Newsletter 37

Dear Parents and Carers

**The Summer Reading Challenge**

Our school has a great reputation for supporting the Shaftesbury Library and the Summer Reading Challenge. The Library relies on visits from everyone in the local community to stay open. As well as the wonderful collection of books for children and adults, it puts on free activity sessions for children throughout the summer, an ideal way to keep them occupied as well as reading for pleasure through the break from school. Pre-school children also can take part along with all our children (Year 6 children can collect their certificate from the Library rather than getting it at their new school).

Fran from the Shaftesbury Library came to see all the children last Monday, to introduce the challenge for this year and encourage them all to take part by reading 5 books over the summer break. Please go to the Shaftesbury Library (or any other Dorset library) to sign up and get going anytime from now. The whole thing is free and the children get a medal, certificate, books to read, stickers and a chart.

Encouraging your children to read for pleasure is one of the most important things a parent or carer can do for their children.

In conjunction with this year's Summer Reading Challenge, Shaftesbury Library will be running children's craft activities (see flyer attached), between 11am-midday on Friday mornings throughout the summer holidays. Join them to make a beautiful paper butterfly, a cress head creature or a model birdhouse - and join in with the Summer Reading Challenge too.

All activities are suitable for children age 4-11 years. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

 For further information please call Shaftesbury Library on 01747 852256 or email [shaftesburylibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:shaftesburylibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).  Booking advisable via Eventbrite to guarantee your space.

**Coffee Morning – Speech and Language – Tuesday 15th July – School Hall**

Please come into school for a drink and biscuit and a chat with our lovely, link Speech and Language Therapists. If you have any questions at all about Speech and Language, whether or not your child has been seen by this service, please feel free to join us.

Please could you let Mrs Howard know if you think you might be able to come – either by email [showard@shaftesburyabbey.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:showard@shaftesburyabbey.dorset.sch.uk) or have a word – thank you.

**Leavers Assembly for our Year 6 children and Parents – Tuesday 22nd July at 2pm**

The parents of our Year 6 children are warmly invited to our special event in the Hall where we celebrate their time with us and give them all our best wishes for the future.

**Shaftesbury Lido – Splash Squad Sessions during the summer holidays**

A brand-new session for children at Shaftesbury Lido.  Splash Squad for kids is our brand-new Tuesday morning session, packed with action, skills and plenty of splashing. Every week is different, from Aqua Fit to water polo, lifeguard challenges and stroke technique. It’s active, fun, and a great way to build confidence in the water.

The sessions run from 10.30 to 11.30am every Tuesday through the summer holidays, starting on Tuesday 29th July.

 Swimmers must be able to tread water and swim 25 metres comfortably (e.g. Stage 4 or equivalent). Minimum age is 8 years old.

**PTFA**

The PTFA have arranged for our school to be in the Tesco Tokens scheme from the first week of July until September. We hope to get some money to improve the Reception class outdoor area with a new artificial grass surface and play equipment. Please put your blue tokens into our slot and encourage others to do the same.

**Shaftesbury Fringe – 18th - 20th July**

A message from the organisers of this fantastic local event:

The biggest, open-access arts festival in Dorset, with over 300 performances, takes place from 18th to 20th July. With music of all genres, childrens’ theatre, a bubbleologist, magicians, a comedy game-show and a Punch and Judy, there’s more for families at this year’s Fringe than ever before.  
After a show, there’s the Abbey Gardens open as the perfect space to chill out, the recently revamped St James’s park to burn off some excess energy and our food and drink hub on Park Walk, so you can make the day as busy or relaxed as you like.  
Head to [www.shaftesburyfringe.co.uk](http://www.shaftesburyfringe.co.uk/) or download the app on Google and Apple to plan your visit!

**Violin**

Please see flyer attached from Victoria Mogridge, who teaches violin to some of our pupils in school.

She is playing at The Fringe on Sunday, so a great opportunity for families to hear her perform which might inspire children to take up the instrument.

**Term Dates**

Please see next year’s term dates below for your info. Please note that the last day of this school year is Tuesday 22nd July, with pick up at the normal time.

TERM DATES 2024 – 2025

Summer Term ends                                     Tuesday 22nd July 2025

INSET DAY                                                       Wednesday 23rd July 2025

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TERM DATES 2025 – 2026

**Autumn Term**

INSET DAY                                                       Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Children start back                                      Thursday 4th September 2025

Autumn Half Term                                        Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025

Autumn Term ends                                      Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Holidays                                     Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026

**Spring Term**

INSET DAY                                                      Monday 5th January 2026

Children start back                                    Tuesday 6th January 2026

Spring half term                                            Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026

Spring Term ends                                         Friday 27th March 2026

Easter holidays                                             Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026

**Summer Term**

INSET DAY                                                      Monday 13th April 2026

Children start back                                    Tuesday 14th April 2026

MAY DAY Bank Holiday                             Monday 4th May 2026

INSET DAY                                                      Friday 22nd May 2026

Summer half term                                      Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026

Summer Term ends                                    Tuesday 21st July 2026

INSET DAY                                                      Wednesday 22nd July 2026