



Sherborne Church of England Primary School

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22nd March, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring Term is usually the shortest of the three, but the weeks since Christmas seem to have hurried by at a quite remarkable pace. We have managed to squeeze in so many events for the children (Young Voices, hosting our Erasmus partners, class trips, the K'Nex Challenge, sporting events, Big Breakfast, Red Nose Day, school disco and an Erasmus trip to Portugal to name but a few!) and I should like to start by thanking our incredible staff, who as always have gone far beyond their job descriptions to make sure our school is a happy one.

Big Breakfast and Red Nose Day

The kindness and generosity of our families is an integral part of what makes our school unique. Parents have given their time through FOSS, helping with transport to and from sporting events, and making sure that the school community is well represented on larger scale occasions such as the Erasmus Evening and our Easter Service. There were two charity events this term, and both were extremely well supported by our parents. First, our Year 6s served everyone croissants, juice and tea at our annual Big Breakfast. The children decided to give any donations to Cancer Research UK, and I am delighted to announce the event raised £220.15. The following week was Red Nose Day, and a combination of nose sales and non-school uniform donations raised £125.90 for the charity. These are both fantastic amounts for a small school to achieve, especially in the current economic climate.

There will be a few changes to our provision, along with some new events taking place, after Easter, as follows:

Bikeability

Bikeability sessions ('Cycling Proficiency' in my day!) for Year 5 children will be running during the week beginning 15th April. Children who are confident cyclists will be taken on the roads and taught about safety, signalling and cycling for pleasure. Any children who are less confident can practise learning to cycle in the safety of the school playground.

Outdoor Learning

This term, Hedgehog Class and Fox Class have enjoyed their outdoor learning sessions on Friday mornings (although some dates have had to swap due to prior commitments, for which I thank you all for your understanding and being so well organised!). This provision will continue after Easter, and will be extended to Owl Class each Friday afternoon. So in a



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'normal' week (don't laugh, we sometimes have them!), all the children will arrive at school on Friday dressed in their Outdoor Learning kit.

SATs and other Statutory Assessments

During the Summer Term, children in specific year groups have to undertake certain assessments. Apart from the Year 6 SATs, these are generally informal and the children ought not to experience any anxiety or stress relating to these tests.

In May, children in Year 2 will undertake the KS1 SATs. Although these tests are now optional, they are designed to help schools identify what knowledge has 'stuck' with the children are which areas of learning may need re-visiting. These assessments will be conducted in a less formal way and the results will be used solely to inform the school's future planning and provision.

During the month of June, children in Year 1 will undertake the Phonics Screening Check. Here, children will work with their teacher one at a time to read a total of 40 words - 20 real words and 20 made up words. Some children in Year 2 will also undertake this test.

Also in June, children in Year 4 will complete the Multiplication Tables Check. This assessment comprises twenty-five times table questions (up to 12x12) which flash up one at a time on a screen. Children then have five seconds to input their answer before the next question appears on their screen.

The Year 6 SATs in May are administered more formally. The children will sit apart from one another and must complete the tests set on the following days:

- Monday 13th May - English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- Tuesday 14th May - English Reading
- Wednesday 15th May - Maths Papers 1 and 2
- Thursday 16th May - Maths Paper 3

Children will be invited to attend a special SATs Breakfast Club during the week and despite the formality of the tests, will be helped to remain calm through providing lots of fun things to do during the afternoons.

Breakfast Club

Having reviewed the budget for the next financial year, Breakfast Club fees will be increasing from £2 per session to £3 per session from the start of the Summer Term. This increase is due to increases in staff costs alongside increases in the cost of food. To be clear, this increase is not a way to generate additional income, but does allow for the school to cover its costs so that the Breakfast Club provision is self-funding.

Owl Class Temporary Relocation

On Thursday 11th and Friday 12th April, Owl Class will be relocating to the Sherborne Club. This is because each window at the school needs to be fitted with a safety film since they are all single pane. By vacating the classroom, the Hedgehogs and the Foxes can use the Owl Classroom whilst their windows are being 'filmed' (I'm pretty sure that's not the technical word for it but I hope you know what I mean!).



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On these days, children in Owl Class will arrive at school as normal, be registered in the classroom as normal, and then taken over to the Sherborne Club. They will eat their lunches back at school as normal and be collected at the end of the school day as normal. Children will not need to be dropped off or picked up at the Club.

Hedgehog Whole Class Music Lessons

The Summer Term sees our youngest children learning to play a musical instrument. We have had ukulele and violin lessons, and now it is time for the Hedgehogs to enjoy their ten hours of music tuition. Starting on Tuesday 16th April, and then weekly thereafter, children in Reception and Year 1 will be learning to play the recorder.

There are plenty of things for children and parents to look forward to over the Summer Term! Here is a taster of what is still to come:

- Dance Festival
- Hedgehog Class Trip
- KS2 Athletics
- K'Nex Final
- Erasmus Trip to Poland
- Sports Day
- Year 6 Cathedral Service
- Y56 Residential Trip
- Arts Day
- School Play
- Cheese and Wine Evening
- Wildlife Quiz Final
- Year 6 Leavers' Party and Service
- Whole School Trip to the Fairford Air Tattoo

It has been a wonderful term, short but busy. As ever, thank you so much for your continued support of our school. At a time when many schools are struggling for numbers and having to make difficult decisions around staffing and class structures, the way our school is spoken about and celebrated within the community is a vital part of our success.

On behalf of all the staff at Sherborne CofE Primary School, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter, and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 8th April.

Yours sincerely,



John Moore
Headteacher



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