for the poor decisions of the public who park inconsiderately, dangerously and cause traffic chaos in the vicinity. We have no jurisdiction on the public highway. If people drive or park illegally, it is a matter for the police and enforcement officers. If traffic management is an issue, it is an issue for the council to deal with. Please don't complain to the school office or to our teachers and teaching assistants. We do all we can.

Parents need to understand the extensive efforts we have gone to, for years, to attempt to bring about a community solution. The school has done everything possible to raise the profile of this problem with the council, police and local authority.

Dorset Council have given notice of their proposal to introduce new no waiting at any time restrictions and school keep clear restrictions on Mountbatten Drive. The consultation ended on 8th October. We very much hope the new restrictions will be implemented soon.

You can also be part of the solution. There are alternative safe parking options a short walk away. Avoid Mountbatten Drive completely. Please leave sufficient time for your journey to school and, whenever possible, park at the church or in Tesco and walk from there.

We have been over to Tesco this week to assess availability of spaces. On Wednesday morning, at 8.15am, there were plenty of spaces on the upper car park at Tesco. It was virtually empty. It is a very sensible option and there is a school crossing patrol on Church Road.

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Key Stage 2 Christmas Choir Rehearsals with Mrs Di-Pede

Prior to my senior leadership roles, I've been a music specialist in three other schools. I've also championed singing and choir at Ferndown First School since 2005, leading our choir and our singing assemblies before we appointed Mrs Charters, our specialist Music Teacher.

As I approach my final half term at Ferndown First School, I will lead school choir rehearsals for one last time as we prepare for our Choir on Tour event, where we hope to visit care homes in the local area. The last time we were able to visit was 2019.

Starting next week, choir rehearsals will be open to children in KS2 (Y3 and Y4). We will be preparing a repertoire of modern and traditional festive favourites. Rehearsals will be during the school day and I will talk to the children on Monday morning to invite them to take part.

EYFS and Year 1 Phonics Workshops - Save the Date

- EYFS - Wednesday 2nd November at either 9am or 2pm
- Year 1 - Tuesday 8th November at either 9am or 2pm
- A ParentMail will be coming home with more information.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club bookings for November and December are now open. Please make sure you have completed a registration form, if your child is booked on any Breakfast Club sessions.



School Photographer

The school photographer is in school on **Friday 21st October**. All children should wear school uniform on this day and not PE uniform.

Finalists for the Dorset Art Prize 2022

Our school is a finalist in the Primary School category of the 2022 Dorset Art Prize. The judges were impressed with the artwork entered. Final places will be announced at the Dorset Art Prize 2022 awards ceremony, which is taking place on Saturday 3rd December at Upton Country Park.



....and finally

School closes at the **usual time** on Friday 21st October. We re-open on Tuesday 1st November.

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