

STICKLAND'S C.E. V.A.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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November 17

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please 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.

Midday Supervisor Urgently needed

As you are all probably aware we have been looking to appoint a Midday Supervisor to cover 3 lunches a week. Mrs Kingston has kindly been volunteering and covering the vacancy but this is only a short term measure.

We are still looking to employ someone to cover lunches and although we need to cover 3 lunches we are happy to receive applications from people who would consider working 1 or 2 days. If you like more information please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance so far this term has slightly dipped to 97%. We have, however, had a significant amount of absence due to illness. A huge thank you to those parents who, following the last newsletter, have sent their children to school and allowed us to make the decision to call home if they are too unwell to stay in. Individual absence letters for children with attendance below 95% are sent home at the end of each term. A reminder that the Government figure for a persistent school absentee is 90%.

Morning Snacks

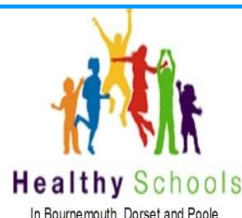
As you may have heard from the news the government have recently increased the PE funding they are giving to schools. There are strict guidelines dictating what this funding can be used for however, it does allow us to provide fruit/vegetables to the children in Key Stage 2.

We are keen that children are encouraged to have a mid-morning snack, but want to ensure that we are encouraging healthy eating. From January we will be providing fruit/veg at morning break time to all children in school. There will no longer be a need to send in a morning snack for your child, and we will only allow children to eat fruit and vegetables.

Please be reassured that children are more likely to eat food in school that their peers are eating – despite the fact that at home they may tell you they don't like it!

Playground Sports Structure

You may have noticed the fantastic new PE structure in the playground that was put in over the summer holidays. The children have been thoroughly enjoying using it this term. Unfortunately a complaint was put in to the council planning department about it, and we were notified that it should have had planning permission. I did contact the company who installed it, who had not



had to do this previously!

We have, therefore, applied for retrospective planning permission, and will keep you informed of what is happening.

Reception Children for September 2017

Can I remind parents that have younger children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2014 that the closing date for the first round of applications is 15 January 2018. You can apply for a place by going to www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions. If you do not have access to a computer you are welcome to come into school and use one of the office computers.

If you know of any parents outside of school who have children in this age range we would really appreciate it if you could also mention it to them.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who bought cakes, products and who wore non-school uniform and donated to Children in Need. We managed to raise £282.91

Christian Values

This half term we will be focussing on Compassion 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.

Individual School Photos

Ashley Woods Studios will be coming to school on the afternoon of Wednesday 22 November to take the children's individual photos. We have been advised that the photos will be back in time for Christmas!

Non-school Uniform for Hamper Items

Reminder - As mentioned above Fossa would like to run a Luxury Hamper Raffle as part of the Melbury House Concerts. We are holding a non-school uniform day on Friday 24 November in exchange for donations of **luxury** items for the hamper and would be very grateful if you could help.

Key Stage Two Melbury House Concert – 4 and 5 December

As per the previous newsletter I can confirm that tickets will be on sale from the school office on Monday £2.50 for adults, children are free. The concert will be from 6.30pm to approximately 8.00pm, refreshments will be available and there will be a luxurious hamper raffle on both nights. All proceeds will go towards FOSSA funds which contributes to many of the extra special activities that the children do throughout the year. Tickets will be available from the school office from Monday 20th November 2017.

Key Stage One Nativity – Wednesday 6 December 2017

The Key Stage One Nativity is taking place at 2.00pm on Wednesday 6 December.

Wellie Walk and Whole School Christmas Meal – Wednesday 13 December 2017

Charlotte Townsend has very kindly offered to allow us to take the children for another Wellie Walk through Melbury Estate on Wednesday 13 December. Can you please ensure your child is suitably dressed for the weather in home clothes/footwear and could they also bring a change of clothes/footwear in case they get wet and muddy.

We will return in time for lunch and the school will be providing a Christmas Lunch from Local Food Links for all of the children therefore, there is no need to bring a packed lunch or order a meal for this day. The only thing you will need to do is to change your child's food choice if they require a vegetarian meal.

Christmas Service – Thursday 14 December 2017

Just a quick note to let you know that this year's Christmas Service will be at 9.15 am on Thursday 14 December at St Osmund's Church in Evershot.

**Parents Invitation to Achievements' Assembly, Christmas Jumper Day and End of Term Lunch
Friday 15 December 2017**

As in previous years we would like to invite you to attend this term's Achievements' Assembly and Shared Christmas Lunch on the last day of this term.

This is also Christmas Jumper Day so we are happy for the children to wear a Christmas Jumper with their school uniform! We understand that this is a national fundraising day and if you would like to make a donation of £1 then we will happily pass on your donation however, this is not a requirement.

The Achievements' Assembly will take place in the school hall at 11.00 am and after a brief interlude the food for the lunch will be set up in the Discovery Centre. Children will then be able to help themselves to a buffet style lunch and then return to classrooms to eat. After all children have collected their food, parents will be invited to help themselves to anything left over.

We are asking each child to bring in a plate of food for this lunch and below is a list of foods we hope each child will be able to provide.

- Reception - Fruit and Crudités e.g. carrots, celery, cucumber, cherry tomatoes
- Year 1 - Savoury Snacks e.g. sausage rolls, pizza, cocktail sausages, quiche
- Year 2 - Crisps and Dips
- Year 3 - Drinks e.g. fruit juice, flavoured water, squash
- Year 4 - Sandwiches
- Year 5 - Sweet items e.g. cakes, biscuits
- Year 6 - Sandwiches

I know this seems very early to be thinking about the end of term but we understand that this is a busy time of year for parents and wanted to give you as much notice as possible. Finally, if you would like to take your child home after the lunch then you will be able to do so. However, school will remain open until the end of the normal school day.

Clubs

All clubs will finish the week ending 1 December with the exception of Relax Kids and Drama which will finish on Wednesday 6 December.

Yours sincerely,
Kathy McCann
Headteacher