Newsletter 36

Dear Parents and Carers

We had a lovely time at the Summer Fair on Friday afternoon. The Year 6 children made up wonderful stalls, many parents and carers helped on stalls and lots of families came to enjoy the fair. Thank you also to the staff for their help, and to the Rotakids for running a stall this year. Most of all, thank you to Katie, Charlie and the PTFA committee for the amazing amount of time and effort they and their families put into the event. The money raised will support trips and events for the children, along with bigger projects in school and the grounds to enhance the learning environment for the children.

**The Summer Reading Challenge – Open now!**

 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. Statistics prove that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful in education and more likely to get the jobs they want in later life. Next year is being designated as a National Year of Reading, let’s get all our children into books ahead of this!

**Year 5 and 6 Summer Performance – The SchoolOvision Song Contest**

The Summer Performance, showcasing the talents of our Year 6 children, supported by our Year 5 class, will take place this week, on Tuesday 8th July at 2pm and Wednesday 9th July at 6pm. Tickets are on sale from the school office at £1 a ticket. It’s a highly entertaining show, you don’t have to have a child in it to come along!

On Wednesday, please could parents of children in the show bring them to school between 5.30 and 5.40pm, no earlier please! Doors open at 5.30pm for the audience to start taking their places.

**Late Arrivals at school and late pick ups**

Everyone gets delayed from time to time, but we do have a group of children who are late into school too often, missing learning and needing to catch up before they’ve even started the day! We also ask that if you have a child who likes you to take them right down to the door at the start of the day, you get here early enough to get in and out of the top gate by 8.50am so that it can be closed on time.

At the end of the day, we know people can get held up, but again, we have some regular children waiting by the office to be picked up a bit too often.

**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 or have a word – thank you.

**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.

**School Uniform**

This seems to be the time of year when we start to see adverts for new school uniform in the shops! We would like to take this opportunity, when you are possibly buying new uniform, to remind you of our Abbey uniform. Whilst we celebrate the fact that all of our children are individuals, we also like to celebrate our school community by wearing uniform to show we belong. Attached are details of our school uniform, which are also on the website. We will be looking out for this in school in September.

**Walk for Wards**

Well done to Gethin and Morgan for completing this charity walk at the weekend. They saw some other Abbey families on the walk, congratulations to them too!

**Supporting My Child with Anxiety Programme**

We have been discussing with our MHST link, Niki, the possibility of running a parent programme in school looking at supporting children with anxiety, particularly with coming into school. We are aware of a number of **children** who, for various reasons, find coming into school tricky at certain times and would like to be able to offer support. In order to run this programme, it would need a commitment from a number of parents to be able to attend 6 weekly sessions, during the school day. Thank you to those parents who have already shared interest with Mrs Howard, we are hoping this can take place in September. If you are still interested, or think you now might be, please could you complete the Google form.  <https://forms.gle/tJjGpmpfy3JudESM7>  by Monday 14th July.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

We finish off the school year with Year 5 on 9th and 16th July.

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.

**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!

**Summer Activity Camps**

See the attached flier for details

**Term Dates**

Please see next year’s term dates below for your info.

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