Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new school year to you all, to our returning children and families, and to our new children and their families who are joining our school for the first time this week. We hope all the children will settle in to their new classes quickly, with help from the staff looking after them. For new parents, please do ask other parents or staff about anything you’re unsure about, as we say to the children, there’s no such thing as a silly question if you don’t know the answer, there will be others who want to know too!

I am always so pleased to see how supportive and helpful everyone in our community is when new families join us. It is a real strength in our school and one I am hugely proud of.

**Uniform, Attendance and Punctuality**

A reminder that we are keen to achieve higher levels of attendance and punctuality, and smart school uniform and PE kit. Children are asked to come in school PE kit on days when they have PE. All children are expected to be in school by 8.50am at the latest (gates open at 8.40am). School finishes at 3.10pm for Years R, 1 and 2, and 3.20pm for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**Bluebirds after-school club**

We are very pleased to have the new Bluebirds club starting today, based in our school library and using our Hall and outside spaces during the club. Please use the link in this message to book places:

<https://bluebirds.pembee.app/>

If you have any problems please email them on abbeybluebirds@outlook.com or call on 07831160604 (it will be answered between the hours of 9am and 6pm).

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

It will be Year 3 for the first three weeks of term, starting on Wednesday 11th September,  followed by Year 4 from 2nd October and the our new Reception class from 23rd October. Every class will have three weeks, then some more weeks later in the year.

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.

**Holidays in term time**

Over the summer holidays, schools were issued new guidance to support higher levels of attendance at school and a reduction in days missed due to family holidays in term time.  Parents are required to email the school office with the dates of any planned time off for family holidays in term time. Schools are required to mark all days missed for family holidays as unauthorised. If a child has 10 or more periods of unauthorised absence (5 days or more) in a 10 week period, one or both parents (depending who was involved in the holiday) will be fined by Dorset Council at a new rate of £80 per parent, rising to £160 if not paid iwithin 21 days.

**Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)**

Please see the attached document and take part in the survey if you can.

**Welcome Service in St James Church for our Reception families – Wednesday 25th September at 9am**

We would like to invite all our Reception families to join the Reception class and Year 6 class for a short service of welcome in St James Church at 9am. Rev. Helen will lead the service and give a little welcome item to each of the Reception children. Please drop them at school at the normal time, then go over to the church. The children will come in to the church at 9am with the staff and Year 6 children. It will be a lovely, gentle event to welcome them all to our church school community.

**Clubs in our local area**

We are very keen for the children at our school to find activities and hobbies that they enjoy outside the school day. It’s great for children to develop their interests and friendships in a club environment. Please send in a photo of your child doing a club or activity for our display board in school. We are always happy to promote clubs through our school newsletter, please send in details if you’d like details your club to be shared.

**TLW Dance**

From 7th-14th September TLW Dance we are running a Free Trial week at their studios in Shaftesbury, see flyer attached.

**After School Clubs**

Our list of after school clubs will be going out by email later this week.

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**

Schools due to 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**