



January Newsletter 2026

Attendance - our school expectations

Pupil attendance and punctuality is a key focus and priority within our school. Individual attendance will be monitored and reviewed on a bi-weekly basis. We would like to kindly remind parents that the school's expectations on individual pupil attendance is 95% and above, with the aim of having 100% pupil attendance. Should your child fall behind the school's expectations a monitoring process is triggered, and we may ask you to come into school to discuss your child's attendance with us. Should you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sporting Success

Good luck to our amazing girls' football team who take part in the area finals on Wednesday. For our tiny school to make the finals is an achievement in itself. We are all so very proud of the team.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody. In terms of keeping children safe, please don't think 'What if I am wrong Think... 'What if I am right'. If you have any concerns about a pupil, you should report this to a member of staff immediately. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Cawley and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Firth. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Ryall.

Water Bottles



Please can you ensure that your child brings a water bottle into school every day. Hydration is essential for children to stay healthy and make the most of their learning. As a healthy school we encourage water not juice or squash.

Wet and cold weather

Please send your child to school with a named coat. The weather has started to become unpredictable with lots of rain and cold weather to be expected. It is important that every child is sent to school with a named coat so that they can stay dry, warm and not become unwell.

Should the school need to close for any reason, please look out for notifications on the school website and messages via the MCAS app.

Writing success

Huge congratulations to Elijah, who won a story writing competition last term. This is closely followed by Isabella, Millie-Rose, Mollie and Nevaeh all having winning entries in a national poetry competition. Their poems will be published in an impressive poetry book due to be published in March.

Clubs for the Spring Term

After school - Tuesdays – Sewing, Wednesdays – Recorder, Sats and Sweets, Thursdays – Craft and Table Games, Multi-skills (Yeovil Town Football Club), Film Club.

Lunch times – Loom band, art and sport.

There are still a few spaces left. You can sign up using the app or pop into the office.

Online Safety News

We take online safety very seriously and share the following message with the children. Please can you reinforce this message at home.

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.
You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

THINK UK KNOW

Congratulations

We are delighted to announce that Mr Travers is a new dad to beautiful baby Isobel. Congratulations to him and his lovely wife, Mel. Mr Travers will be back in school soon following his paternity leave, but for the moment he is enjoying some time with the new arrival.

Farewell

We are very sad to have to inform you that the lovely Hannah has moved onto a new job. I'm sure you will agree that Hannah has been a ray of sunshine in Jack's preschool and has worked so hard to ensure the children in her care are happy and thriving. We wish Hannah every success in her new adventures and want to thank her for all her dedication to our wonderful school.

Your amazing children will continue to receive the utmost care and support from Pam Goodwin and Tash Chubb, who is moving from Chestnut Class. They will also be assisted by Lesley Fay, who the children already know and occasionally by Dee Porter. These staff members are highly experienced, so you can be confident that the provision will continue to go from strength to strength. The overall supervision will be provided by our Chestnut Class teacher, Danni Cocks.

Reading expectations

At Barwick and Stoford Community Primary School, we seek to ensure that children are supported to be confident, life-long learners with a love of reading. Reading plays an especially important role in developing children culturally, emotionally and socially and we believe literature plays a key role in such development. Reading enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and build on what they already know. In school children in KS2 are heard reading on a 1:1 basis at least once a week by their class teacher and Learning Support staff and this is much more frequently in Foundation Stage and KS1. Those pupils not at an expected reading level are heard daily.



The EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading books follow a clear progression of banding, ensuring fluency is developed. This academic year, you may find your child has a book sent home that they have already read at school, and this is something that is now promoted in all schools. The more a child reads, the larger their vocabulary becomes. When a child reads or hears the same book multiple times, they become familiar and comfortable with a greater number of words. Fluency is the ability to read text “accurately, quickly, and with expression.” Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing.

Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character development to symbolism. Comprehension is “the essence” of reading. Each time your child reads or hears a book read to them; they learn more about the story itself. Each pass through the text or illustrations allows them to dive deeper into the story’s meaning, preparing them for more complex narratives down the road. Children who progress from the banded scheme to ‘free readers’ are able to access the class library, and the school library, and can be supported to select appropriate books by staff. Pupils are encouraged to take home fiction and non-fiction texts.

Children are expected to read at home five times a week, ideally daily, as this helps to develop confident and fluent readers. We would recommend 20 minutes of reading a day.

Children's reading logs are checked to ensure this is taking place. Where children are not reading the required amount at home, they are invited to attend a lunchtime reading club.

Dates for the calendar – more dates will be added as we finalise further activities!

14 th January -	Girl's football tournament – Area Final – Separate letters to be sent home to Year 5 and 6 girls
21 st January -	Governor's Meeting – If you would like any topics discussed please contact the clerk to the governor's, Yvonne House, in the school office
5 th February -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Thursday 12 th February -	Valentine Disco (Friends of School) TBC
Friday 13 th February -	Last day in school before the half term holiday
14 th to 22 nd February -	Half term holiday
11 th , 12 th and 13 th March -	Residential for Sycamore Class
16 th to 20 th March -	Science Week
Monday 16 th March -	Leonardo Science Workshop
Tuesday 17 th March -	Wessex Water Educational Workshop
Friday 20 th March -	Science Fair – From 2pm - All parents, carers and grandparents welcome
Thursday 26 th March -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Thursday 2 nd April -	Last day in school before the Easter Holiday
	Easter Holiday
Monday 20 th April -	Children return to school
Thursday 21 st May -	Assembly taken by Dan England
Monday 25 th to 31 st May -	Half term holiday
Monday 1 st June -	Inset Day
2 nd to 5 th June -	Arts Week
Tuesday 2 nd June -	Local Artist, Kate Lynch, working with Oak and Sycamore Classes doing a charcoal workshop
Friday 5 th June -	Art Exhibition – All parents, carers and grandparents welcome
Tuesday 30 th June -	Assembly taken by Dan England
29 th June to 3 rd July -	Healthy Living Week
Wednesday 1 st July -	Workshop with the school nurse
Thursday 2 nd July -	Dental nurse workshop
Thursday 2 nd July -	Sports Day
Thursday 2 nd July -	Preston Transition Day for Year 6
Tuesday 21 st July -	Last day of term