



# Our Newsletter

July  
2014



## Vision: Making a difference today, for tomorrow

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had wonderful weather this term, and have taken full advantage of the opportunities to be out and about. We have competed at other schools in athletic events and have even come away with some 'Golds'. Students have enjoyed getting dirty down at Magdalen Farm, as well as horse or donkey riding. Some of the students enjoyed a week of sunny weather at Freshwater. We have also enjoyed the outdoor areas of the school, using the playing field to its full potential. One of the projects we are working on next year will be to enhance the outdoor areas, improve the play equipment and provide a sensory trail.

There is still plenty to look forward to in the remaining few days; the Beaminster music festival, sports day, and we must not forget to thank Sue for the Maths - Bug week.

We welcomed Amanda to our school. She is working on the reception desk every afternoon. Also, we have to say goodbye to Chris, our Design and Technology teacher. We thank Chris for his hard work, his patience, and the interesting and innovative items the pupils have made.

We have to say goodbye to three of our students, and wish them well in the future, but also welcome new students, mainly in the Early Years.

It is with great sadness that I write my last newsletter to you. Jackie will take over the reins in September, and I know the staff will make her welcome. I cannot thank the staff enough for their commitment in making the improvements that are needed to take this school back to the 'Good' that we know it should have always been.

Best wishes for the future.  
*Lesley Cook*  
*Acting Headteacher*

### Curriculum

We have had a busy term, with lots of off-site activities and enjoying the good weather.

The topic this term has been "The Amazing Life of Insects", and all classes have had a great time exploring the outdoors and bugs.

We enjoyed a Maths Week this term: a big thank you to Sue Gurney-Legg for organising "bug" activities and the Bug Ball. It was great to see lots of pupils and staff dressed for the occasion. Thank you, and well done to all who took part. It was great fun.

Next term we see some changes in the curriculum we have to offer due to changes by Government to the National Curriculum. One of the new drives is all schools following a Healthy Schools approach. Please can I remind all families that snacks which are sent in from home must be healthy, wherever possible fruit. If a packed lunch is sent in, these must be healthy and not contain high fat or high sugar foods. (We do understand and appreciate that some pupils have special diets and, of course, we will continue to support this.)

I would like to wish you all a lovely summer break and hope the good weather continues.

*Helen Farnell*  
*Deputy Headteacher*

There will be a few changes in school in September. Staff have been very busy preparing classrooms for the start of the new year. One of the things we have been working on is class names and the teachers made final decisions this week.

New class names are all related to trees and are as follows:

Early Years     **Acorns**             Teacher - *Natalie*

Key Stage 2     **Willow**                     Teacher - *Sue*

Key Stage 3     **Maple**                         Teacher - *Bev*

Mixed Key Stage  
3, 4 & 5         **Cedar**                         Teachers - *Tracey  
& Richard*

Sixth Form       **Oak**                             Teacher - *Kevin*

Information about which class and which teacher for each pupil has been sent to all parents and carers.

*Helen Farnell*  
*Deputy Headteacher*

## Early Years

Early Years class have had a fantastic term exploring and learning about bugs. We have had the chance to go mini-beast hunting, orienteering, watch caterpillars grow and make different mini-beast creations in art and cooking. The photos show us enjoying our orienteering around the school, looking for symmetrical mini-beasts. Sue's group have enjoyed reading *The Bad Tempered Ladybird*, whilst Natalie's group have looked at lots of different mini-beast stories, including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

*Sue, Natalie and Early Years Team*



## Learning & Life

Learning and Life class have enjoyed getting out and about this term, visiting places in the local area and taking part in lots of sport activities, including fishing, Beach Festival, and Cricket Festival, among others.

Some of us enjoyed a very sunny week at Freshwater. We also took part in a Music Festival with Beaminster School and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

*Bev, Tracey and Team*



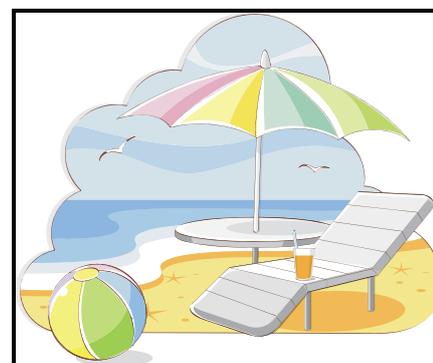
# Developing Independence

We have had a very busy term learning about Insects in our topic work. We had a wonderful field studies visit to Dorset Wildlife's Kingcombe Centre to do meadow netting, tree bashing and river kicking!

We have enjoyed our Outdoor Education at Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre, and are working towards gaining Level 1 Paddle Power certificates for kayaking skills.

Some of us won Gold at the Sitting Volleyball Competition at Bryanston School.

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



## News from FLO



Ready for summer!

It has been a really busy term, and I have been delighted to meet new families and children starting at school. The coffee mornings have been particularly successful, and it has been great that so many of you have attended and spent time with each other. We hope that more of you will join us now we have varied the days, and I am aiming to catch up next term with those of you that have been unable to make any coffee mornings.

On 9 August, there will be a family day. If you are interested, or would like to find out more about this, and have access to Facebook, then please request to be added to "very special people with very special kids", a page administered by one of our long-standing parents, Nicky Lockley.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Monday, 8 September at 9.30 am in the Community Room at Mountjoy, for our first coffee morning after the summer break, to hear all about your exploits.

*Sandra Hutchings*  
Family Liaison Officer



## Dates to Remember

Friday, 18 July	2.00 pm Leavers' Disco
Tuesday, 22 July	Last Day of Term
Wednesday, 3 September	Pupils return to school
Monday, 8 September	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Mountjoy School
Thursday, 18 September	9.30 am Friends of Mountjoy Special School AGM
Tuesday, 7 October	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Bridport Children's Centre
Monday, 27 October - Friday, 31 October	Half-term week
Thursday, 6 November	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Dorchester Poundbury
Saturday, 6 December	2.00 - 4.00 pm FOMSS Christmas Fayre
Friday, 12 December	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning at Mountjoy School
Friday, 19 December	Last Day of Term
Tuesday, 6 January 2015	Pupils return to school