



St Mary's CE VC First School

Charminster
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Newsletter 2 - 2021/22

17th September 2021

Dear Parents

We are all enjoying school life and the children have all settled well into the autumn term now. Thank you for supporting your child(ren) in ensuring they have the correct uniform. All children have returned looking smart and ready to learn. We sold lots of second-hand 'Eco uniform' on Sunday at our Fun day and will begin having monthly uniform sales to support our families. The first of these will take place on Friday 1st October from 8.30am-9.30am. All proceeds go towards our Eco Buds committee to support their initiatives.

It was wonderful to see so many of you and your families enjoying our Charminster Family Fun Day on Sunday. We all enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends and to enjoy a fun afternoon in the glorious autumn sunshine. Our thanks go to Glenn and Linda Taylor for leading the planning and organisation of this fantastic event. They were supported by our extremely dedicated School Association and Pre-School Committees, many of whom spent much of the weekend in school preparing and running the day. Thank you also to the many staff and parents from School and Pre-School for volunteering to set up and / or run a stall or provide help in clearing up at the end of the day to ensure the school was ready for children on Monday morning.

Please support our School Association by attending their AGM on Tuesday 9th November at 7.30pm here in school. Our children, both from school and Charminster Pre-School, will benefit from this hard work and other regular fundraising throughout the year.

It has been a pleasure to welcome back Mrs Julie May to cover in Oak Class on Thursdays this term. In addition, Mrs Jane Ohnstad will continue to teach in Ash Class on Thursdays to cover for Miss Thornicroft's non-contact time in order to support her role as Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo). I am enjoying time covering each week in Willow Class which enables me to get to know some of our new Reception children. I am enjoying getting to know new parents and families too!

Some key aspects of our Reflection and Sensory Garden are now in place and we can look forward to involving the children in some planting following the half term break!

Next week we will be sending a paper copy of our annual calendar to all families. In addition, we will always update you with dates and events in each newsletter. Below is further information.



Yours sincerely

Suzanne Garner

Clergy Collective Worship

As part of our programme of Collective Worship we have been pleased to welcome back into school Reverend Mark and Reverend Leila in person to lead Collective Worship on Tuesdays in our school hall. We are looking forward to seeing Reverend Pene in the coming weeks too.

Clubs

We would like to begin offering some extra-curricular Clubs this term. The following clubs can be booked via our School Gateway App. Please note that all clubs are limited in numbers and are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We have tried to prioritise our older children in clubs as they have had very little opportunities during their earlier years in school due to the pandemic. Please try to choose **one** club for your child to ensure that as many children as possible are able to have a go at a club, thank you for your support with this.

Club	Year Group	Day	Dates	Teacher
Lego	Year 2	Monday	27 th Sept. 4 th 11 th Oct. 1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd Nov.	Mrs Brake
Multi-Sport	Year 2	Monday	27 th Sept. 4 th 11 th Oct. 1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd Nov.	Mr Holt
Computing	Year 3 and 4	Monday	27 th Sept. 4 th 11 th Oct. 1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd Nov.	Miss Thornicroft
Sewing	Year 4	Monday	27 th Sept. 4 th 11 th Oct. 1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd Nov.	Mrs Garner
Art	Years 3 and 4	Wednesday	29 th Sept. 6 th 13 th Oct. 3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th Nov	Mrs Joslin
Choir	Years 3 and 4	Thursday	30 th Sept. 7 th 14 th Oct. 4 th 11 th 18 th 25 th Nov	Mrs Joy
Lego	Year 3	Thursday	30 th Sept. 7 th 14 th Oct. 4 th 11 th 18 th 25 th Nov	Mrs Laval

Earrings

We have noticed an increase in children wearing earrings for school. It would be easier and safer for children not to wear earrings for school and this is especially true on your child's PE days. If they absolutely must wear them then they should be covered with medical tape before school for safety reasons. However, some children have had issues this week getting their hair caught in tape and it would seem less upsetting just not to wear them. Thank you for supporting us with this issue.

Governor Vacancy

We are looking for a Local Authority Governor to join our Governing Body. An interest or expertise in health and safety would be desirable. Please contact the school if you would be interested and our Chair of Governors, Lyn Paine, would be happy to have a talk with you about the role.

Forest School

Our Forest School programme has begun this term. The children taking part will enjoy a 10 week programme taking place on Friday afternoons. This term the children have been selected from Years 3 and 4. Emma Middleton and Sally Porter will lead this programme.



Road Safety

I am pleased to inform you that work to create a safer place to cross North Street will begin during half term. Dorset Council will be starting work on North Street to create a build out where the school crossing patrol used to be. The plans have been drawn up by Dorset Council following concerns raised by our Road Safety Officer, our Parish Council, parents and residents after the school crossing patrol was withdrawn. The work will involve building out the pavements on North Street which will enable people crossing the road to see past the parked cars and make the road narrower and easier to cross. The scheme will also make visibility better for motorists entering North Street from West Hill near the village hall.

Volunteers

We are pleased to welcome former pupils Miss Anna Southam and Mr Matt Miller in volunteering roles this term. Both Anna and Matt are keen to have careers working in education in future.

Playtime Pals

It has been a pleasure to appoint 26 Year 4 Playtime Pals today in our Collective Worship. Congratulations to you all! Thank you to all of these children for the efforts they gave to their letters of application and interviews this week. I will be meeting with this group of children to prepare for their new roles on Monday at 12.15pm. A key aspect of their role is to support staff in making playtimes safe and happy for all children.

Term Dates for 2021-22:

2021	
Wednesday 1 st September	Staff Training
Thursday 2 nd September	First Day for all children in Years 1-4
Thursday 21 st October	Staff Training
Friday 22 nd October	Staff Training
Wednesday 20 th - Friday 29 th October	HALF TERM BREAK
Friday 17 th December	Break-Up for Christmas
Monday 20 th -Friday 31 st December	CHRISTMAS BREAK
2022	
Monday 3 rd January	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 4 th January	Children return to school
Monday 21 st -Friday 25 th February	HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 28 th February	Staff Training
Friday 8 th April	Staff Training
Monday 11 th - 22 nd April	EASTER BREAK
Monday 2 nd May	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 30 th May - Friday 3 rd June	HALF TERM BREAK
Friday 22 nd July	Last day of summer term