

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and restful Christmas.

Christmas Events

I hope that the many of you who attended the Christingle and Carol Services enjoyed the events. It was pleasing to see so many family members and I am sure that you will join with me in congratulating the children on their excellent performances.

Children's Society

Many thanks to everyone who made a donation to the Children's Society. From the money collected at Christingles, at the Carol Service and from the staff 'no Christmas Cards' fund, just over £300 was collected – a fantastic effort!

'Speedmark' Fundraising

Many, many thanks to everyone who sponsored the children in respect of the 'Speedmark' penalty shootout. From the sponsorship, the school has raised over £800 which will be used to pay for the construction of raised garden beds which the children will use to grow flowers and vegetables.



New Lunchtime Arrangements

As from this week we have introduced changes to our lunchtime arrangements. These include dividing the school into two halves so that when Years 3 and 4 are eating, Years 5 and 6 are playing and vice versa. This means that the hot meals dinner queue is shorter and the playgrounds are less busy.

With the playground only 'half full,' we have been able to introduce games and skills activity equipment into the playground for the children to enjoy. Our focus is on 'positive play' and early signs are that the children are enjoying the experience. The School Council provided most of the funding for the equipment, money raised from the sale of water bottles and ice lollies.

Friends' Christmas Bingo

A great night was had by all at the Friends' Christmas Bingo evening. Thank you to everyone who attended or bought a raffle ticket. Almost £600 was raised which will go towards school improvements. Recently, the Friends donated over £3000 towards the school pergola and music equipment.

'Hear 4 U'

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/carers of the counselling service available in school. Many children have taken the opportunity to talk to Kim Evans, our counsellor, and this has, in many cases, helped the children (and their families) through challenging or worrying times. If you would like to know more about this service, please do contact your child's class teacher or Mr Saunders.

Parent Support Advisers and Network

Yesterday, you should have received a newsletter telling you about the school's provision to support our parents/carer and families. This including the introduction of our Parent Support Advisers – Jackie Pointer and Debbie Alley. Amongst other things, Jackie and Debbie run the school's successful Fusion programme.

Why not come along and meet the ladies? All parents/carers are invited to attend our coffee mornings held every Monday from 9.00am to 10.00am starting on 19th January. Please do come along and have a cuppa, a biscuit and a chat in the relaxing environment of the school library.

Arrival at School

We are still having children arrive at school unsupervised before 8.30am. Children cannot be supervised by the school before 8.30am and I would again appeal to the parents/carers of these children to accept responsibility for their care and welfare until that time. Children will not be allowed on-site before 8.30am.

Holidays in term Time

As we enter the family holiday booking period, I would like to remind parents/carers that the school can authorise up to 10 days leave of absence per academic year. However, the Governing Body wish to encourage full attendance at school. It is perhaps an interesting fact that if a child is absent from school for just two weeks during every year of their schooling (4 to 19 years) this amounts to them missing the equivalent of **two and a half terms** of their education over that period of time.

SEAL 'Going for Goals'

This half-term's SEAL project is 'Going for Goals' where the children will be encouraged to set themselves challenging targets to improve in their learning and personal development. Perhaps parents/carers could encourage the children to set themselves a target or two for improvement at home?

Cardboard and Cardboard Tubes

Year 4 are desperate for large pieces of cardboard e.g. TV or freezer boxes and cardboard tubes. We would welcome donations.

Year 4 Leeson House Residential Visits

Year 4 are very much looking forward to their residential visits to the Leeson House Education Centre at Langton Matravers during the week being 9th February. If parents/carers have any questions or queries about the visits, please speak to Mr Maslin or any Year 4 teacher.



Congratulations to Gryphon House

Congratulations to Gryphon House for winning the house point cup for December. All four houses are very much in the hunt for the House Cup which will be awarded in July.

Morrison's 'Let's Grow' vouchers

Many thanks to everyone who donated 'Let's Grow' vouchers to the school. We eventually managed to collect almost 8000 vouchers and we have sent off an order for a selection of gardening tools which will be used to develop and maintain the raised garden beds that we will be constructing around the school playground.

Secondary School Admissions

I have been asked by the headteachers of All Saints School and Budmouth Technology College to include the following statement relating to pupil admissions within this newsletter:

'All Saints School and Budmouth Technology College will be fulfilling their statutory duty to consult on admission arrangements to the school and college in September 2010, during January and February 2009. Our proposed admissions policies will be available on our websites during that time

www.allsaints.dorset.sch.uk

and

www.budmouth.dorset.sch.uk

Any response from parents/carers should be made in writing and addressed to the Clerk to the Governors at either school.'

Furthermore, any parents/carers wishing to inspect the proposed admission arrangements for any school are requested to contact the Director of Children's Services (Ref:PDF), Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

either in writing, email

p.d.farmer@dorsetcc.gov.uk

or telephone 01035 224200 by 30th January 2009 (for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools) or 1st March 2009 (for Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools).