

Newsletter October 2025



'Exploring Possibilities Together'

'Love one another, as I have loved you' (John 13v34)



- 24 October**—Inset Day—Children not in school
- 27 October to 31 October** —Half Term
- 3 November**—Children back to School
- 4 November**— 3.50 pm Orienteering at Child Okeford
- 5 November—7 November inc.**—Year 5's Visit to Leeson House, Langton Matravers
- 12 November**— 11.00 am to 12.00 noon Open Morning for new Reception Parents Sept 26
- 14 November**—Children in Need Day
- 16 November**—Parish Council Tree Planting at the Rec from 10.00 am
- 17 November**—Bikeability Level 1—Years 5 & 6
- 18 November**—3.50 pm Orienteering at Hazelbury Bryan
- 21 November**—Bikeability Level 2 Years 5 & 6
- 21 November**—**PTFA Event** for Yrs R, 1 & 2—Polar Express from 3.45 pm to 5.30 pm
- 25 November**— 3.50 pm Orienteering at William Barnes
- 27 November**—Bikeability Level 2 Years 5 & 6
- 28 November**—Bikeability Level 2 Years 5 & 6
- 28 November**—**PTFA Event** for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Disco from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm
- 2 December**—3.50 pm Orienteering at Shillingstone
- 3 December**— 4.00 pm Academy Committee Meeting
- 6 December**—Wreath Making Workshop 11.00 am to 1.30 pm—further details to follow
- 8 December**—Dress Rehearsal Reception/KS1 Christmas Play
- 9 December**—Reception/KS1 Christmas Play for Parents—*further details to follow*
- 9 December**—3.50 pm Orienteering at Durweston
- 10 December**—Aspens Christmas Lunch
- 10 December**—Reception/KS1 Christmas Play for Parents—*further details to follow*
- 16 December**—PTFA Christmas Lunch Party & Class Activities
- 18 December**—Last day of term - 1.30 pm finish

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of this first half of the autumn term, I want to say a heartfelt thank you for the warmth, encouragement and support you've shown our school community. It's been a busy few weeks, and I couldn't be prouder of how our children have settled back into school life — full of enthusiasm, curiosity and smiles.

In a small school like ours, every child makes a big difference, and it's been wonderful to see them growing in confidence, helping one another, and showing such kindness and respect. From our classroom learning and creative projects, to playground fun and school trips, the sense of togetherness that makes our school so special has shone through.

A huge thank you also goes to our wonderful staff team for their hard work and care, and to all of you who have supported us — whether that's by reading at home, helping at events etc. Your involvement truly helps make our school a happy and thriving place to learn.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest and some lovely family time. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term filled with learning, laughter and new adventures.

Jill Watson—Headteacher



We have noticed at morning drop off and afternoon pick up the road area around the roundabout is becoming quite dangerous. Please can we remind you that cars should only be picking up and dropping off, **not parking**, unless you have a blue badge.

Some cars are parking behind cars which are already parked, they then start to move, which is a real danger for pedestrians, who are having to go round them or try and move out of their way.

In addition, we also ask pedestrians to stick to the designated walk areas to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you.

YEAR 2 MIXED FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT SHILLINGSTONE SCHOOL

St Nicholas entered a Year 2 team into the Mixed Football Tournament held at Shillingstone School on Wednesday, 15 October where the children played against other teams in the Sturminster Newton area.

The children played three games, showed excellent team work and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Well done to everyone who took part!



Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Ms Jill Watson (Headteacher). Mrs Belinda Bolar and Mrs Sarah Salisbury are our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you have any concerns related to child protection issues please contact them through the school office.



School Office Update

Mrs Hanson will be absent from school after half term due to a pre-planned operation. She will, however, be working from home as she is able during her recovery.

During this period, the **school office will not be manned at all times**. Should you need to contact us, please **leave any items in the drop box in reception, leave a message on the school answerphone, or email the school office**. A member of staff will respond to all messages as soon as possible.



Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. With this money we could fund additional support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

How does it work?

Please Note: Children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 are already in receipt of Free School Meals. However, if you believe you meet the criteria below, it is important you register, because this will release **additional** funding.

Do you qualify?

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit. Provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run on. Paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit. If you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year.

Please apply at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals

PE Kit Reminder:

After half term, children should wear their PE kit to school on PE days.



Kit: white T-shirt, blue/black shorts, school sweatshirt, trainers/black plimsolls. Black joggers (no stripes/logos) may be worn over shorts in cold weather. No leggings or jewellery, and long hair must be tied back.

PE days will be confirmed by class teachers in their class newsletter.

The Royal British Legion

Poppy Sales



Poppies and other Royal British Legion merchandise will be on sale in School on Monday, 3 November, Tuesday, 4 November & Monday, 10 November.

The recommended prices are as below.

Paper Poppy—donation; Poppy 2025 Lapel Pin—£3.00; Slap Bands—£1.50; Button Tag—£1.00; Wristband—£1.50; Poppy Reflector—£3.00.

