



Welcome back to the start of Term 5! I hope that you all enjoyed a restful Easter break in preparation for all that is planned for the summer! It has been lovely to see a sea of smiling faces and evidence of so much learning that has happened already! The start of this summer term has seen the children return to the school field at break times and lunchtimes and enjoying the outdoor space and all that it offers despite the rather chilly weather we've had.

Ms Rankin found the school Maypole this week and the children have enjoyed using it during their Forest School sessions. We are hoping by the time our Queens Platinum Jubilee Activities week arrives (week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> May) we will have mastered the ribbons and dancing to be able to showcase our Maypole dancing as part of our Jubilee celebrations.

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of accompanying some of our Year 3/4 children to Port Regis to take part in the Tri Golf festival. The children were all great ambassadors for our school. They thoroughly enjoyed putting, chipping and driving the ball around an interesting set of challenges. We took two teams and our St George's Dragons team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Well done to all the children who took part and a big thank you to the parents to help transport the children to and from the festival (see photographs on p6).

Each class has started their new learning theme for the term ahead. Look out for the topic overviews coming home giving you information on the learning in each class this term. Hedgehogs and Squirrels have started their topic: Bees, Tree and Seeds, Badgers are heading back in time to investigate the Egyptians and Foxes are exploring our planet as part of their topic on Planet Protectors.

Next week the children will all take part in workshops delivered by the Life Education team. Each session will be age appropriate with links made to our Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum (PSHE).

Don't forget there is a Bank Holiday on Monday so we will see you all back in school on Tuesday morning. I hope you all have a lovely, safe weekend.

### Parking Near School

Please think about the safety of the children if you come by car at the beginning and end of the school day. This is especially important at the moment with the road closures in place around the school site. Please avoid parking in a way that creates problems for the community: for example, on the main road on the brow of the hill next to the Church. Parking here forces other road users over the solid white line on the brow of the hill and could cause an accident. Please also be respectful of our neighbours by not blocking their driveways.

### Covid Update

Thank you once again for everything you have done so far over the last two years to keep us all safe. It really is very much appreciated. The latest Government advice for schools, and the NHS, states that should you test positive for Covid, then:

**Adults should: stay at home and avoid contact with others for 5 days and avoid meeting people at higher risk of Covid for 10 days.**

**Children should: stay at home and avoid contact with others for 3 days.**

If they are well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there is a much lower risk that they will pass on Covid to others.

As testing is not as readily available, then please continue to be extra vigilant. Thank you so much for all your support.



As the weather is very changeable at the moment please make sure your child brings their Jumper/Cardigan and a coat to school every day to allow for the changes in temperature

## Head Teacher's Award



Week ending: 29/04/2022

**Luke (Hedgehogs)** – for having an amazing first week back! For being a fantastic friend, sharing with others and following our classroom rules! Well done Luke!

**Joanna (Squirrels)** –for super writing! She has been working hard on her punctuation, description and story structure – well done!

