



STICKLAND'S C.E. V.A.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer Lane
Evershot
Dorchester
Dorset DT2 0JP

Headteacher:
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January 19

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to wish you all a happy new year and I hope most of you managed to avoid all the illnesses that were going around at Christmas.

The children have settled back into school very well after the holidays and the term was started with a very inspiring visit from the Explorer Dome to introduce the children to their topics this term!

Achievements!



Max caught a 2lb 1oz plaice when he went fishing off Chesil Beach and was featured in the Sea Angler Magazine. Well done Max!

We would also like to say well done to our netball team who have made it through to the West Dorset Hi 5 Finals next week. Good luck!

A special mention must go the football team who recently took part in the Kenway Cup Tournament. Although they didn't win they were a brilliant example of the 4 premier league challenges, Respect, perseverance, encouragement and team work and they have made us very proud.

OFSTED Parent View

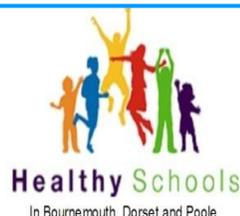
We are anticipating that we will have an OFSTED visit at some point this term, as in February it will be 2 years since they last came. In preparation for this, I would be extremely grateful if you would register and then leave feedback about the school on the OFSTED Parent View website

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Start of the Day and Buses

We would like to remind you that the gate shuts promptly at 8.40am in the mornings to enable the children to be in school and ready to start their school day at 8.45am. We would very much appreciate it if parents could ensure that their children arrive before the gate closes so that they are ready with the rest of their class to participate in the first lesson. Unfortunately, it is very disruptive for the class if children arrive late, and can also be extremely unsettling for your child.

Also, with regards to buses please let the office know **by midday and preferably by email** if your child is not on the bus on any particular day. I am sure that you can appreciate that it causes unnecessary upset to the children if at the end of the day if we have not been told that a child is going home with a parent or other nominated adult. Also, if you email the office an acknowledgement email will be sent reassuring you that the message has been received.



Monday 28 January – Road Closure

Some of you may have seen the road closure signs at Holywell for Monday 28 January. Unfortunately, we do not have confirmed details of the actual times the road will be closed, although it has been suggested to us that it is 8.30am-4pm. Please can you ensure you adjust your journey to allow for any diversions you may have to take.

School Closures

As you may remember last year we needed to close the school due to the snow and I wanted to remind you of the procedure for letting you know if we need to make the same decision this year.

1. We will update the Dorset County Council website to show we are closed and this in turn notifies the local radio stations :- <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>
2. A text and email will be sent to all parents
3. The website will be updated to show that the school is closed

Please bear in mind that the closure is not only reliant on the weather in the village but also the ability of staff and children to travel to school safely!

Uniform

A school uniform teaches children to take pride in their appearance, and creates a sense of belonging. Unfortunately, recently, our usually smart students do not seem to be taking care with how they look, and I would ask you to support us in ensuring that they, and we, are showing Stickland's at its best.

The major issues at the moment are:-

- Footwear - children should wear sensible black shoes that provide good support, trainers are not suitable everyday footwear, and neither are boots.
- Hair must be tied up if it is long, with a simple hair band. Please do not allow your child to wear large head bands with bows on.
- Proper, clean PE kit: Plain white t-shirt or polo shirt and Black / Navy blue shorts
- We are seeing an increase in children wearing bracelets. Bands round wrists should be watches/fit bits only.

Please see the website or prospectus if you are unsure of what they should be wearing.

E-safety

For up to date information about keeping your children safe online, suitable games and apps and other useful advice, have a look at <https://parentzone.org.uk/home>, and consider signing up to receive their newsletter via e-mail. Please also see the attached information about the game Grand Theft Auto. Despite this being an 18 rated game we know that some children are allowed to play this game at home.

Social media

Could I please remind you that posting negative and detrimental comments about the school on social media is not a way to resolve any issues that you may have. I welcome feedback and comments from parents, and will always make time to meet if you need to discuss any concerns. If comments are defamatory, misleading or potentially slanderous, then I will seek legal advice to resolve the matter.

Christian Values

This half term we will be focussing on perseverance as our Core Christian Value. This will be discussed and explored during our Collective Worship, and followed up by relating it to our everyday lives in the classrooms. Please find attached a leaflet with some activities and information for you.

Lunch boxes

It has been brought to my attention that there are some unsuitable lunch box contents being brought into school. It is vital that we teach our children, from an early age, about a balanced and healthy diet. Whilst we all enjoy a treat, multiple chocolate bars or bags of sweets are not suitable to be eating in a packed lunch. Please try to support and encourage your child to eat healthily by only including a single, suitable treat.

Hoodwinked Performance Cancelled

Due to the length of time that has passed since the children were rehearsing Hoodwinked and also that the children have now begun learning their new play, Mrs Hart has taken the very difficult decision to cancel the Hoodwinked performance. Please come to the office to pick up your refund for any tickets purchased.

West Dorset Family Partnership Zone

I am attaching a leaflet giving details of drop in sessions that are available to parents through the West Dorset Family Partnership Zone. As we all know, bringing up children can bring many challenges! These sessions are an opportunity to talk through any concerns that you may have, and perhaps offer some extra support and advice if needed.

School Dates

Can I just remind you to check the school calendar for details of inset days, school events and school holidays. These dates are usually set before the start of the new academic year and are generally available on the school diary from June onwards.

Yours sincerely,
Kathy McCann
Headteacher