Newsletter 25

Dear Parents and Carers

On Sunday I was absolutely lucky enough to be at Coombe House swimming pool to watch our brilliant, courageous children in the swimathon. They all did so well, like little Olympians swimming up and down the pool! Congratulations to Ellie, Lily, Edward, Albie, Indie, Lana, Alex, Mary-Ann, Daisy, Harry and Olivia for their swimming and fund-raising. Thank you to their families for taking them and supporting them. There’s another chance for children and adults to take on a big challenge in the fun run coming soon. Details below.

Also on Sunday, I saw another group of highly skilled and dedicated Abbey children at the TLW dance show. It is so important for all our children to find hobbies and activities that they love. Do keep taking them to things and encouraging them to follow their interests.

**Red Nose Day – Wear something Red for a £1 donation – 21st March**

Our Year 6 children have started selling Red Noses on Friday 14th March at the top of the school. Children are encouraged to wear something red this Friday, 21st March, to support this great charity.

**New violin players**

Our violin teacher, Victoria Mogridge, will be demonstrating the violin to our children on 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.

**No Coding Club this week**

Please note that Coding Club will not be taking place on Tuesday (18th March) this week.

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

Rehearsals are now under way with tickets on sale at the school office @ £1 per ticket.  There will be a limit of 2 tickets per performance initially, then more after the first week of sales.

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

**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**

I wonder if there is a parent out there who would be willing to give our Peace Garden a good ‘hair cut’ over the next couple of weeks? It has lots of nice plants growing in the four beds, but they need a bit of cutting back. Please contact me if you can help after school one day.

**Easter Camps at Abbey**

Please see the attached information about activity camps here at school during the Easter break.

**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 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.

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**