Dear Parents and Carers

In assembly this week the children have been listening to stories written by Muslim author Ibtihaj Muhammad.

Ibtihaj Muhammad is not just a children’s author but also an American sabre fencer. In August 2016, she became the first American woman to compete in the Olympics in hijab and is also the first Muslim woman to win an Olympic medal for the United States. Named in Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential list, Ibtihaj is an important figure in a larger global discussion on equality and the importance of sport. Her voice continues to unite both the sports and non-sports world.

Community Feedback

I have had a lovely email from a parent that has been parking at the Leisure Centre and walks their child to school. They have given feedback to Dorset Council suggesting that a pathway be installed to bridge the gap between the car park and the main pathway.

The Council have replied to say they will price the cost of the work up and see if it can be put into the budget for this year.

The suggestion of adding a pathway is a great idea and I am glad that the Council have responded favourably. I would like to write to the council in support of this. If there are any parents who also think a pathway would be beneficial, please drop the school an email and I can add it to my response to the Council.

Thank you to parents that are using parking that is available locally and walking with their children to school.
Life Education Workshop Visit

Life Education workshops have taken place this week in classrooms and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a variety of themes in Personal, Social and Health Education. We have provided some quotes from the children below:

- **I enjoyed putting the body parts on.**
  - EYFS

- **Your heart goes boom, boom and blood comes out.**
  - EYFS

- **I enjoyed how the fidgets showed his feelings.**
  - Luna - Year 1

- **I liked how learning about how the chemicals in the brain affect our moods.**
  - Audrey - Year 4

- **I enjoyed learning about how we can keep our mind and body healthy.**
  - Elizabeth - Year 4

- **I found it interesting how we can express ourselves in different ways.**
  - James - Year 4

- **‘Windpipe’ I enjoyed sharing my knowledge about the body.**
  - Flynn - Year 2

- **It was amazing to see Harold and learn about our bodies.**
  - Michalina - Year 3

**I Rock Club**

Following information sent home to parents in September, we are pleased to advise that the I Rock in-school rock and pop band sessions have now started – we thank parents for their patience due to the delay with the start of this club. The children have had so much fun taking part! Comments from a few of the children who’ve enjoyed their sessions are below:

- **Ginny – ‘I knew the song that we were doing and I felt confident with the people around me and I really enjoyed singing.’**

- **Lily – ‘I liked that I felt comfortable with the people around me and I also liked playing the keyboard.’**

- **Sofia – ‘I enjoyed the song because I knew it and I have a keyboard at home so I can practice what I’ve been learning.’**
Parking in Mountbatten Drive - Update

Following on from the information in my last Newsletter, I can confirm that the Police have been in attendance, patrolling the area and taking notes and photos of poor parking in the vicinity. We hope they will continue to provide support to help keep the roads around our school safe.

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Years 3 and 4 - Fiver Challenge

We are participating in the Fiver Challenge again this year which takes place between 3 – 28 June 2024. The Fiver Challenge is a free national competition for young people. The challenge is run by Young Enterprise, the UK’s leading enterprise and financial education charity, which helps bring learning to life and helps to encourage future aspirations in young people.

The £5 pledge has been provided by Young Enterprise. It’s a great programme supporting children to gain core enterprise skills such as communication, confidence and creativity and it’s great fun too! More details on the Fiver Challenge can also be found at www.fiverchallenge.org.uk, where you can also register as a parent/carer to access the resources.

A ParentMail letter is being prepared and will be sent home to parents in due course providing further information and details on when parents will have the opportunity to come into school to view and purchase the products the children have created.

We are all very excited about getting involved with this Challenge again!

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Water and Drinks in School

Please be reminded that children are only permitted to drink water during lesson time.

As part of their lunch, children are allowed to bring squash, fruit juice, milk, milkshakes, smoothies or flavoured water. Fizzy drinks and all other energy drinks are not allowed.

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Cooking Club

We are pleased to advise that Miss Fearn hopes to be able to offer children in Year 3 the opportunity to take part in a new Cooking Club in the very near future. Further information has been sent home to parents today on how to sign their child up for this club.
Nativity Collection – Resources Purchased

Following the generous donations received from parents after the EYFS nativity performances in December, we are pleased to confirm that some fantastic magnetic building block sets have now been purchased for EYFS children and we eagerly await their delivery.

We hope that these colourful sets will inspire children’s creativity, motor skills and brain development, together with shape and colour recognition.

Yr 4 Collection - Ideas for Resources

We are asking children in Year 4 for ideas on what they would like to see donations from events before Christmas spent on - we look forward to advising parents in due course.

Avon Tyrrell – Second Instalment Now Due

Thank you to those parents who have continued to pay for their child’s visit to Avon Tyrrell in April. As advised in our letter of 12th October 2023, the second instalment of £62 is due by today. The remaining balance payment of £62 is due by Friday 22nd March 2024. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary - Reminder - Staff Training Day

Parents are reminded that Friday 9th February is a Staff Training Day. This is the Friday before half term which runs from Monday 12th – Friday 16th February, so children will finish for this half term on Thursday 8th February. Finish time will be 3.05pm.
Term Dates 2024-25

We are pleased to advise that Trust schools have agreed the new term dates for 2024-25. These include 5 Staff Training Days. Please note: These dates are now in line with BCP school term dates, not Dorset schools' term dates, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn Term 2024</th>
<th>Autumn Term Monday 2 September 2024 - Friday 20 December 2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Training Day</td>
<td>Monday 2 September 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Training Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 September 2024</td>
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<td>Welcome Back to School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Term</td>
<td>Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term</td>
<td>Friday 20 December 2024</td>
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<td>Christmas Holidays</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Spring Term Monday 6 January 2025 - Friday 4 April 2025</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Half Term</td>
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<td>Easter Holiday</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Training Day</td>
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Adverse Weather - Information for Parents re School Closure

As the weather can become unpredictable at this time of the year, arrangements need to be in place to cope with sudden snowfalls or severe weather that may prevent staff from reaching school.

- Parents are advised that, in the event of a heavy frost, there may be occasions when site staff have to lock all access gates until gritting of key areas has been completed.
- There may be days when we have to close the waiting areas and bring year groups in to school from doors at the front of school.
- Parents will be notified of any changes to the entry and exit arrangements but this might be at short notice, so we ask for your patience, understanding and co-operation.
- Parents must:
  - adhere to the designated, gritted pathways into school only
  - supervise their children before and after school whilst on school premises
  - ensure that their children are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats
- Please check ParentMail text messaging service and updated notices on our website.

Parents can also access information on: https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools

This will be the final Newsletter for this half term. We have one more week in school before we break up for the half term holiday on Thursday 8th February, at the normal time.

Our next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 23rd February.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts
Headteacher