



Our Newsletter

February 2014



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well, and that the weather is not affecting you too much. We have had a busy time since Christmas. The Governors have appointed a new Headteacher, who will be taking up her post in September. Her name is Jackie Shanks, and at present she is Principal of Ryes College, a special school in Essex. Jackie is looking forward to moving to Dorset with her daughter, whom she has promised can have a dog once they move to the country.

I will remain as Acting Headteacher until the end of the Summer Term.

We also have to let you know that Rosemary, our Administrative Officer and Clerk to the Governors, will be retiring at Easter. Rosemary has been associated with the school since 1988. We will miss her, and thank her for all her hard work.

We have had the report back from the HMI, Mark Lindfield, and it says that we are well on the way to making the progress that we need to come out of the grade 'Requiring Improvement'. We have put this report on the website. We have been working on pupil progress. We look forward to you attending the parent/carer interviews on 17 March, and finding out about the progress your child has made.

If you have looked at the website recently you will see that we are in the process of making changes to it. We welcome your opinions.

You are always welcome to come into school and talk to the staff about any issues, but please remember that once the working day has started it can be quite disruptive to the classes if they have unexpected visitors. This can unsettle the pupils and takes time away from teaching. It would be much better to make an appointment to see your child's teacher at a convenient time, when they can give you their full attention. We really value the comments in the home/school books, and will always make sure telephone messages get to the class as soon as possible.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that the FOMSS Easter Fayre will be held at Mountjoy on Saturday, 22 March between 2.00 and 4.00 pm.

After Easter, you will have the opportunity to order school clothing. There is now a royal blue polo shirt available to order.

I hope you have a good half term.

Lesley Cook
Acting Headteacher

Curriculum Update



We finished last term's topic of 'Another Continent' with a Christmas Production which, I am sure you will agree, was fantastic. All the pupils who took part thoroughly enjoyed it.



We have begun our topic this term which is Flight. Already I have seen a pilot in school, and I hear on the grapevine we have an air hostess visiting. The students in Developing Independence are looking forward to a trip to Exeter Airport after half term.



A number of students have been visiting Magdalen Farm every week to learn about working on a farm and have been thoroughly enjoying their time there.

Our younger pupils have been enjoying horse riding and children in the nursery enjoyed their first visit to the Donkey Sanctuary.

We are hoping to come back after half term to dry, calm and hopefully warmer weather so we can all get out and about.

We are looking forward to Health and Fitness Week when we return with an exciting, and energetic week of activities planned by Richard Bowskill.

Helen Farnell
Deputy Headteacher

Early Years

Early Years have been busy learning about "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch", through all subjects. We have made our own lighthouse in the role play area of the classroom. Later in the term, we hope to visit Portland Bill and experience looking and listening to the seagulls flying around us!! (As long as the winds die down!) In Science we are learning about "pulls and pushes", through a 'hands-on approach'.

The younger pupils have started horse riding at Bidlake Farm and are fortunate to be spending the odd day at the Donkey Sanctuary.

In RE we explored the Chinese culture at the beginning of term and smelt and tasted prawn crackers and vegetable spring rolls, and ate Chinese special rice using chopsticks!! We will be learning "about me" and focusing on the Easter story and traditions.

All the pupils have been enjoying the rain, splashing about in our puddles in the outside environment!! We continue to use our wonderful hydro pool and pupils are motivated by the multi-sensory experiences provided.

After half term, a new pupil will be joining us for two days and we hope he will settle happily into his new environment. The Early Years team look forward to providing the best opportunities for him to learn and develop.

Can we remind all parents to label their child's clothes. Thank you.

Wishing you all a nice half-term and looking forward to seeing you at our Easter Service (date to be agreed).

Sue, Natalie and Early Years Team

Learning & Life

Welcome to the Spring Term with Learning and Life.

This term our topic is Flight. As part of this topic we are learning about all things that fly in Science, from animals and insects to balloons and planes. In History we are learning about World War 2 and in Creative Writing we are learning to appreciate and write flight related poems.

We continue to have daily maths and phonics/reading sessions to develop our core skills.

Weather permitting, we are exploring our local environment as much as possible. We are looking forward to our Health and Fitness Week after half term, and our Easter celebrations.

Bev, Tracey and Team

Developing Independence

As we approach the half-way point in the school year, we cannot believe how time has flown.

This is very appropriate as our topic this term is Flight! As we taxi along the runway of our curriculum, we have already begun to explore the life of airports and airlines. We shall be interviewing and meeting a pilot and cabin crew and some of us will have the opportunity to visit Exeter Airport.

New this term; we have begun a link with Magdalen Farm Project which allows us to provide work experience and other outdoor learning opportunities for our students.

We hope to be out and about a bit more with community walks, visits to Ferne Animal Sanctuary and continuing shopping and recycling.

In English, we are looking at reading for different purposes, and in Maths we are focusing on time.

The DI team (Kevin, Richard, Jeanette, Julie, Hillie, Taryn, Dawn, Rachel, Lorraine, Lisa)

Health and Fitness Week

24 - 28 February

During the week, the whole school will be learning about what we need to keep healthy. Everyone will have the opportunity to try out new physical activities too.

We will have lots of visitors in school to help us with this.

Action Van will be delivering a different sporting activity each day to all the key stages.

The Wessex Life Education Bus will be here for two days focussing on PSHE and Wellbeing. All students can experience a lesson inside the bus, and meet Harold the Giraffe and his friends.

We end our week with a surprise show and a chance for all of us to show off any new skills gained this week.

Dates to Remember

Friday, 14 February	Last day of term
Monday, 17 February - Friday, 21 February	Half Term
Monday, 24 February	First day of term for pupils
Monday, 24 February - Friday, 28 February	Health and Fitness Week
Tuesday, 4 March	9.30 - 12.00 pm Parent/Carer Coffee Morning, Dorchester
Thursday, 6 March	7.00 pm FOMSS Meeting, Community Room
Monday, 17 March	Parent/Carer Interviews
Tuesday, 18 March	10.00 - 2.00 pm Parent Carer Council Big Event, Kingston Maurward
Saturday, 22 March	2.00 - 4.00 pm Easter Fayre
Monday, 31 March - Friday, 4 April	Easter Week Celebrations
Thursday, 3 April	9.30 - 12.00 pm Parent/Carer Coffee Morning, Mountjoy
Friday, 4 April	Last day of term
Monday, 7 April - Monday, 21 April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday, 22 April	Staff Training Day
Wednesday, 23 April	First day of term for pupils