Newsletter 19

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have been producing excellent work at the start of the Spring Term. Please continue to encourage them in their home-learning, to support the progress they are making during this vital term. For all children, telling the time is a tricky concept to master, particularly on analogue clocks (those with hands). Please make sure they have clocks to look at in their homes and that telling the time is part of what you talk about at home. We don’t want any of our children going on to secondary school without being able to tell the time, please help us in this quest!

**NSPCC Numbers Day – Friday 7th February – Non Uniform (Wear something with a number on it you can) £1 donation to the NSPCC**

The children will be doing some special Maths-related activities to celebrate Numbers Day. Please send them in something with a number on it if you can, but any non-uniform is fine.

**School Disco this Friday – 31st January (in the school hall)**

Reception, Y1, Y2 & Y3   from 5:30 - 6:30
Y4, Y5 & Y6                     from 6:45- 7:45

Tickets available from Classlist
There will be a tuck shop with pick and mix for your children to purchase. Please send your children with money for the tuck shop but no more than £3 as we will not take responsibility for individual children’s money. Thank you!
Any helpers welcome, please let your class reps know

**Parking on St John’s Hill**

We have been notified of some dangerous parking by the junction of Foyle Hill and St John’s Hill recently, with children at risk around the parked cars. Please don’t park in this area as it’s dangerous and causes traffic congestion.

**New Football club and Half term football days**

Book the Friday football club for boys and girls from Year 2-Year 6 (3.20-4.20pm), or the half term football days at

[**www.tcwsports.co.uk/book-online**](http://www.tcwsports.co.uk/book-online)

**Craft Activities**

There are some interesting craft activities taking place in the half term week, please see the attached information to book these activities.

**Snowdrop Art and little children’s service in St James Church on Friday 14th February at 3.30pm**

The children are all invited to create a piece of art based on a snowdrop or snowdrops for an exhibition in the church as part of the Shaftesbury Snowdrop Festival. Art created at home should be clearly named and brought in to school by Thursday 13th February. All families are warmly invited to go to the short service after school on Friday 14th February to celebrate the snowdrop art in the church.

**Parents’ Evening Dates – 6th and 10th February, 3.30-6pm**

Parents evenings are on Thursday 6th and Monday 10th February.

To book, log in to the school website or the eSchools App which you can download onto your phone. The link to the school website is:  [https://shaftesburyabbeycofe.eschools.co.uk](https://shaftesburyabbeycofe.eschools.co.uk/)

If you are struggling to book slots yourself, please ring the school office.

Our SENDco (Mrs Howard), will be available during the parents’ evening on Monday 20th January if you would like to chat to her at that time.

**Mental Heath**

We had outstanding support for the last mental health session we held for parents in our school Hall. Please come to this one.

As you will know from previous newsletters, we are taking part in a pilot project in Dorset for the national PINS (Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) programme. As part of this we are holding a coffee morning **from 9-10am on Wednesday 12th February**, hosting Tamsin Pike, the project worker from the Dorset Parent Carer Council. She is looking to speak with parents about the support they feel their children need in school and how best our school can offer this. Please feel welcome to join us at this time for a chat.

Children’s mental health week 2025 will take place from**3-9 February.**The theme for 2025 is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. You can find more details here [Children's Mental Health Week - Place2Be](https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/childrens-mental-health-week/) .

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Staff have asked that all children wear really warm clothes (including thick socks) when the weather is cold during Forest School sessions.

It will be the Year 2 from 29th January and Year 1 from 26th February.

Children need to have trousers and long-sleeved tops, wellies and a **waterproof coat** (with overtrousers if they have them). The Forest School philosophy is to wear the right clothing to go out in all weathers.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2024 – 2025**

**Autumn Term**

**INSET DAY                                                      Tuesday 3rd September 2024**

Children start back                                       Wednesday 4th September 2024

Autumn Half Term                                        Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024

**INSET DAY                                                      Monday 4th November 2024**

Autumn Term ends                                      Thursday 19th December 2024

**INSET DAY                                                      Friday 20th December 2024**

Christmas Holidays                                       Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025

**Spring Term**

Children  start back                                      Monday 6th January 2025

Spring half term                                            Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Spring Term ends                                          Friday 4th April 2025

Easter holidays                                              Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April 2025

**Summer Term**

Schools due to start back                            Tuesday 22nd April 2025

MAY DAY Bank Holiday                                 Monday 5th May 2025

Summer half term                                          Monday 26th May to Friday 30st May 2025

**INSET DAY                                                       Monday 2nd June 2025**

Summer Term ends                                       Tuesday 22nd July 2025

**INSET DAY                                                       Wednesday 23rd July 2025**