



Hopefully all of you have noticed the new roof on the Forest School Shelter! Unfortunately, the storms before Christmas destroyed the fabric roof we had in place which meant the children (and staff) were getting very wet when it rained. Luckily for us Mr Monksummers and Mr LaTrobe-Bateman came to our rescue providing the materials to create a new solid roof, along with Mr Probert, Mr Clothier, Peter and Jon Manley's expert constructing skills and agility on ladders we now have a more permanent shelter in our Forest School area. I'd like to say a huge thank you to them all for giving up their Sunday to come along and help. We were blessed with a lovely sunny day which helped greatly despite the muddy conditions under foot.

We've had a busy week in school with a range of visitors welcomed throughout the week.

Our School Improvement Consultant spent the morning with us on Tuesday. We visited every classroom carrying out Learning walks in Reading and Maths. I was extremely impressed with the attitude to learning we saw in all classes. The children were engaged in their learning and spoke confidently to us about their learning. Proudly sharing the work in their books, explaining the strategies they were using to solve calculations or discussing the books and text they were reading.

We've also welcomed back Barbara and Jasmine (Pets as Therapy dog) this week. The children were delighted to see them both once again and to take time to share their reading books.

Next week we are really looking forward to getting back to being together again in the school hall. We've got an exciting week ahead as we focus on Children's Mental Health throughout the week including Safer Internet Day. We've also got a team of Hockey players heading to Gillingham School to compete in an interschool tournament – we wish them lots of luck. I know they are very excited!

Have a lovely weekend

Home House Challenge

Reminder – the deadline for returning self-portraits is **MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY**

Every entry will be awarded 5 house points with the winners for each year group earning an extra 25 house points for their house. We are looking forward to seeing the children's work. It would be wonderful if we had an entry from every child in school. The portrait will then be displayed in school as part of our "Growing together" theme for the Children's Mental Health Week.

Safer Internet Day - 7th February

We will be completing activities in school with all the children around the theme for this year "All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online". Resources for use at home are available from <https://saferinternet.org.uk/saferinternet-day/safer-internet-day2022/advice-for-parents-and-carers>



DRESS TO EXPRESS DAY

On **Friday 11th February** we are having a non-uniform day as part of Children's Mental Health Week. We will be asking the children to 'Dress to Express'. The idea is simple – use colour to express yourself by wearing a colourful outfit. The children could come dressed in their favourite colour or a multitude of colours to express their feelings. In school throughout the week in class time and assemblies we will be thinking about how we express feelings, thoughts and ideas.



Head Teacher's Award



Week ending: 04/02/2022

Rafferty (Hedgehogs) – for forming links between mastering number and his classroom learning, he has been participating superbly in lessons and has shown he is keen to try his best!

Hazel (Squirrels) – for being such an amazing role model in Year 1. Concentrating well, focussing superbly and always giving her all.

Annella (Badgers) – for being incredibly helpful.

Noah (Foxes) - for working hard, being focussed and having a great attitude to learning.

WELL DONE!

Learnimal Awards

Week ending: 04/02/2022

Tabitha for being a Persevering Penguin

Ben for being a Persevering Penguin

Arya for being a Persevering Penguin

Emily for being a Questioning Queen Bee

Well Done



Pupil of the week

Week ending: 04/02/2022

Hedgehogs: **Milo**

Squirrels: **Alice**

Badgers: **Annabel**

Foxes: **Connie**

Well done

Bronze Star Awards

Week ending 04/02/22



Seb (Y1)

Congratulations

Attendance

Week ending 04/02/22

Hedgehogs – 95.2%

Squirrels – 97.7%

Badgers – 98.5%

Foxes – 95.9%

This week the winners are

Badgers



Birthdays



Charlotte (10)

James J (7)

William (6)

Niamh (6)

Phoebe P (10)

Mrs Milsom

Many Happy Returns

Silver Star Awards

Week ending 04/02/22



Ivy (Y2)

Well done

Achievements Out of School

Congratulations to Kenan who has gone up a group in the Yeovil Talent Centre and has been given trainer's player of the week again this week in the new group

If your child has achieved something special outside of school let us know, so we can celebrate your child's achievement. If possible a photo of them and their award would be great for our "Look how we shine" board.

