



Newsletter 13

26/04/2024

Dates for your diary!

SUMMER TERM 2024

Summer term starts - Mon 15th Apr

SATs week - 13th-16th May

Nepal Day - 24th May

HALF TERM 27th - 31st May

FS2 New Parent meeting - 2.15pm 17th Jun

Home clothes for Royal Signals Charity - 19th Jun

Sports Day (timings tbc) - 25th Jun

Downlands Family Picnic - 25th Jun

Cedar class assembly - 27th Jun

Yr5/6 Cumulus Residential - 3rd-5th Jul

Transfer day/Move up morning - 9th Jul

Summer Fayre (timings tbc) - 11th Jul

KS2 production (timings tbc) - 16th Jul

Downlands Dance Festival (timings tbc) - 18th Jul

Year 6 Leavers BBQ - 18th Jul

Last day of term - 19th Jul

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Inset days - 3-4th Sept

Autumn term starts - 5th Sept (phased start for FS2 pupils)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well.

Despite the recent return of cold and damp weather, we took advantage of the fleeting hint of more summery weather to come by **using our school field** at lunchtimes. It was also great to have a fully operational **climbing frame** area after necessary maintenance works were carried out over the holidays:



Mr Potter and Mrs Haggar took a **Y3/4 football** team along to a friendly tournament at ABW.



There was fantastic team work from each of the players, showing great sportsmanship to each other and other teams.

Downlands vs Milldown 5-0

BSM Vs Downlands 0-7

ABW Vs Downlands 1-4

Downlands Vs Durweston 1-1

Curriculum and learning

All the phases leaders have prepared **curriculum newsletters** which have been sent to parents via email. If you haven't read them already, they can also be [found here](#)



Dandelions have celebrated Earth Day on Monday, talking about our planet and how important it is to look after it, for example recycling. The children made mini Earths with playdough and painted paper plates. The children have been growing sunflowers too and a big thank you to caretaker Rob for putting up a new water feature in our outside area, the children are really enjoying it.

EYFS have launched their topic of How Does Your Garden Grow by planting vegetables in their garden and all of the children planting their own sunflower seed which have already grown to about 5cm! They made vegetable soup and all the children had a try. The children created a wonderful display in the corridor with their paintings of sunflowers in the style of Vincent Van Gogh.



LKS2 have been designing their own Iron Age tool and looking forward to Iron Age day on Tuesday. Children have also practised composing free verse poetry, writing a poem about a dream jar inspired by the BFG (guided reading text). **UKS2** have been studying the history of Blandford Camp and were visited by Lt Col (Retd) Bob Brannigan. He came on behalf of the museum to talk to the children about the history of Blandford Camp.

Dorset Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) – Parent workshops

Thanks to Berkeley from Dorset MHST who led an open parent workshop for parents wanting to find out more about helping children with anxiety. There were very positive remarks about the parent session and all parents were engaged throughout: Berkeley was able to offer some individualised strategies for the parents present. All parents were eager to hear that the MHST could offer other sessions with a different focus. Watch this space!

Please **let us know about changes** to your home circumstances, especially pending moves. At this time of year, we are already focused on group sizes for next year and it important to have accurate information. Further to this, we will be better placed to support your child(ren) if you can let us know of any issues which may have an impact on their ability to focus on learning in school. My caring and compassionate team are here to help.

Finally, a polite reminder that with over 40 staff members working at the school, we need every car parking space on school grounds for staff and visitors to use. Unless you need to use a disabled bay, please avoid parking in the staff car park and use the adequate on street car parking instead.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr J Rielly
Headteacher