



Newsletter 05

Headlines

11/11/22

Dates for your diary!

Anti- Bullying Week 14th - 18th Nov

Parent Consultations - Mon 14th and Thurs 17th Nov

Flu immunisations - Tues 15th Nov

Dorset Mental Health Support Session on Anxiety - Thurs 17th - 2pm

Non - Uniform for Jolly Jars and Children In Need - Fri 18th Nov

Arts Week - 21st -25th November

Non Uniform - Chocolate

Tombola - Fri 25th Nov

Family Health Worker - Drop-In - Weds 1st Dec

Non Uniform - Bottles for Bottle Stall Fri 2nd Dec

XMAS FAIR - Fri 2nd Dec 3:30 - 5:30

EYFS Xmas Performance - Weds 7th Dec

XMAS SCHOOL DISCO- Mon 12th Dec

KS1 Xmas Play - Tues 13th Dec

LFL Hot Xmas Lunch - Weds 14th Dec

End of Term - Fri 16th Dec
Spring Term 2023

Training Day Tues 3rd Jan 2023

First day of term Weds 4th Jan

HALF TERM 13TH - 17TH Feb

End of Term - Friday 31st March

SUMMER TERM 2023

First day of term Mon 17th April



Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are well.

Remembrance

On Armistice Day, it seems fitting that I start this newsletter by sharing how we have marked Remembrance Day. Firstly, you may have noticed that pupils and staff have put up our display of poppies on the external fencing and it looks quite striking. Also, all staff and children in school came together throughout the school to mark the 11th hour of the 11th month with two minute's silence, prompted by the air raid siren on camp. Furthermore, Pupil Parliament members went to the Field of Remembrance near Blandford Church to lay little wooden crosses, alongside other children from local schools.

On Sunday, Mrs Goodall (Assistant Headteacher) will lay a wreath as part of a service in Blandford Town Centre..



Anti-bullying week

The school is fully signed up to the Anti Bullying Alliance's (ABA) Anti Bullying Week. All members of staff receive specific training from the ABA online training portal and you can view the school's anti-bullying policy [Here](#)



There will be a special assembly on Monday whereby members of Pupil Parliament will talk to the school about how we can all be on the lookout for bullying in school and to relay this year's theme of Reach Out. ***Please allow your children to wear odd socks to mark the day*** and I look forward to seeing some colourful photos from Monday.

I will also ask class teachers to use relevant learning resources all week.

Parent consultations

Hopefully you have received emails inviting you to make appointments to the parent consultations (Y1 – Y6) happening on Monday and Thursday of next week. It will be a good opportunity to discuss the baseline report and ask general questions regarding how your children have started their school year.

Nasal Spray Flu Vaccination

A reminder that the School Nursing Team are in School on Tuesday to administer the flu vaccine. Only those pupils who have the on-line parental consent will receive the spray.

Dorset Mental Health Support Group (DMHSG)

On Thursday 17th Nov at 2pm the DMHSG are holding a 1 hr session at Downlands about supporting your child with anxiety. Please see attached poster

Parent Support Sessions

Sandie Brown, our Family Support Worker is available to discuss any welfare matters regarding your child/ren on Thursday 1st December in the morning. Please email christinegoodall@downlandsschool.org if you would like to chat with Sandie and Christine.

E-safety educational resources

Dorset Council has recently shared the resources at the end of this newsletter.

[Smartie the Penguin \(Childnet\)](#) - aimed at KS1

Follow the adventures of Smarties the Penguin as he learns to be safe on the internet. There are Powerpoint versions of the story for EYFS, Year 1 and 2, a lesson plan and a song available. The material covers: pop ups and in app purchasing, inappropriate websites for older children, and online bullying.

[Jessie and Friends](#) – aimed at ages 4 to 7

Jessie & Friends is a series of three animations that follow the adventures of Jessie, Tia and Mo as they begin to navigate the online world, watching videos, sharing pictures and playing games. There's also a storybook for each episode, to help you and your child keep the conversation going.

The key message throughout Jessie and Friends is that if a child is ever worried by anything online, they should tell a grown-up they trust, who will help them.

The animations and additional classroom activities give children great opportunities to learn about trust, being kind online, consent, and healthy and unhealthy behaviour on the internet.

[Digiduck's Big Decision](#) - aimed at KS1

An engaging online safety story for young children. Help arrives just in time for Digiduck® when faced with a difficult decision! Follow Digiduck® and his pals in this story of friendship and responsibility online. The Digiduck® collection has been created to help parents and teachers educate children aged 3 - 7 about how to be a good friend online. The collection now includes a book, PDF, poster and interactive app.

[Play Like Share](#) - aimed at KS2

Play Like Share is a three-episode animated series and accompanying resource pack that aims to help 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe from sexual abuse, exploitation and other risks they might encounter online. There is an accompanying resource pack containing guidance, workbooks, materials to engage parents and carers and extension sessions designed to be delivered to particularly risk-taking or vulnerable children, that address; self-esteem, commercial risks, privacy and security and online grooming.

[Band Runner](#) - aimed at KS2

Band Runner is a fun interactive game that helps 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe from risks they might encounter online.

And finally, a brief look at what our Reception Classes have been doing this week.



Mrs Loveless (Head of EYFS) says, "We have been learning about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We did an investigation as to 'what makes porridge yummy?'. We tried jam, syrup, cinnamon and salt. Jam was the most popular! Salt the least!"

Please keep an eye on the Dates for the Diary as we have added some new events including non- uniform days, the Xmas Fair, a Xmas disco, KS1 Xmas performance and Children in Need.

Have a lovely weekend

James Rielly
Headteacher