**Jacob (Badgers)** – for a great attitude to his learning.

**Laila (Foxes)** – for her thoughtful and considerate contributions during our RE lesson.

### Pupil of the week

Week ending: 29/04/2022

Hedgehogs: **Felicity**

Squirrels: **Ivy**

Badgers: **Amy**

Foxes: **Honie-May**

**Well done**

### Birthdays



**Connie (11)**  
**Aralynne (6)**

*Many Happy Returns*

### Bronze Star Awards

Week ending: 29/04/22



**Connie (Y6)**  
**Ryan (Y6)**

*Congratulations*

### Silver Star Awards

Week ending: 29/04/22



**Joey (Y1)**  
**Daisy (Y6)**

*Well done*

## Learnimal Awards



Week ending: 29/04/2022

**Harry G** for being a Teamwork Tiger and Reviewing Rabbit

**Hector** for being a Teamwork Tiger and Reviewing Rabbit

**Logan** for being a Teamwork Tiger and Reviewing Rabbit

**Finley** for being a Reasoning Robin

**Hazel** for being a Concentrating Camel

**Scarlett** for being a Noticing Newt

**Elsie-Brooke** for being a Reasoning Robin

**Kenan** for being a Reasoning Robin

**Vita** for being a Reasoning Robin

**Sam** for being a Reasoning Robin

**Hollie** for being a Persevering Penguin

**Joshua** for being a Reviewing Rabbit



**Well Done**



### Attendance Week ending 29/04/22

Hedgehogs – 95.6%

Squirrels – 94.1%

Badgers – 97.0%

Foxes – 95.6%

This week the winners are

**Badgers**



### House Point Scores

**Sandways**

**374**

**Chaffeymoor**

**334**

**Queen Oak**

**391**

Winners for Spring Term 2 were

*Queen Oak*

## Hedgehogs News

We hope you had a lovely Easter Break. We have started Jack and the beanstalk for English, the children are very good at being the giant! We have been acting out the story, making a story map and sequencing the story in preparation for writing our own later on in the term. For maths, we have been concentrating on teen numbers. We have been looking at them forwards, backwards, tens and ones using all sorts of resources to help. We have been looking at where we live in Geography, identifying key features and different views. This term in Design Technology we are focusing on FOOD! We are very excited about this as Hedgehogs love food! We have started off by finding out where fruits and vegetables come from, above ground or below. In Forest school Hedgehogs danced happily around the maypole. After that they loved playing in the newly created mud kitchen. Many thanks to Foxes for their construction work; the benches and sink holder, kitchen surfaces and other lovely details helped a lot.

We hope you have a lovely bank holiday weekend,

Mrs Ramage and Mrs Nicholls



## Squirrels News

This week Squirrels started their new topic of Bees, Trees and Seeds. In English we retold the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We are focussing on making sure we demarcate all our sentences with capital letters and full-stops. We are doing this by orally rehearsing the sentence and saying aloud where the punctuation goes. We corrected some of Mrs Toy's writing where she had missed quite a lot of punctuation and even had some spelling mistakes! The children then rewrote the story of Jack and the Beanstalk in their own words trying hard to remember all their punctuation! In maths the Year 2s have been working on finding a half, quarter or third of different amounts, choosing which strategy to use. The Year 1s have been working on tens and ones, making sure they know what the value of each digit is and how this can be represented in different forms. The children had their first sessions with Mrs Hillier on Thursday afternoon; PE outside and Science.

Have a lovely long weekend everyone and see you on Tuesday.

Mrs Toy & Mrs Milsom

## Badgers News

Badgers have enjoyed starting their new topic about Ancient Egyptians. We ordered events during this period on a time line. We considered how the writing system was different and had fun reading and writing using hieroglyphics. We also read about different Egyptian Gods. In English we focused on the features of non-chronological reports. We read sentences about the Ancient Egyptians and arranged them into headings and discussed clues about the order of the sentences.

In Forest School we discussed that May Day is this weekend and that dancing around a Maypole is a traditional way of celebrating the approach of Summer. Badgers were taught the Maypole weave dance by some of Foxes and then they tried it themselves, with a good degree of success. It really does involve good team work, especially when there's a tangle of strings! Following this, blossom covered may crowns were made and then the children used the new mud kitchen in some fantastic imaginary play.



## Foxes News

Welcome back! What a busy week it's been! In Science this week with Mrs Hillier, Foxes started their new unit of work on Electricity. The children were challenged to create a simple series circuit that included a switch. They then discussed how the switch works within the circuit.

In Forest School with Ms Rankin, the children worked hard in three different areas; in the garden, constructing a mud kitchen area and learning the 'weaving' Maypole dance. Firstly, the gardeners - happily green and mud fingered - watered, weeded and carefully planted out beetroot and pea seedlings. Secondly, the tool work - use of drills, saws and hammers as well as plenty of imagination - resulted in an array of benches and kitchen work surfaces as well as a throne, a clock and a sink holder. Finally, around the Maypole there was such fantastic perseverance and team work and, in the end, they really got the hang of it. A joy to watch! Then several children demonstrated what they had learnt and danced for Badgers and Hedgehogs too. Well done Foxes.