House Point Scores

Sandways

598

Chaffeymoor

683

Queen Oak

608

Hedgehogs News

This week we have started looking at non-fiction. The children are getting really good at identifying key features of a non-fiction text! We have started looking at questions, what they are and what symbol we use, ready for writing a fact file and describing animals next week. In PE we have been focusing on stopping when we run. Lots of children were originally doing a U-turn when they got to the end of the track but now we are all stopping experts! We can slow ourselves down to stop, stop, turn and run back. We had a wonderful Forest School session with parent helpers - thank you so much. We pretended to be birds and used clothes pegs as beaks to pick up 'worms' (pink wool). Then we searched for real worms and after that we built nests using moss, dried grass and sticks. The results were beautiful, complete with clay eggs and birds.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ramage and Mrs Nicholls



Squirrels News

On Tuesday we celebrated the Chinese New Year, learning about how it was the year of the tiger and how to get ready for the celebrations. We then had fun trying to eat our snack using chopsticks! In English we started our new unit based on Non-Fiction texts about animals. We wrote questions that we wanted to find the answers to and looked at the structure of a simple non-fiction text about Arctic seals. In maths we have been subtracting using different methods. We could use counters on ten frames and take away counters; we could use number lines and jump back in ones or larger jumps and finally we could use place value grids taking away tens and ones cubes. In DT we have been practising our sewing skills. We used running stitch to create a rectangle and some of us even had a go at overstitch. Everyone impressed me with their sewing skills as well as their Persevering Penguin attitude when it didn't always go smoothly. In Science and

Geography we learnt about how different animals adapt to their environment. We were especially intrigued that caribou antlers are shaped a little like snow shovels! Today it was Numbers Day and we had fun making and playing snakes and ladders, we even charked enormous boards on the playground for the whole school to use. We have been using numbers up to 100 and making dice.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Mrs Toy & Mrs Milsom



Badgers News

In Forest School, Badgers tried a blindfold walk in pairs and introduced the blindfolded person to a tree or something similar. They had to test the use of their senses to help return to the same spot once the blindfold was removed. The children also worked hard to find the letters of the orienteering course around the school grounds. They were totally absorbed in the challenge.

In Maths we have been focusing on subtracting in Maths. We used apparatus to practise exchanging and then started to record this using a written expanded method. We have also been looking at the link between cm and mm and using our knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10 to calculate the equivalent measurement.

In Science we completed an investigation to identify electrical conductors and insulators. We made a simple circuit, putting in a range of items, to see if it would complete the circuit and light the bulb.

Mrs Shears & Mrs Welshman

Foxes News

This week in Forest School, the children in Foxes did some orienteering around the school grounds. Orienteering is quite challenging map work in which you search for specific places and record the letters you find there - the children really enjoyed it. They also led their partners on a blindfolded walk to explore the area, testing their other senses. They trusted and supported each other well.

In Maths we have continued to add and subtract decimals, with the week the focus being on decimals with different tenths, hundredths and thousandths: For example, $136.4 - 83.218 =$. We discussed the importance of lining up the decimal point before solving. The children have demonstrated great problem-solving skills and all been "Reasoning Robins".

Finally, in RE the children have been learning about the founder of Sikhism: Guru Nanak. They have learnt about how his teachings are still followed by Sikhs today and how lots of the stories about him, such as "Malik Bhago and Lalo", have an important message for us all. Mr Abbott



Parent Consultation Meetings

Week beginning 21st March 2022

We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents into school for face to face meetings to look at the work the children have been completing along with speaking to the class teachers.

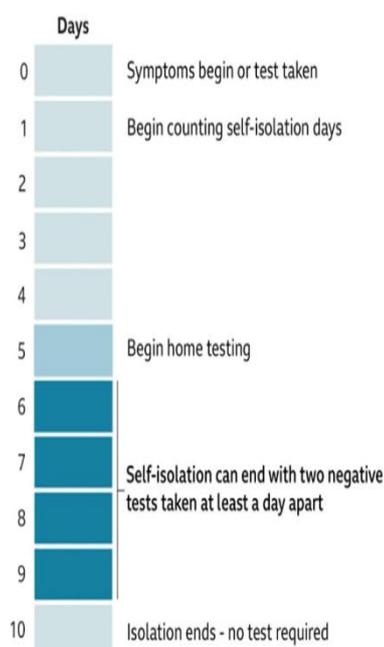
More information on booking coming soon.

