Newsletter 21

Dear Parents and Carers

We had a fabulous Numbers Day on Friday. The children loved all the number activities and trying to find the numbers that all the staff were wearing and add them all together. Mrs Fahie and Mrs Stevens were Thing 1 and Thing 2, making the addition nice and easy for their numbers! Thank you to Mrs Stone for organising the day, to all the staff for their creative ideas, and to all the parents who came in to talk to classes about numbers in their jobs.

**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**. Please come along to see all the art and join in with the little service for the children, it would be great to see you there!

**Swimathon – Sunday 16th March at Coombe House pool**

**We hope that all our children who can swim will take part in this big new event to raise money for locally based charities.**There is a sponsorship form attached to this newsletter and a link below to select the time you would like your child to do their swim (if you have more than one child, please click on the link for each child separately). They have 20 minutes to swim as many lengths of the pool as they can. We will let you know if too many children are booked in for a time slot, to see if you can do it at a different time. Please arrive 15 minutes before your allocated time with the children changed and ready to swim.

Prizes will be awarded for the best participants and fund-raisers.

All the details are on the information sheet attached.

**This will be a fantastic community event, with swimmers from our school and Shaftesbury Primary coming together to raise money for our local charities. Please encourage your children to take part!**

[**Swimathon**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JL1ZvEsvOUSih0_sDC0CtWpXICym8w1NoiYCXomrRuhUMlNNUU04OFlTNVBKU01PNVlOWElMVkxNTi4u)

**Choir Club**

A reminder there is **no** choir club tomorrow (Tuesday 11th Feb) as Mrs Bastable is unable to run it that day.

**Craft Activities**

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

**Tea-Time Church**

The next two dates are 23rd February and 30th March, for Tea-time church, a very informal gathering at 4pm in St James Church. See the attached information.

**Mental Health**

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.

**Dental Health**

One of our local dentists is offering a special price for children to have a check-up in February. Dental health is vital for all our children. Please see the attached information.

**Cooking Club for Year 5 children**

We are absolutely delighted that Mrs Harris and Mrs Stone are continuing the tradition of offering Let’s Get Cooking to all Year 5 children in our school. In the past, every Year 5 child has taken up this offer, having the sessions in small groups through the year. The children love the sessions and always go home with tasty things they’ve made. What a perfect way to give them a life-long love of cooking and healthy eating. If your child is in Year 5, please encourage them to take part in the next session starting on Wednesday 5th March, which needs to be booked through School Gateway. If money is stopping you signing up, please have a confidential word with me. The PTFA kindly buy all the ingredients for the club after a successful bid from the Tesco token scheme.

**World Book Day - Thursday 6th March**

Please check your children's rucksacks and bookbags today as they will be coming home with a £1 book token. This can be used from 13th Feb - 23rd March to buy your child a book from any of the participating book sellers. All info on how to do this is on the voucher.

**Headlice**

We have had one or two children with headlice in school recently. Please check your child’s hair on a daily basis and treat as necessary to help stop the spread.

**Lost Property**

If you think you are missing any items, please could you check in the lost property box. Everything with a name on has been returned (some of these were very faded and hard to read so please could you rewrite the name in) but there are still 28 school sweatshirts/ cardigans in the box. There is also a coat, pair of school shoes, polo shirt and a large selection of gloves, hats etc. The box will be emptied over half term, so please check before this to find missing items. Please also remember to name all items that come into school, this way they can be returned to your child.

**Spare clothes**

We are running short of spare clothes for our Reception children. If anyone has any spare socks, pants, joggers or school trousers, please could you drop them in to the school office, thank you!

**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.

Year Two are having their turn, then Year 1 from 26th February.

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.

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**