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Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a very peaceful day on Friday, thinking about our memories of the Queen and the things she taught us in the way in which she conducted herself. We will continue to talk to the children about the Queen in the coming days as preparations take place for her funeral on Monday 19th September (now designated as a public holiday).

**Books for home use**

As part of our focus on reading this year, we have sorted through all the books in our library and have some spare books that we’d like to re-distribute. Today, children have been given the chance to pick up to three books to take home. Please encourage them to read their new books.

**Music Lessons**

We have a great team of music teachers who come in to school each week to give lessons to individuals and groups. Please contact the office if you’d like to discuss lessons with one of the teachers. Normally this is recommended for children in Year 2 and above, but there can be exceptions.

Mrs Pugh – Piano, Recorder, Flute or Oboe

Ms Mogridge – Violin

Mr Clements – Guitar

Mr Lickard – Drums

For children on pupil premium, some assistance with the cost of lessons can be provided.

Alongside these lessons, Mrs Pugh also runs the Abbey Band on Wednesday at lunchtime. These sessions are free and are open to children in Year 3 and above who already learn an instrument.

**Rotakids Group**

Today in assembly we are introducing a process where the children can apply to be part of a new group in school called Rotakids. They will be supported by the local Rotary Club and will organise community projects and fund-raising while also working on ways in which we can be environmentally responsible in all we do at school. Please encourage your child to write me a letter saying why they would like to be a Rotakid if they’re interested in joining this group.

**Nut-Free Zone**

A reminder that we are a nut-free school due to having children in school with nut allergies. Please ensure that your children don’t bring in any products containing nuts.

**Volunteers to take part in Open the Book**

A few times each term we all go over to the church for Open the Book. A group of volunteers tell a story from the Bible for the children. They meet for half an hour before the performance to run through what they’re going to do. If you or someone you know could join this group, please email the leader, Margaret Derrett ([mderrett@shaftesburyabbey.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:mderrett@shaftesburyabbey.dorset.sch.uk))

**Parking - Blue Badge Holders only**

Due to the very limited space on the school site, we are only able to allow parents with a Blue Badge to park on site when dropping off and collecting children. Thank you for your cooperation with this, we know it’s difficult to park in the roads around the school.

**Chartwells School Lunches Taster Session – Thursday 22nd September 3.20-4pm**

All parents are invited to come along to the school Hall for this opportunity to see and taste the food that is served to our children each day. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal every day. We are keen for as many families as possible to take up this offer as we know it provides the children with a healthy diet, sets them up with good eating habits, and doesn’t cost you a penny! We also love to have children continuing to have hot meals in Key Stage Two year groups.

Please take note of the date and come along to this event.

**Uniform, Attendance and Punctuality**

Following the past two years of disruption and changed rules in schools, we are keen to return to high levels of attendance and punctuality, and smart school uniform and PE kit. Children are asked to come in school PE kit on days when they have PE. All children are expected to be in school by 8.50am at the latest (gates open at 8.40am). School finishes at 3.10pm for Years R, 1 and 2, and 3.20pm for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**PTFA – Cheese and Wine (and AGM) – Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm in the Hall**

Having a strong and well-supported Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) is a really important part of the school community. It not only provides money for many, many extra special things for the children, it also brings together the adults in our community for social events. Please make an effort to come along for cheese, wine and a chat so that those who steer the great programme of events feel supported by the wider school community.

We do need to find a new secretary and a new treasurer for the year ahead. Please let us know if you would be willing to do one of these vital jobs.

**Mystery Readers**

One of the ideas to come out of our recent Reading training was to have a Mystery reader coming to visit classes to read a story from time to time. If you or anyone you know would be willing to come in to read a short story to a class for about 10 minutes on a Friday afternoon, please email me or the school office to be put on the list. We have 7 names so far, thank you to those people.

We are hoping to have a variety of mystery readers including older children, parents (including Dads!), grandparents and other members of the local community. We know that if children see adults reading, they are far more likely to want to read themselves. Please show your own children that you are a reader by always having a book around that you are currently reading.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2022 – 2023**

Autumn Term

Inset Day Thursday 1st September 2022

Inset Day Friday 2nd September 2022

Children start back Monday 5th September 2022

Autumn Half Term Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October 2022

Autumn term ends Friday 16th December 2022

Christmas Holidays Monday 19th December – Monday 2nd January 2023

Spring Term

Inset Day Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Children start back Wednesday 4th January 2023

Spring half term Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023

Inset Day                                                         Monday 13th March 2023

Spring Term ends Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term

Summer term starts Monday 17th April 2023

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 1st May 2023

Summer half term Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023

Inset Day                                                          Monday 5th June 2023

Summer term ends Friday 21st July 2023

Summer holidays Monday 24th July to Thursday 31st August 2023