Mr Abbott



## Key Assessment Dates for the term ahead:

### Monday 9 May - Friday 13 May KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) - Year 6

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1: Short answer Questions

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling Paper 2: Spelling

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May English Reading Paper

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) - Year 2

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June KS1 Statutory Phonics Screening - Year 1

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June KS2 Statutory Times Tables Screening - Year 4

If you have any questions, please contact your class teacher.

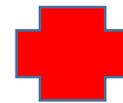
### Dates for your Diary

2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Life Education van visit
w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs ~ Yr6
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Governors Meeting
w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 SATs ~ Yr2
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Yr3/4 Tennis Festival @ Port Regis School
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Photographs
23 <sup>rd</sup> –27 <sup>th</sup> May	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

### 30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Summer Half Term

6 <sup>th</sup> June	School Closed
w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Phonics Screening ~ Yr1 KS2 Times Table Screening ~ Yr4
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr6 to Okehampton
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr4/5 to Leeson House
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of Summer Term

**Contact Details:** it is really important for us to be able to contact you in the case of an emergency, so please inform school office staff if you have changed your contact details. The school also regularly uses texts to send out information and needs your mobile phone number to include you in this service.



**Medical Information:** If your child's medical needs have changed, please inform the school office so that their records can be updated. This includes information about any allergies.



## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Plans are in place for a Platinum Jubilee Activities Week for the children in school at the end of this half-term. This will mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth. She is the first monarch in the history of our country to reach this milestone.

As a heads up our plans include a "Playground Street Party" and a themed dress up day. The theme will be royalty, so Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses, Knights, etc. More information to follow. We are looking for donations of any blue, red or white fabric, wool or ribbon which we could use to make decorations for the celebrations.

## Attendance/Holidays

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in requests for holidays in term time. As a reminder, a leave of absence is only authorised if it is classed as exceptional. A holiday or travelling abroad during term time is not exceptional.

There are 38 weeks in the year when school is open and 14 weeks (175 DAYS) when families can visit family overseas; go on holiday; travel or attend non urgent medical appointments.

### Authorised and Unauthorised Absence. What is the difference?

Every school, by law, has to register pupils twice a day; first thing in the morning at the start of the school day, and again in the afternoon session. If a pupil fails to attend or arrives late they can be marked as an absence for that session. If a pupil of compulsory school age is absent, the register must show whether the absence was authorised (acceptable) or unauthorised (where no acceptable reason is given for absence). Only the school can approve the reason for absence.

### Authorised Absence

Where a pupil is absent due to sickness and is genuinely unable to attend school, then the school, after being informed, authorises a child's absence.

It is important that you phone the school or come into the office if your child is going to be absent at the start of the day. You will receive a phone call from the office if you do not inform us as it is our duty to ensure your child is safe.

Occasionally, additional evidence such as a letter from your GP or other medical proof may be requested particularly if your child's attendance is already a concern and below 95%.

### Unauthorised Absence

The law states that parents or carers must ensure that their child regularly attends the school where they are registered. It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure that their child, when of statutory school age, accesses education appropriate to age, needs and ability. Under the terms of the education related provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, each parent/carer(s) may be issued with a Penalty Notice of £60 if:

- You fail to ensure that your child attends school regularly
- You allow your child to take leave of absence in term time without a school's authorisation
- You fail to return your child to school on an agreed date after a leave of absence
- Your child persistently arrives late for school after the register is closed

### Examples of unauthorised Absence:

- Going on holiday or travelling abroad
- Days off for birthdays, shopping trips
- Feeling tired
- Bad weather
- Non urgent appointment
- Parent unwell and unable to bring a child to school

## Yr 3/4 Tri-Golf



**WINCANTON TENNIS CLUB**

**OPEN DAY 2022**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 11am-3pm**

**Everyone Welcome!**

Interested in finding out more about our friendly club? Fancy a hit on a Spring Day? Come along hit with a member or join in with a free session with the coach!

