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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we pass the point at which nights become longer than days and the weather turns colder and wetter, please make sure your children always have a warm, water-proof coat in school so that they can get outside for some fresh air every day.

Thank you for all the support for the purple-themed charity day on Friday, the children and staff looked great with their purple accessories!

**Britain in Bloom – Shaftesbury wins Gold again!**

We were delighted to hear that Shaftesbury has won Gold in the Britain in Bloom competition for the second year in a row. There is a strong environmental focus in the judging process. The judges were particularly impressed with their visit to our school, where their guides Matthew (Y6) and Freddie (Y5) amazed them with their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the environmental projects going on in our grounds. Congratulations to these two boys, and to Mrs Steele, Kate O’Farrell and everyone else who helps with our grounds. Do get involved if you’d like to do a few hours in a beautiful place at any time.

A report about the award can be heard on This is Alfred, Saturday podcast.

<https://thisisalfred.com/podcast/the-alfred-daily-24th-september-2022/>

**School Tours for new starters in September 2023**

It seems very early to be thinking about the new Reception children for 2023, but decisions have to be made by January. We are holding tours during this first half term. Details on the school website. Please book a tour if you have a child of that age, or pass on the message to other families who may want to join us.

**Secondary School applications**

It is also the time of year for the parents of our Year 6 children to make their applications for secondary school places. The closing date is 31st October.

**Governor Exchange**

It is really important for school governing bodies to have a good blend of members from within and beyond the school community. We have been very fortunate to recruit a governor from Milton on Stour. We hope that we can find someone from our school community to complete the exchange by volunteering to join the governing body of Milton on Stour primary school. By doing so, both schools benefit by having a new governor from outside their own school community.

You do not need to qualify as a church governor to fill this role. Please get in touch with Mr Salisbury if you’re interested.

**Reception Welcome Service – Thursday 29th September at 9am**

A reminder to Reception parents that they are warmly invited to join us at St James’ Church where our Rector, Donna Gibbs, will lead a service of welcome for our new Reception class. They will be joined by their Year 6 buddies, who will help the staff to get them safely over to church and will stay for the service. It’s vital that Reception children and Year 6 children are in school by 8.50am at the latest so that they can come over to the chuch from school in time to start at 9am.

**Internet Safety Champion, Designated Safeguarding Leader and Anti-Bullyinmg champion**

These three roles in school are all assigned to me, Mr Salisbury, in our school. We also have two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leaders, Mrs Howard and Mrs A Saunders.

Please see the attached information on Internet Safety that we have been asked to distribute this week.

**PTFA – Cheese and Wine (and AGM) – New Date – Wednesday 5th October 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 treasurer for the year ahead. Please let us know if you would be willing to do this vital job.

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