Newsletter 26

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we will be doing some special activities for the children on Friday during our Prayer Day. Reception will do their special activities in their room, older children will work with another class during the day, with half the class in each classroom. Year 1 and 6 will work together, Y2 and Y5, Y3 and Y4. It will be a nice creative and spiritual day for the children, working with different staff and children across the school.

Early in the Summer Term, we are taking the whole school out for a walk to collect a stamp from four of the church sites in Shaftesbury (St Peters, The Abbey, St Johns and St James). The children will also have a little play and a snack in the park at Enmore Green or St James before we all meet up at St James Church at the end of our walk. In the strong Shaftesbury tradition, we’re calling it a Pilgrimage to help to teach the children about how people of faith walk to special sites to strengthen their faith (and their muscles!).

We would really like some extra volunteer help for our walk, which will take place on Friday 25th April in the afternoon. Please email the office if you can come along. No dogs on this trip please.

**Tennis Roadshow**

Ian Griffin from Live4Tennis has been giving lessons to all the children across our school today. Learning to play tennis is a wonderful thing for children to do, they get lots of exercise and skills that they can still use when they get to my age!

The children have been given information about coaching sessions and holiday clubs run by Live4Tennis locally, I highly recommend getting involved.

**Easter Bingo for the children – Thursday 3rd April - Non Uniform Day £1 donation for prizes and local charities**

Our Spring Term Rotakids are organising an afternoon of Bingo for all the children on Thursday 3rd April. We do it in two sessions, with older children helping the younger ones with the numbers! All the children will get a little sweet treat at the end of their session.

**Year 3 and 4 Play 'You are Special' - Tuesday 1st April at 2pm and Wednesday 2nd April at 5.30pm (Church Carpark open)**

Tickets on sale at the school office @ £1 per ticket.

Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase please, not reserved for payment on the day.

**Please don’t park on junctions or double yellow lines**

We’ve had an email from a local resident this morning, they are concerned about the illegal and dangerous parking of a few cars on the junction of Foyle Hill and St John’s Hill. They are also concerned about parking on double yellow lines at the end of Foyle Hill, which prevents cars from pulling in to that area to allow traffic to flow along that road. Please be considerate and legal in your parking choices. We will be out with our polite notices this week and will ask the police to come along too.

Walking or cycling to school is a great help with this issue, is healthy for the children and adults, and is great for the environment. Bikeability training teaches the children to be safe on the roads, please sign up below if you have a child in Year 5 or 6!

**Bikeability – for Years 5 and 6**

The course is for a maximum of 18 children from Years 5 and 6, during the school day.

They will all do their Level 1 on Mon 28th April (on the playground) but Level 2 (on the road) is split into groups of 6 so your child will be doing it on one of these days: Tues 29 April, Wed 30 April or Thurs 1 May.

They will receive a badge and certificate for each level. The course is offered as a combined course, is FREE, and the instructor can provide 3 bikes if needed, but children must bring their own helmets.

Please book your child's place through the new online booking system using this link: <https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/vie-great-neb>

 **Anxiety Support Parent Programme**

We have been discussing with our MHST link, Niki, the possibility of running a parent programme in school looking at supporting children with anxiety, particularly with coming into school. We are aware of a number of children who, for various reasons, find coming into school tricky at certain times and would like to be able to offer support. In order to run this programme, it would need a commitment from a number of parents to be able to attend 6 weekly sessions, during the school day. If you think that you might be interested in attending this programme with Niki, please could you let Mrs Howard (showard@shaftesburyabbey.dorset.sch.uk) know. We will then be able to see if there is sufficient interest to run this programme. There is some attached information, although the sessions mentioned would be in school rather than online.

**Mental Health Support Team**

The Dorset MHST Participation team are running a forum for parents to have a say in how the service develops and reflects the needs of our community. See the poster attached for details, it’s on 25th March, on Teams, at 6.30pm.

**Rotary Fun Run – Sunday 6th April**

Please see the attached information about the fun run. Many of our children would be capable of running the 5km course, perhaps with other family members running along beside them. Some of our Rotakids will be handing out drinks and jelly beans to the runners along the route.

**Parent volunteer to tidy up the Peace Garden**

Thanks very much to Lucas’ mum for coming in last week to give our Peace Garden a really good tidy and chop back. As a parent who is quite new to our school, this was a very kind thing to do!

**Easter Camps at Abbey**

Please see the attached information about activity camps here at school during the Easter break. They also run a football club here after school on Fridays. After Easter they will just offer the club to children from Years 2, 3 and 4. Please sign up when the summer clubs list comes out.

**PTFA meeting**

There is a PTFA meeting this Wednesday (26th March) at 7pm to be held in the Reception classroom at school. All welcome! Please go down the righthand side of the school, down the slope and the gate will be open at the bottom.

**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.

Reception will have their second week of two weeks of Forest School from 19th March, then Year 4 from 2nd April. Then Year 3 have two sessions from 30th April.

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

**New violin players**

Our violin teacher gave a demonstration of the violin to our children last Monday afternoon. She has spaces for some new children to start learning the violin, and we have some free violins to loan out to children starting lessons. Please contact the office if you’re interested in getting a free trial lesson for your child.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2024 – 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**