Dates for your Diary

7th–13th Feb Children's Mental Health Week

7 th Feb	Home House Challenge closing date
8 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
9 th Feb	Yr5/6 Hockey Festival
11 th Feb	Dress to Express Day
15 th Feb	Fencing session for all Badgers Cooking morning
18 th Feb	PTFA Valentines Raffle PTFA Tuck Shop
21st – 25th Feb – Spring Half Term	
2 nd Mar	Foxes Maths Day
3 rd Mar	Cricket session for all
w/c 21 st Mar	Parent Consultation Meetings
6 th April	6pm PTFA Easter Bingo – more details to follow
7 th April	Last day of Spring Term

How five-day isolation rule works in England



Covid update:

I am really pleased to say that we are able to move back to whole school events once again next week just in time for our Children's Mental health week. Covid cases are dropping, and I am pleased to report we've had no new cases this week, so fingers crossed our measures have worked however please do keep up the regular testing if you are able to. Face coverings are no longer required at pick up and drop off unless of course you would still feel happier to wear one. All other remaining protective measures in school, such as the increased cleaning regime, increased hygiene measures, and ventilation, remain in place and under constant review on a daily basis.

25 Years of World Book Day

We will be joining in with schools across Europe and the world to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3 March. More details on the events happening in school will be announced shortly.



Children will be given their £1 Book Token before half term, look out for them!

These are valid from 17th February to 27th March 2022 and can be used to purchase one of the selected 'World Book Day books' or can be used to get £1 off a book of your choice.

LSA

We are looking for a Lunchtime Supervisor for 1 hour every day to join our staff team

Please contact the office if you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out more about the role

Last Friday the PTFA (Parent Teacher and Friends Association) held their AGM and first meeting of 2022. There were resignations from some members of the committee: Andrew Toms, Liv Byrne and Jen Probert. As a school community we'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge, big thank you to them all for all their hard work fundraising for all the children in school. We are pleased to announce that we had nominations for committee roles and the following people were voted in during the meeting.

Kim Munster - Chair
Hayley Prescod - Vice Chair
Kate Allcott - Secretary
Ria Caines - Treasurer

A reminder that the PTFA meetings are open to all parents of children in our school and are an opportunity to find out more about the plans for the coming year and how you too can get involved. Look out for the date of the next meeting in future newsletters.

The PTFA have also kindly donated £3000 towards our new running track which is being installed in the half term holiday. We are all very much looking forward to being able to use the field everyday - even when it's been raining - so we can take part in the daily mile, reinstate our walk and talk sessions and use it in all weathers at playtime and lunchtime.



Thank you for your donations today
We have collected **£91.55** for the NSPCC

Social Media Usage for Children: Safeguarding Advice

There are lots of social media websites and apps people use to chat, comment, share pictures and game with their friends.

Many parents and carers wonder when is the best age to let their child have a social media account. Some don't want their children to have underage accounts. Others may have decided their child is not quite ready for social networking, even if their child is begging them. Once children reach secondary school, they're likely to come under growing peer pressure to stay in touch with friends online.

ThinkUKnow is a website designed to help parents and carers answer these questions and more, including how to let your child get the most out of the internet in a safe, secure way.

The ThinkUKnow website is produced and supported by the The National Crime Agency and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) who work with safeguarding and child protection partners across the UK and overseas. It protects children from harm online and offline with a focus on child sexual exploitation and online protection issues.

[More > Is my child ready for social media ? via thinkuknow.co.uk](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



Forest School Shelter



Safer Internet Day - Basic Advice For Families

A short introductory session for Adults with children in Primary School. Crafts to be provided for the children during the session.



Gillingham Library
Tuesday 8 February
3.40pm - 4.30pm

Booking essential, please contact the library on gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or:

For more information ☎ **01747 822180**

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dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries



Starry, Starry Nights Art Activities

Help us celebrate our status as an International Dark Sky Reserve and join us for a FREE two-hour Starry, Starry Night-inspired art session at Coombe Bissett Village Hall. Children will create their own stars and planet inspired creations to take home

When: Thursday 24th February from 10am to 12 noon or from 2pm to 4pm or Friday 25th February from 2pm to 4pm

Where: Coombe Bissett Village Hall, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LU
 Suitability: Ages 4-11 (but all ages welcome)

To book: The event is FREE to attend but please ensure you book a space for each child that is attending. See our website for how to book www.cranbornechase.org.uk/events/ or search 'Chase and Chalke' on Eventbrite

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult



Provided by the Chase and Chalke Landscape Partnership with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund



Join us for our Boarding Open Day on Saturday 26th March 2022

Register at www.bit.ly/SexeysOpenDay or scan the QR code



Sexey's School is a league-topping, Church of England, co-educational state boarding and day school for 11-18 year olds. New local part-time boarding offer now available.

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