

# School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the spring term – what a wet week it's been! We've got a jam-packed term full of loveliness; world book day, farm visits, easter activities, red nose day and lots of new, fun learning too! That's a lot to squeeze into 5 weeks!

This week we have welcomed Mrs Katherine Roberts to the Holbeton team. Katherine is a teaching assistant and will be working with children across the school. Katherine is an experienced teacher and she's excited to get know the children and be part of our special school. We are pleased to share that from next week we also welcome Mrs Mitchell back to school. You may have seen her in school today – it's lovely to have her back!

A little reminder that from Monday the A379 between Yealmpton and Holbeton will be closed for road works. The roadworks in Holbeton are on hold at the moment pending further surveys and we'll update you when we know more.

I hope you all have a good weekend!

- Small but Mighty

Mrs Honywill  
Headteacher



# Diary Dates

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## Spring Term 4

19.2.24	Non pupil day
7.3.24	World Book Day (Dress up) Details to follow
11.3.24 and 13.3.24	Parent's Evening Appointments
15.3.24	Red Nose Day
25.3.24	Cricket Workshop – all classes (PE kits) Details to follow
27.3.24	Easter Bonnet competition Egg rolling HSA Easter Egg Hunt
28.3.24	Easter Service at the Church (TBC)

## Forest School

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### Autumn Term:

Forest school and Farm School

### Spring Term:

Forest school and Farm School

### Summer Term:

Forest school and Beach School



Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Years 1, 2, 3
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Years 4, 5, 6
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Years 1, 2, 3
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Years 4, 5, 6
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Years 1, 2, 3

Thank you to everyone who has signed up as a parent volunteer.

# Can you help?

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If you can spare some time during the week to listen to children read, do some flashcard phonics or times table games, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your child's teacher a message on Dojo to arrange a time you can come in.



This term we are hoping to fill our greenhouse so we can start planting. We are looking for donations of seed packets, compost, seed trays, pots, little watering cans and gardening gloves. If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them into school. We plan to start digging over our garden beds in the coming weeks. If you have green fingers and

you'd like to get involved, please let your child's class teacher know!

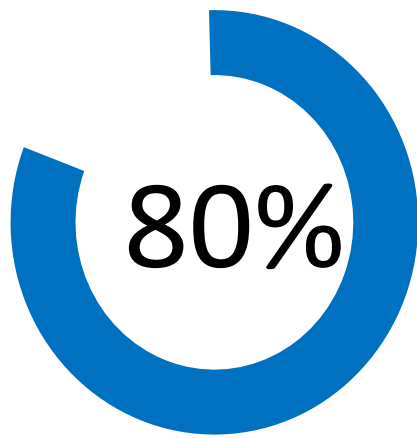
We are liaising with the organisers of the upcoming cross-country event on 14<sup>th</sup> March between 1-3pm for Years 3/4/5/6 at Staddiscombe. For this event to go ahead, we need parent help with transport. If you are able to help, please get in touch with Mrs Nash and we will confirm arrangements.



Thank you!



This week we had our first parent forum meeting to discuss attendance which is a national, Trust and school priority this year. A huge thanks to our class reps and to all our parents for sharing your ideas and suggestions either through the reps or via the online survey.



12/15 families that participated in the survey rated regular school attendance as important or very important.

Here are some of the things we discussed:

Feedback	Action Points/Comments
Parent question: How does attendance impact teachers and student learning?	When a child misses school, they miss key knowledge. It could be a new concept in maths or new sounds in phonics. As an example, the class have been planning a new story and building vocabulary, descriptions and generating ideas. The following week they are so excited to start writing. If a child misses the planning stage, this means they need a lot of additional support and this can sometimes affect their confidence with the activities when they return.
Parent feedback: It can feel frustrating when we are told we can't take children on holiday	We know that children are tired at the end of term, It's nice to give them opportunities to celebrate their hard work, resilience and

in the last days of term when the children are doing nice but not academic things.	positive attitudes by enjoying nice activities together as a class team.
Parent feedback: Perhaps a more personalised response to attendance is needed – assessed on an individual case by case basis.	In our meeting we discussed some of the challenges our families face with the cost of holidays out of term time, and we understand that for some families it's not possible to take leave in the school holidays. As a school, we do not have the autonomy to be able to authorise holiday during term time unless there are exceptional circumstance (outlined in the Trust policy). However, on a personal level, I understand how important quality family time is and the benefits this can have on the children's wellbeing.
Parent feedback: Can all the INSET days be combined to make a longer October/May half term so flights are more affordable?	We are going to feedback your suggestion on reviewing term dates and INSET days with the Trust via the Hub Advisory Board (governance).

Please continue to share your ideas and suggestions with us. Our next Parent forum will be in the summer term and the focus will be on outdoor learning.





# Classroom News

## Nursery and Reception

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This week Stoke class started their brand new topic all about dinosaurs! We've loved making our own dinosaur models, counting dinosaur eggs and looking for footprints outside! In forest school this week, we enjoyed a hot chocolate and a biscuit whilst listening to Dinosaur Stomp!



## Year 1 and Year 2

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This week Wonwell have been learning about measuring length and height this week and learning to read and use standard units of measure. To launch our History topic this half term we began thinking about where the things around us come from.....what is an invention? Why was it invented? What was life like before it was invented and how has it made life better since it was invented? As you can imagine, we had ALOT to talk about and think about. We had a fantastic, thought provoking and inspiring discussion. The children then made or drew their chosen existing invention but had to make/design what it would be like in 50 years time - how would it have improved?





## Year 3 and Year 4

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This week, Mothecombe class have started our new topic 'Fractions'. We went outside and compared denominators to help us understand that the larger the denominator, the smaller the parts.



## Year 5 and Year 6

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Bigbury class worked really hard on their history learning this week! We learnt about sources from the Indus Valley that might tell us about how the civilisation was ruled and governed, and that they might have had a religion! We then compared this to what we already knew about Ancient Egypt. It was great to hear children confidently recalling their knowledge from the start of the year and making connections.





# Forest School





**10**  
A DAY

10 ways to help  
balance your physical  
and mental health

# Be proud of your very being



## Be proud...

- What is it about you that your pals love?
- What do you love about you?
- Permission to be super proud!

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