Newsletter 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday we gave out certificates to all the children who had completed the Summer Reading Challenge organised by Dorset libraries. They also sent us a list of results from all 180 schools in the county who had participated this year. It was very pleasing to see that our total of 55 completed challenges was the third highest out of all 180 schools. Ten more and we would have been at the very top, there’s always next year! Thank you to everyone who took part, it’s a great way to encourage the children to enjoy reading.

**Parents Evenings and the Book Fair (in the Library) – Thursday 17th and Monday 21st October**

Please note that bookings close on Tuesday at 4pm.

Please use the main office entrance to arrive and leave for parents evenings. Teachers will be in their classrooms (**apart from Reception who will meet parents in the main Hall**) with children’s books near the classroom for you to look at while you wait. Children are not expected to be in the meetings, but can come with you if needed.

At the same time as your meetings, please come along to the Library behind the Hall where the lovely PTFA will be running our annual Book Fair, full of wonderful new books for your children. Buying from the Book Fair is a great way to encourage your children to read, and also helps us to buy more new books for school from our commission.

**PTFA Non uniform Day (8th November) - see flyer attached.**

Please note that there will be a non-uniform day on the first Friday after half term, with children asked to bring in an item for the Rainbow Hamper raffle of the colour for their class:

Reception Red

Year 1 Orange

Year 2 Yellow

Year 3 Green

Year 4 Blue

Year 5 Purple

Year 6 Wine for the Water or Wine stall

The raffle will take place at the Christmas Fair.

They could wear a little item of that colour on the non-uniform day, but absolutely no need to do that bit!

**The PTFA AGM takes place this Friday, 18th October at 3.30pm** **in the Hall.** Please do come along to show your support for this brilliant organisation, you won’t be forced into a role, but it will be a great boost to the committee to have a good turn out.

**Let’s Talk – Meet the Dorset SEND team at Shaftesbury Children’s Centre on 24th October from 10-1pm**

Do go along if you’d like to meet the SEND team from Dorset Council, see flyer attached.

**Anxiety Workshop from the Mental Health Support Team in the School Hall – Monday 18th November at 2pm**

If your child has any issues with anxiety (which many children do), this will be a great way to learn how best to support them. Please see the attached information.

**Message from Shaftesbury Arts Centre -  see flyer attached**

Don’t miss the exciting range of films, shows and activities on at Shaftesbury Arts Centre this Autumn! You can catch Inside Out 2 on October 29th and November 3rd (screening on the 29th include interval and subtitles). Then we have a Halloween treat lined up for the little ones with Julia Donaldson’s Room on the Broom on the big screen on October 31st. A perfect first cinema experience for babies and toddlers or a great way to kick off Halloween morning for older children.

If you’ve always longed to be a secret agent, why not come and join Agents Dali and Kahlo to help them crack the case in The Midnight Mission on October 26th! This highly interactive, playable show for families is filled with quickly comedy and spoof horror guaranteed to get your half term off to the perfect start.

Finally, we would love you to join us for the first ever Shaftesbury Young Performers Festival! This is a competitive festival but the emphasis is on having fun and celebrating music making at all levels. Singers and musicians are invited to take part as solos, duets or groups to perform one piece which will be critiqued by our friendly panel of professional musicians. All entrants will receive a certificate of merit and there will be awards for group winners. A few selected acts showing great effort or expertise will also be invited to play at our festival concert. The festival will take place over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of November and the festival concert will be held on the afternoon of the 30th but the deadline for entries is on October 27th so make sure you get your entries in!

Find out about all this and more on the Shaftesbury Arts Centre website - [www.shaftesburyartscentre.co.uk](http://www.shaftesburyartscentre.co.uk/) or by calling the box office on 01747 854321

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Year 4  have their final sesion on Wednesday, with 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.

**Light Party – 31st October in St James Church**

More details to follow, this is a great thing to do with your children, wearing bright colours to cheer up a dark autumn evening in half term!

**Halloween Walk – Saturday 2nd November at 5pm**

Our Rotakids will be helping again at this annual event, hoping for better weather than last year! More details to follow.

**Caretaker Role**

We have about 10 hours a month available to a ‘handyperson’ who could do some odd jobs around the school such as fixing things, keeping rainwater flowing, putting up items on walls or coming to salt the paths when the ice comes along. Pay is about £12 per hour, but it also comes with great job satisfaction if you like helping your local community! Please get in touch if you’re interested or know someone who would be.

**Maths helpers**

We have the most brilliant group of reading volunteers who come in once a week to help our children with their reading. We would love to hear from anyone who could do a similar thing in Maths with children who would benefit from a little extra one to one session each 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**