Newsletter 29

Dear Parents and Carers

We had the most wonderful afternoon on Friday during our whole-school Spiritual Walk, visiting the three churches that are our house groups and the Abbey from which we take our name. The children were all amazing walkers, every one of them making it to our final destination, St James Church, where the bells were ringing to celebrate the end of our pilgrimage. The children collected four specially designed stamps, each one signifying the church we were visiting. I hope the children enjoyed the experience, and learnt a little about why people make special journeys to spiritual places.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who walked with us and met us in each church to welcome us and stamp the children’s passports.

Special thanks to Lorna Eguiazabal, one of our governors and parents, who made all the arrangements and designed the stamps.

Photos will be on the website this week.

**Welcoming the Cuckoos and other migratory birds**

Some of our Year 5 children went to Park Walk on Thursday to sing a special song as part of an event to celebrate the migration of birds and encourage the cuckoos to return to Shaftesbury! Well done to Esme, George, Molly, Humphrey, Flo, Freja, Iris, Oscar, Tallulah, Effie, Stanley and Holly.

**Non-Uniform Day for the Hospital Garden Project – Friday 16th May £1**

We would like to support the brilliant work that volunteers are doing to create a beautiful new garden for our hospital by donating the money collected at this non-uniform day. Please send the children in with £1 if you are able to do so.

**Class photographs – Wednesday 7th May 9-11am**

Each class will have their photograph taken on this morning. They will then be available to buy if you’d like to.

**Smartphone free childhood**

Please find attached the latest infographic on the superpower of delaying smartphones and also a guide on WhatsApp communities. This could be the most powerful and significant thing you do for your children. If you feel you could run an Abbey Whatsapp group please let us know so that there is only one started, then we can let everyone know how to join.

WhatsApp group guide: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12ag6c2WWS3461njaWwBb0bGfNGUZhKhb4zdoD98d93c/mobilebasic>

**Our amazing PTFA have planned these events:**

**04/05/25- Photoshoot day**

Photo shoots £30 for all the family! Gorgeous pictures sent directly to you.

https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1251100853

**11/05/25 - Colour run!**

The colour run tickets are live! Get them now

 https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1191491043

**20/06/25- Inflatable evening**

Children's inflatable tickets on sale now. £5 pre-sale. £8 on the door. Affordable food and drinks, a lovely way to enjoy a summer evening together.

      <https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1257940856>

**04/07/25- Summer fair**

Many helpers needed for this wonderful event.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Staff have asked that all children wear really warm clothes (including thick socks) when the weather is cold during Forest School sessions.

Year 3 have two sessions from 30th April. After that it will be Y2 for two weeks from 14th May, taking us to half term.

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.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2024 – 2025**

**Summer Term**

Schools due to start back                            Tuesday 22nd April 2025

MAY DAY Bank Holiday                                 Monday 5th May 2025

Summer half term                                          Monday 26th May to Friday 30st May 2025

**INSET DAY                                                       Monday 2nd June 2025**

Summer Term ends                                       Tuesday 22nd July 2025

**INSET DAY                                                       Wednesday 23rd July 2025**