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Dear Parents and Carers,

**Children’s Charity Bingo – Friday 24th March – Non uniform, £1**

The school Rotakids group have planned this event to raise money for the local Children’s Cancer Charity Teddy20 and have some Easter fun at the same time. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will play a big game of Bingo in the Hall with Ronnie (Year 5) in charge as the caller. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will play a more simple version in their classrooms. There will be Easter Eggs for prizes. All the children will get a little Easter chocolate at the end. Vertigo Roofing have kindly sponsored the Easter Eggs, you can still donate one by Wednesday if you’d like to.

**Tickets on sale for Yr 3 & 4 Easter Performance - ‘Change the World Together’**

Tickets at £1 each are now on sale for the Year 3 and 4 play - there are two performances, on Tuesday 28th March at 2pm and Wednesday 29th March at 6pm. Families can get two tickets for each performance until Friday 24th March, when extra tickets can be purchased up to our capacity.

**Easter Service – Wednesday 29th March at 2pm**

We will be going to St James’ Church for our Easter Service in the last week of term. If you would like to join us, there are 30 spaces available. Please contact the office to book a place.

**Red Nose Day**

Thank you to everyone who bought a Red Nose during the last two weeks. We raised a total of £459.35 for Comic Relief. The children and staff enjoyed throwing specially made ‘seed bombs’ at a newly prepared flower bed during the day.

**Technology Survey**

Thank you to all the families who took part in our recent ‘Tech’ survey. Responses showed that children and adults agreed that technology was very useful in our homes, but could never fully replace real games, conversations, books and shopping. There were lots of great comments about putting technology away in order to have great family time together. Parents can often find it harder than children to put down their tech!

**Tennis coaching**

We have had Ian Griffin in school today doing tennis taster sessions with all the children. If you would like your child to do more tennis out of school, he is running sessions at Easter, in the summer half term break and the summer holidays.

Contact him or book sessions through his website:

[www.live4tennis.co.uk/holiday-tennis](http://www.live4tennis.co.uk/holiday-tennis)

**Fruit snacks only at playtime**

Staff have noticed that some children are having snacks at playtime that are not sticking to our rule of fruit only. Please make sure they only have fruit for a snack, we will remind them not to eat something from their packed lunch at playtime. Thanks

**Easter Holiday Activity Camp**

There will be Easter Holiday activities at Shaftesbury Primary School, please use the links to book.

**FUNDED** Easter Holiday Activities and included meal are **FREE** for any child in receipt of benefit related free school meals (3rd to 6th April 23) - <https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/819564>

**FEE-PAYING**Easter Holiday Activities (11th to 14th April 23) - <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/19842/> Please use the code 'PREMIER15' to receive a 15% discount when booking!

**Forest School Easter Holiday Days**

Forest Yogi Minds will be running some holiday Forest school days over the Easter holidays.

They will be held at the Fontmell Down site again and should you wish to book the booking site is set up for this time. Some have already booked on but there are places remaining on both days at the present time.

They will run on Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 12th April and will run from 9-4. Please visit the booking page for further information and feel free to email with any other queries.

<https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds>

**Violin Lessons**

Victoria Mogridge, our violin teacher, would be happy to hear from you if you would like your child to start violin lessons with her. Our violin playing children are giving a concert to the school and their parents on Monday 20th March at 2pm.

You can contact her through her website as shown on the attached flyer, or through an email to the school office. Children interested in starting lessons can have a trial session before they start.

**Family Gold Hill Cycle Ride – Sunday 14th May**

Please join this excellent event to raise money in the fight against cancer. There is a six mile ride for families which includes some bike skills challenges at Coombe House School (where St Mary’s School used to be), and finishes with the wonderful challenge of trying to cycle up Gold Hill! Let’s try to get lots of our children, parents and staff out on this ride.

Enter at

<https://shaftesburyrotaryclub.org/gold-hill-cycle-ride/>

**150th Anniversary Celebrations – 26th May 2023**

In May it will be 150 years since our school was first occupied by the Victorian children and teachers of Shaftesbury in 1873. We have found the entry from the school log book from 6th May 1873, which describes a procession of children, staff and local community from the old schools to the new school, with singing and prayers in school followed by tea and cake for everyone. We plan to re-create this event, having a Victorian Day in school ending with the procession and tea party at school. More details will follow, but if you have ideas about Victorian activities or historical items or photos for our display, please do get in touch.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2022 – 2023**

Spring Term

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

Coronation Bank Holiday Monday 8th 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