Dear Parents and Carers,

In this half term, our thoughts start to turn towards Easter and the coming of Spring with all the lovely things that season brings us. Our children from Years 3 and 4 have started to prepare for their Easter production, which they will perform in the final week of term.

**Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March**

This will be a non-uniform day, wearing something red and donating £1 to the comic relief charity. Red Noses will be on sale at the front of school from Monday 4th March at £2 each. We have 200 of them so will limit to one per child for the first three days to give everone a chance to get one. After that you can get as many as you want!

**Cinderella by Years 3 and 4 – Performances on 25th March at 2pm and 26th March at 6pm**

Tickets will go on sale next Monday for this production, with an initial allocation of two per performance per family.

**Music Lessons**

Just a reminder that we have a brilliant group of visiting music teachers who take individual children or small groups for lessons during the school day. Currently we are offering the following lessons: Piano, Oboe, Recorder, Flute, Guitar, Violin and Drums. Please email the office if you’d like to find out more about any of these lessons.

**Parents Evenings – Bookings now open – Monday 4th March and Thursday 14th March, 3.30-6pm**

Please book up to meet with your children’s teachers in March.

You can book your parents evening appointment 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.

**World Book Day – Thursday 7th March**

We don’t want anyone to feel under pressure to dress as a book character, but encourage all children to either dress as a character or wear home clothes and bring a favourite book. As a guide, we’d like children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to dress as characters from fairy tales or bring a book with a favourite fairy tale in it. They are also welcome to come as other book characters if you have already planned their costume! Older children can choose a character from any book.

We might also be holding a Bedtime Story event back in school from 5-6pm, we’ll confirm this next week. Children would come in their WBD clothes, or in PJs, onesies, slippers and dressing gowns ready for bed. All the children would be invited to come and listen to stories told by staff and parents in the classrooms around the Hall.

Also on World Book Day, we will open our Book Exchange, based by the school office. It will be a place where you can come and find new books for home use, and leave others at the exchange. You don’t have to bring in books to take books, and we ask that any donated books are for primary aged children only, in good condition, and only left if there is space for them on the shelves.

**Reading Challenge**

All the children from Years 1-6 have been given a special reading challenge to try to complete this half term. Every child completing the challenge will get a little extra playtime at the end. Please encourage them to complete the challenge.

**Sports Day Dates**

In the summer term, we will have our Sports Days for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two as follows:

KS1 – (Years R, 1 and 2) – Monday 17th June 1pm-3pm (reserve date 24th June)

KS2 – (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) – Tuesday 18th June 1pm-3pm (reserve date 25th June)

The KS2 children also have their Field events in the morning, but these are not open to spectators.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Year 1 have their third session of Forest School this Wednesday,  followed by Year 3 for two weeks from 6th March and Year 4 for two weeks from 20th March taking us up to Easter.

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.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2023 – 2024**

Autumn Term

Inset Day                                                        Friday 1st September 2023

Inset Day                                                        Monday 4th September 2023

Children start back                                       Tuesday 5th September 2023

Autumn Half Term                                        Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October 2023

Autumn term ends                                       Friday 15th December 2023 (1pm pick up if you can)

Christmas Holidays                                       Monday 18th December – Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Spring Term

Inset Day                                                        Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Children start back                                       Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Spring half term                                            Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Spring Term ends                                          Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term

Summer term starts                                       Monday 15th April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday                                  Monday 6th May 2024

Summer half term                                          Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Summer term ends                                        Friday 19th July 2024

Inset Day                                                          Monday 22nd July 2024

Inset Day                                                          Tuesday 23rd July 2024