



Sherborne Church of England Primary School

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6th September, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the New Academic Year!

It has been a real treat to come back to school following my taking paternity leave at the end of the Summer Term. Although the arrival of Moore Number Four (we've called her Persephone, but she's already known as Sephy) was a magical, wondrous moment, I did miss the school and the end of term happenings! Fortunately, Mrs Ellis did an incredible job in my absence and I am (again) indebted to the team for making sure the school year finished on a high.



Yesterday, we welcomed Anton, Edie, Grace, Louie, Max, Spencer and Verity to the school. Their first day with us went extremely well and having visited the class on multiple occasions throughout the morning, I am delighted to report that all the children settled well and worked wonderfully alongside their new classmates. Our EYFS provision continues to evolve and Miss Fletcher and Mrs Aslett have done a remarkable job in transforming the classroom and the outdoor area.

Aside from a few spaces in Year 1, the school is largely at capacity, with no spaces at all in Owl Class. Having had to turn down sixteen enquiries for places over the last academic year, this week we have already had to decline a place for a new starter in Year 4. The popularity of the school is incredible, and there is lots to look forward to this year:

1. The school's 200th Anniversary

Although the current building was opened in 1868, there has been a school in the village of Sherborne since 1824. At this time, boys and girls were taught separately in the buildings now occupied by the Sherborne Club and the Sherborne Shop. We look forward to a year of celebration as we recognise this fantastic milestone.

2. Music Tuition for All

All children will be taught to play an instrument by a specialist teacher this year. This term, children in Owl Class will be learning the clarinet; after Christmas, children in Fox Class will be learning the pBuzz (I had to look it up!) and; after Easter, children in Hedgehog Class will be learning the ukulele.

3. Year Two of our Erasmus+ Project



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All the children are involved in our European Project, titled 'Art for Heart's Sake'. Whilst children in Owl Class will have the opportunity to visit Croatia and Latvia, everyone will be taking part in whole school days of art and dance.

4. **Creation of a Sensory Garden**

Plans are underway to transform the fenced area at the front of the school into a sensory garden available for all children to use. Children have been involved in the design of this area and FOSS have kindly agreed to make a significant donation to this project.

5. **Wider range of After School Clubs**

The school is incredibly fortunate to have an active, supportive and committed parent body. Last year, FOSS (Friends of Sherborne School) successfully organised and ran multiple fundraising events for the children, including the Sherborne Run. As well as helping to subsidise school trips and providing each class with a budget for those 'little extras', FOSS have also organised for specialist providers to run our after school club on Fridays. This term, a timetable has been created for a yoga club to be available for each class. Please see the clubs form sent by Mrs Pether for more information.

6. **500 Words**

All children in Years 1-6 will be given the opportunity to enter the BBC's annual '500 Words' competition, where children are challenged to write a short story.

7. **Theme Days**

Over the year, each class will come 'off timetable' so that children can get totally immersed in a particular area of learning. It might be a day of cooking, a day in a Victorian Schoolroom, a day dressed up as a Roman, an evacuation day ... the list is endless, but will certainly be fun!

8. **Buddy Reading**

Every Friday, classes will be mixed up for around twenty minutes so that children can share books with others in the school. Older children will read with younger children, sharing stories and discussing the book.

The school is at a really exciting part of its life, with opportunities for everyone. We will continue to develop and refine our teaching and learning practices, and the proposed conversion to academy status will bring further opportunities. We start the year on the back of excellent outcomes in the Year 6 SATs, Year 4 Multiplication Test, Year 1 Phonics Check and Early Years Profile, and we look forward to building on these strong foundations.

We are delighted to have you with us on the next steps of the school's journey - you are most welcome!

Yours sincerely,



John Moore
Headteacher



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