Newsletter 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope for better weather this week after such a wet couple of days last week. The children made an excellent start to the school year, we were very impressed with the way they settled in to their new classes so quickly. Thank you for making sure they had smart school uniform and arrived at school in good time for the start of morning lessons.

**Parents Evenings – Thursday 17th October and Monday 21st October (3.30-6pm)**

Please note the dates of these parents evenings which we have moved to the last two weeks of the first half term.  Booking process will be sent out on Monday 23rd September.

**Christmas Shoe Boxes – To be ready for collection by Wednesday 23rd October**

We will be talking to the children about the annual Christmas shoebox scheme in assembly on Monday. We hope that our families will feel able to put together a Christmas shoe box for a child in great need of your help. It’s a wonderful way to help your children to learn the value of giving to those in need. We have a supply of the special flat boxes and leaftets in the office. Please come in or email the office if you would like to take part. If we run out, we can quickly get more supplies, but please get yours early to make sure we meet the deadline.

More information and a delightful video on

[www.wessexrotaryshoebox.org.uk](http://www.wessexrotaryshoebox.org.uk/)

**Bluebirds after-school club**

We are very pleased that the new Bluebirds after school club is up and running, based in our school library and using our Hall and outside spaces during the club. You can drive on to the school site to pick children up, collecting them from the door at the top of the slope on the right-hand side of the school building. Please use the link below 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,  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.

**Fairtrade Fortnight - 9th to 22nd September**

We will be talking to the children about Fairtrade products and encouraging them to look out for the Fairtrade logo and bring in wrappers from Fairtrade products during this fortnight.

**Our concerns about smart phones, gaming and social media**

There is rising concern about the negative effects of giving children access to smart phones when they are primary school age (and in fact when they are older too). We recognise that children in Year 6 may need a phone if they are walking home from school, we have a system where they hand their phone in at the office each day and collect it at home time. Our hope is that as a community, families can agree to restrict children in their ownership of phones, getting to a point where they only get them in Year 6, and that they are given ‘non-smart’ phones at that time. This is a subject we want to discuss with parents and children over this year to help protect the children in our community. Alongside the concern about the use of smart phones, we are also concerned about young children being exposed to gaming on games with higher age ratings and inappropriate use of social media. We hope you will join us in trying to keep our children safe from potential harm from these things.

**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 within 21 days.

**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.

**Photos of activities and holidays**

Please send in a photo of your child at a club or activity for our activities display. If you went away for a holiday in the summer, please send a photo for our Geography display

**Bell Street School of Dance**

See flyer attached for the classes available and details about how to make contact.

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**