2 of our 4 courts will have the following sessions:

- 11 - 12 : Junior Tennis Taster
- 12 - 1 : Adult and Older Junior Cardio Tennis Taster
- 1 - 3 : Open Play – borrow a racket and balls, have a hit, try the courts, bring the family, meet the committee!

2 courts will be Open Play

**Sports Ground, Moor Lane, Wincanton**

**facebook: Wincanton Tennis Club**

**www.wincantontennisclub.co.uk**

ASC Portland: Osprey Quay, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1SA

**SATURDAY 7th MAY FREE activities 10AM - 4PM**

**ASC Portland Open Day**

All activities are completely FREE. Come along if you would like to try:

- Sailing
- Kayaking
- Paddle-boarding on our Mega-SUPS
- Bouncy castle and inflatable obstacle course
- Take part in our FAMOUS cardboard boat race (2PM)

andrewsimpsoncentres.org  
01305 457400 / portland@andrewsimpsoncentres.org

ASC Portland: Osprey Quay, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1SA

**Fun and FREE activity for the whole family Sat 7th May**

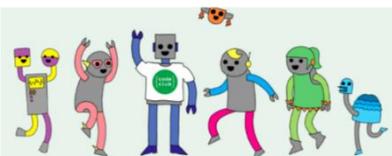
**ASC Portland Cardboard Boat Race**

- Free to enter
- Race starts @ 2PM
- Bring your own pre-made boat (must be made out of cardboard)
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- Boat must carry at least 1 person
- Buoyancy Aids and Paddles provided

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**Digital Exploration Morning**

Come along and discover our digital activities! Test out Coderpillars, programmable mice and more on this exciting morning! No booking required, just you and your enthusiasm.



**Gillingham Library**

**Saturday 7 May 10.00am - 12.00 midday**

Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent or carer. For more information ☎ 01747 822180

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dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries



**BADMINTON TRIALS**

Dorset Badminton Association and Community Badminton are holding **BADMINTON TRIALS** for County Squads & Community Sessions on:

**SATURDAY 21st MAY**

Where: LeAF Academy, Duck Lane Bournemouth (use entrance marked AFC Bournemouth)

Time: 11am-12pm - Ages 7-10  
12pm-1pm - Ages 11-13  
1pm-2pm - Ages 14-16

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

Book your place online today: <https://bookwhen.com/cb-dorset>

For information please contact us at: [hello@communitybadminton.org](mailto:hello@communitybadminton.org)  
[dorset.communitybadminton.org](http://dorset.communitybadminton.org)



**Big Moments of summer fun!**

**ALL STARS**

Mere CC and Kilmington & Stourton CC are excited to announce that the All Stars Programme is open for registration.

A fun 6-week summer activity programme for children aged 5-8 years old! A place to learn new skills and meet new friends playing a fun new sport and activities! Every child that registers receives a great personalised kit bundle when signing up! Including a bat, ball, bag and t-shirt!

Join us at: Mere Cricket Club, Duchy Manor Field, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW  
Session dates: Every Saturday from May 14th - July 2nd, 10-11am

For more information or to register please contact your Lead Activator: Brida Skipworth  
Email: [merccwills@gmail.com](mailto:merccwills@gmail.com) Phone: 07500 938685

Register online at: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/83152e0c-a67-44a0-8ead-3fb42e065711>

**Artwork to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, Gillingham Library is calling for local children to submit artwork depicting events during her reign for display in the Library. There will be a book prize awarded.



**Gillingham Library**

**Deadline for entries: 6.00pm on Friday 27 May**

Please put your name, age and guardian's telephone/mobile number  
For more information ☎ 01747 822180

@DorsetLibraries DorsetLibraries

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries)

**Bunting and Glorious Crowns**

Join us to make Bunting to decorate Gillingham Library to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



**Gillingham Library**

**Tuesday 31 May 10.30am - 11.30am**

Limited places, booking essential phone:  
For more information ☎ 01747 822180

@DorsetLibraries DorsetLibraries

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries)