

Puddletown CEVC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No. 2

19th October 2017

Dear Parent,

Well, where did that ½ term go? It seems to have flown by but it has also been a very productive one. It has been a joy to have seen the way our YR children have settled into school life, they have had a great start to their school career, many thanks to you for all you do at home to support the school.

Next term will be equally busy, the big news for next ½ term will be the building of our Iron Age Roundhouse with the Cranbourne Ancient Technology Centre staff. This will be a great addition to our grounds and we are very thankful to FOPS for all the fundraising they have done to fund this project.

On the subject of our school grounds a huge thank you to everyone who turned up on Saturday it was a real example of many hands make light work – except for those moving the cobbles! It has made a great difference. There is another morning planned for the 11th November when we are hoping to move some planters to allow us to site a KS1 outdoor role play area any help will be gratefully received.

Home reading

I have spoken to all our KS2 children about the importance of regular home reading, but this does apply to the whole school. I really cannot understate the value that 10minutes of home reading will have on the children's outcomes. Please do help us by ensuring that your child does read regularly at home and maintains their reading diary. Y3 and 4 children should be completing their diary themselves and asking you to sign it as verification. For our Y4 children this level of responsibility will also help in their preparation for Middle School.

Attendance and Holidays

As I said in an earlier letter, attendance at school is crucial and we do monitor this carefully. I have put a letter from all DASP schools on our website under the letters tab. This outlines our approach to absence and absence due to holiday in particular.

Parent Evening and Information

Thank you for your time at our recent parent/teacher meetings. I hope that you found them useful, if you have any feedback either positive or how we may improve them please do let me know. If you missed an appointment or didn't make one then please do contact your child's class teacher as they are really important meetings.

Maths Evening

On the evening of 15th November we will be holding a parent information event on the school's approach to teaching maths and how to support your child at home. Things are different from our school days so I do hope that you can join us!

School Open Afternoon and Evening

As in previous years we are having an open afternoon and evening for any parent considering a school place for 2018/19. This will be on 7th November 1.30 -3.00pm and 6.00 – 7.30pm. If you know of anyone looking at schools for their child please do let them know of this, they are very warmly invited.

Lunchboxes and snacks

As a school we aim to promote a balanced approach to healthy eating. Your support in this is greatly appreciated. None of us are against chocolate bars etc but if you could save those as a home treat rather than putting them in lunch boxes that would be great.

Break time snacks should be fruit only, if we could avoid plastic packets it would cut down on litter and waste in school as all fruit waste is composted and used on our grounds

Communication

If you need to contact me at all please do catch me on the gate in the morning, contact the school office or email me head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Diary Dates

20 Oct – Break up
30 Oct – Inset Day
31 Oct – Return to school
31 Oct – Whole school 'nasal flu' vaccination
01 Nov – KS2 Fencing club starts 3.15-4.15pm
02 Nov – School nurse drop in session
06 Nov – KS1 Fencing club starts 3.15-4.15pm
07 Nov – Open session for new Class R parents
08 Nov – Year 4 open afternoon 1.45pm
10 Nov – M&M Production 'Aladdin'
15 Nov – Maths Evening details
17 Nov – Children in Need
21 Nov – Class R open afternoon 1.45pm
22 Nov – Year 2 open afternoon 1.45pm
22 Nov – FOPS Christmas Craft Fayre
23 Nov – Year 3 open afternoon 1.45pm
30 Nov – Year 1 open afternoon 1.45pm
01 Dec – Advent Reflection Day
01 Dec - Year 4 trip to Nothe Fort
05 Dec – FOPS Carols around the village
11&12 Dec – Christmas Production 6pm
14 Dec – Party afternoon
15 Dec – Break up for Christmas
22 Feb – KS1 visit to Dorchester Museum 'Dippy on tour'
15 Mar – KS2 visit to Dorchester Museum 'Dippy on tour'

Not home learning.....Something to discuss over the dinner table

This question was asked by one of our Y1 children. As we come into winter and the trees lose their leaves, do the leaves fall from the top of the tree first or the bottom?