



Do Everything with Love
(1 Corinthians 16:14)

September Newsletter 2019



WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

It is now the third week of the term and the summer holidays are already becoming a distant memory as we get back into our daily routines. I find it so refreshing to get out of my daily routine but at the same time, I seem to get a lot more done by being in a routine. This reminds me of a quote which my mother used to use 'If you want something doing, ask a busy person'. I never really understood this as a child but now I'm beginning to see what she meant. The busier I am, the more I achieve. Last term I mentioned the importance for stillness and calm amongst our hectic, busy lives. Maybe we need the balance of both these things to achieve our very best?

For those of you who were able to attend the 'Meet the Teacher' session, you will know that the children are being encouraged to get into the routine of reading five times a week with the 'HIGH 5 Reading challenge.' It is amazing to see how intuitive they are and I'd like to share with you some of the top tips that they suggested in assembly when I asked why reading was important:

'It helps to keep you calm'. 'It helps you to become imaginative'. 'It helps your brain do better'.

'It helps you to write better.' 'It is good fun.' 'If you practise, you get quicker.'

Our children want to be the best they can be, and we want to give them all the support we can in order to help them succeed.

Maybe we all can get into this reading routine alongside them so that we can all discover the joy of reading.

Certificates will be given for 25, 50, 75 signatures and a special prize for those who reach 100 signatures.

Happy reading everyone!

Mrs Christopher



Keeping in touch with each other this school year

Please can I ask you all to regularly check the website and newsletters for updates about school events and initiatives. I understand some of you, like ourselves, are busy working parents so the newsletters, parentmails and the website are designed to keep you up to date.

The 'High 5' Reading Challenge

Reading at St Mary & St Joseph's has always been a priority and children are expected to read daily. The aim of the high 5 reading challenge is to get all the children reading regularly with the ultimate aim of developing a love for reading. At the moment, many parents are finding it a challenge to get their child to read despite efforts to encourage this. We want to work together with you to ensure every child reads. We have asked the children to read five times a week- 4 week days and once over the weekend for at least 10 minutes. **We are asking you to sign the diary each time** (5 times a week). Classes will have a monitor to check this in school and certificates will be awarded to children who read regularly. From Year 3 up, if your child has read and has forgotten to get the diary signed, please let us know in the morning so we can pass the message on to the teacher. From Year 3 up, if a child doesn't read, we will give them time to read at the beginning of playtime, to reinforce how important their reading is (this is not to be seen as a punishment but rather a reminder to help **them** remember to read each night). **We have had some feedback already – positive and negative- and we appreciate both.** We will continue to evaluate and keep you informed of the impact this has over the term. Some children want to read for part of their playtime and they are welcome to join too. Together we want to help our children achieve the best they can.

Tips to help reluctant readers:

Jeff Norton, author of 'Diary of a Neurotic Zombie', was a reluctant reader when he was a child. He learnt to love books simply by practising and by finding three key elements that helped him transform to become an avid (sort of) reader: Series fiction, funny books and scary fiction. Click the link below to find out more.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/tips-for-reluctant-readers/>
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A big 'Thank you' from Miss England

Thank you to all the parents for kitting out the children so well for forest school? Also, a special thank you to Elliot's mum who donated loads of hazel last week. Forest school sessions are proving very popular and the children are improving their skills of teamwork, communication, compromise, perseverance, maths (measure, angles, mass etc.) and design skills. More photos are on the website- Year 3 class page.



Mrs Rose's Update

In Year 5 we have been looking at and exploring the work of Rudyard Kipling. At the end of the week the children will be adapting their choice of story to change the audience's perspective of the characters using the works of Rudyard Kipling as their inspiration. I can't wait to see their imaginative results and will keep you informed.

Spreading the 'Laudato Si' message

"Listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"



Greta Thunberg: 'I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire!'



Our efforts to change our ways in order to help the planet continue. Last year's Eco team have met with the new Year 5 recruits to pass on important routines and information. The new team will have the opportunity to visit an ECO SUMMIT at Stoborough Primary school early next month along with like-minded Eco teams from the other Purbeck schools. A letter will be going out with these children in the next few weeks to explain more.

Attendance

Please remember that this year, we will be issuing letters to any child whose attendance falls below 95% and we will be having attendance raffle prizes each half term. We understand that children can be too unwell to attend school on some occasions but also want to reinforce that we can attend with mild cold/ throat conditions.



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

We are absolutely delighted to inform that you that the **daily mile track** will begin during the Autumn half term. After this, we hope to have an after school running club in preparation for the cross country running competitions in the Spring term.



After school Clubs:

The after school clubs this term are in full swing: Dance for Years 1-3, Recorders for Year 4, Football and Sewing for Years 5/6. All are enjoying this opportunity to improve their skills whilst having fun. We will let you know what clubs are available next half term in the October Newsletter.
