Newsletter 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Wednesday we will be taking children from Years 1, 2 , 3, 5 and 6 to the church to celebrate Harvest Festival, giving thanks for the food we have to eat. Please send children with a little offering of food which they will take up to the Altar to be blessed during the service.

After the service the food will go to our local food bank.

**Individual School Photos**

We have Stanley Baker coming in to school on Friday (11th October) to do the individual school photos, so please can all children come in to school in their school uniform (not PE kit) looking all smart and tidy! If they are doing PE that day, they just need to bring in a pair of trainers.

If you have a toddler who you’d like to include with your school-aged children, please come to the Hall at 8.30am.

**Year 6 Sports Leaders**

On Mon 1 Oct, Mrs. Mitchell escorted our Yr 6 Bronze Sports Ambassadors (Thomas, Ebonie, James and Daisy to Gillingham High School to attend the North Dorset Primary Leadership Academy. Our young Ambassadors joined similar representatives from approximately 15 other Primary Schools from our area. It is a privilege to be chosen to be a Bronze Ambassador & our candidates proved to be a great credit to our school.

The aim of the day was to teach leadership skills to the young Ambassadors,  which they can use back at school, in the following areas:

     \* To increase participation and healthy lifestyles in our school.

     \* To promote the positive value of Sport.

     \* To be ambassadors and role-models advocating P. E. and school sport.

     \* To be the young peoples' voice on P. E. and sport in our school.

The day was packed with games, activities and thought-provoking workshops. As a reward for all their efforts, our Ambassadors will receive a special 'Bronze Ambassador' T. shirt, which they can wear around the school,  allowing all the other pupils to recognise immediately who they are.

Other school children are encouraged to approach them to ask any sports/health-related questions they may have. After all the information that our Ambassadors received on Monday, they should be more-than-ready to answer any relevant questions.

Congratulations to Thomas, Ebonie, James and Daisy. We are very proud of you and wish you all the best for your tenure as The Abbey's 'Bronze Ambassadors' for 2024/5!

Thank you to Mrs Mitchell for taking them and writing this report.

**Parents evenings**

Bookings are open for the following parents evenings:

**Thursday 17th October**- all year groups from Rec - Year 6 from 3.30 - 6pm

**Monday 21st October** - all year groups from Rec - Year 6 from 3.30 - 6pm

You can book your parents evening appointments by logging in to the school website or the eSchools App which you can download onto your phone. The link to the school website is: [https://shaftesburyabbeycofe.eschools.co.uk](https://shaftesburyabbeycofe.eschools.co.uk/)

If you are struggling to book slots yourself, please ring the school office.

**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**

Year 4 continue their sessions 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.

**The campaign to save children from getting smart phones too early (please sign the pledge below if you agree with the campaign)**

Thank you to one of the parents for sharing these links

Guardian coverage: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/sep/26/uk-parents-join-pact-to-withhold-smartphones-from-children-until-they-are-at-least-14?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other>

BBC news coverage: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?si=1bAD5Vku2ZdjjqIK&v=EkpHud5o9dU&feature=youtu.be>

Link to the pledge: <https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Their guide for schools: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/schools-guide>

Brilliant links in this guide, including how to join local groups against Smart phones for young children and a link showing a good range of alternative, non-smart phones on the market.

**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.

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**