Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new school year to you all, to our returning children and families, and to our new children and their families who are joining our school for the first time this week. It was so nice to see everyone coming in looking so smart and excited to be at school this morning! We have had lovely weather through the summer break, we hope your children have had lots of nice outdoor experiences which they can tell their friends about this week.  We hope all the children will settle in to their new classes quickly, with help from the staff looking after them. For new parents, please do ask other parents or staff about anything you’re unsure about, as we say to the children, there’s no such thing as a silly question if you don’t know the answer, there will be others who want to know too!

**Summer Reading Challenge – Still open!**

There is still time until the end of September to complete the Dorset Library Reading Challenge, please do it if you can, we have a great record of getting a very high number of our children involved. It is open to the new Reception children, it would be wonderful to see some of them getting their certificates in assembly along with the older children in October!

**Forest School – Tuesday afternoons**

Our Forest School day has changed to Tuesdays for the year ahead. First class will be Year 3 from 9th September for three weeks, followed by Year 4 from 30th September then Reception from 21st October.

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.

**Welcome Service in St James Church for our Reception families – Wednesday 24th September at 9am**

We would like to invite all our Reception families to join the Reception class and Year 6 class for a short service of welcome in St James Church at 9am. Rev. Helen will lead the service and give a little welcome item to each of the Reception children. Please drop them at school at the normal time, then go over to the church. The children will come in to the church at 9am with the staff and Year 6 children. It will be a lovely, gentle event to welcome them all to our church school community.

**Uniform and smart appearance**

Please help your children to have the correct school uniform every day and look smart and ready to learn when they arrive in the mornings. Note that on PE days they must wear school PE kit, not football shirts or other sports-branded clothing. Black school shoes are worn on non-PE days, not training shoes. Jewelry isn’t allowed in school (unless studs are being worn for the first six weeks after ears have been pierced). Thank you for keeping to these rules, it really helps the children.

**Clubs in our local area**

We are very keen for the children at our school to find activities and hobbies that they enjoy outside the school day. It’s great for children to develop their interests and friendships in a club environment. Please send in a photo of your child doing a club or activity for our display board in school. We are always happy to promote clubs through our school newsletter, please send in details if you’d like details your club to be shared.

**The Baker family charity walk across Dorset**

You may have heard on ‘This is Alfred’ that three of our children, Lily, Evie and Jack are taking part in a walk in aid of Cancer Reseach across Dorset. The whole walk is 50 miles in total, the children will be joining two older generations of the family for some of the walk. We wish them all luck and good weather!

**Parking**

For our new parents particularly, please be considerate to our neighbours and other road users when you park near school at the start or end of the school day. Please don’t block access to any properties, park on junctions or on double yellow lines. It does get really busy at peak times, we love it when families park a little further away and walk the last part to school. It’s a really healthy start to the day for adults and children to do this.

It is not possible to drive on to the site to park unless you have a blue badge or have applied to the school for a permit, which we issue in exceptional circumstances.

**Attendance**

Good attendance and punctuality remain a top priority for us this academic year. This is because regular school attendance is the key to enabling children and young people to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become emotionally resilient, confident adults who are able to realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

We work hard to ensure that your child is supported in school to feel safe, to be the best they can be, and to develop a sense of belonging both with their peers and as part of their wider school community. Regular attendance really does matter.

As a parent it is your responsibility that your child attends school each day. We recognise that at times some children and young people can find attending school less easy than others. We are here to help. If your child is experiencing difficulties, please do get in touch as soon as you can. We welcome you taking the lead on starting conversations at any point about supporting your child as we want what is best for them too.

As parents/carers you can best support your children to secure regular attendance and punctuality by:

* Ensuring they arrive at school on time every day by 8.50am at the latest. The gate shuts at that time so please come in time to deliver them to the classroom door and be out of the gate by 8.50am.
* Arranging dental and medical appointments outside of school hours where possible
* Informing the school if your child is too unwell to attend. (To assist you in deciding whether your child is too ill to attend school, the NHS have produced a weblink you mind find useful: Is my child too ill for school? - NHS ([www.nhs.uk))](http://www.nhs.uk/)
* Taking holidays during school holiday periods only. Fines are issued by Dorset Council for holidays in term time.
* Attending parents’ evenings and school events
* Discussing any problems or difficulties with the school as soon as they arise – staff are here to help

Our attendance policy is available to read on our school website. This explains how we monitor attendance and follow up absence. If you have any difficulties accessing our policy, please let us know so that we can provide it in an alternative format.

Thank you for working with us and continuing to support us in maximising your child’s attendance to help their learning, well-being and future success.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

**Guitar lessons**

Please see attached a flyer re booking guitar lessons if any of your children are interested in having a go. Contact details for enquiries are on the flyer.

**Netball Club**

Please see flyer attached about a netball club which will be on Tuesdays after school if enough people apply to join it. All details for booking are on the flyer.

**After School Clubs**

Our list of after school clubs will be going out by email later this week.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**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**