Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the final term of the year. This is a time when the children can make great progress towards their end of year assessments, and have lots of fabulous time playing and learning outside at school and at home.

We have organised an exciting event on Friday afternoon, taking the whole school on a spiritual walk to take in the three churches that our house groups are named after, and the Abbey. Please note that all the children will need to bring a little backpack for their water bottle and a snack bar or piece of fruit. They will wear their school uniforms. Extra helpers to walk with us from 12.30 onwards would be most welcome, please email the office if you can come along.

**Spiritual Walk – Friday 25th April**

We will be taking the whole school out for a walk to collect a stamp from four of the church sites in Shaftesbury this Friday (St Peters, The Abbey, St Johns and St James). The children will also have a little play and a snack in the park at Enmore Green or St James before we all meet up at St James Church at the end of our walk. **Please could they come in school uniform, with a little backpack with a water bottle and snack (such as a piece of fruit or snack bar).** In the strong Shaftesbury tradition, we’re calling it a Pilgrimage (another name for a Spiritual Walk) to help to teach the children about how people of faith walk to special sites to strengthen their faith (and their muscles!).

We would really like some extra volunteer help for our walk, which will take place this Friday, 25th April in the afternoon, starting at 12.30pm. Please email the office if you can come along. No dogs on this trip please.

**An introduction to Autism**

Please see this message and attachment from Mrs Howard, our SENDco:

These sessions are aimed at all parents/carers who would like to learn more about autism, (not only those who have, or who have children with, autism or any other form of SEND). The aim is to share awareness about autism with the whole school community. Please see the attached flyer.

**Wraparound Survey**

Dorset Council would like to capture parents and carers views about the childcare they currently do, or do not access through school. The results will help them to understand if there are any gaps in childcare availability across Dorset, and, if there is any additional support that we can provide to both parents and carers, and schools. There are 3x £50 Amazon Vouchers to be won at random by those who complete the survey, which should only take around 5-10 minutes.

Please complete this short survey by the end of this week:

<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/early-years/childcare>

**Smartphone free childhood**

Please find attached the latest infographic on the superpower of delaying smartphones and also a guide on WhatsApp communities. This could be the most powerful and significant thing you do for your children. If you feel you could run an Abbey Whatsapp group please let us know so that there is only one started, then we can let everyone know how to join.

WhatsApp group guide: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12ag6c2WWS3461njaWwBb0bGfNGUZhKhb4zdoD98d93c/mobilebasic>

**Our amazing PTFA have planned these events:**

**04/05/25- Photoshoot day**

Photo shoots £30 for all the family! Gorgeous pictures sent directly to you.

https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1251100853

**11/05/25 - Colour run!**

The colour run tickets are live! Get them now

 https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1191491043

**20/06/25- Inflatable evening**

Children's inflatable tickets on sale now. £5 pre-sale. £8 on the door. Affordable food and drinks, a lovely way to enjoy a summer evening together.

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1257940856>

**04/07/25- Summer fair**

Many helpers needed for this wonderful event.

**Bikeability – for Years 5 and 6**

The course is for a maximum of 18 children from Years 5 and 6, during the school day.

They will all do their Level 1 on Mon 28th April (on the playground) but Level 2 (on the road) is split into groups of 6 so your child will be doing it on one of these days: Tues 29 April, Wed 30 April or Thurs 1 May.

They will receive a badge and certificate for each level. The course is offered as a combined course, is FREE, and the instructor can provide 3 bikes if needed, but children must bring their own helmets.

Please book your child's place through the new online booking system using this link: <https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/vie-great-neb>

**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 4 will have their second of two sessions from this Wednesday. Then Year 3 have two sessions from 30th April.  After that it will be Y2 for two weeks from 14th May, taking us to half term.

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**

**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**