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Puddletown CE VC First School

*‘Inspiring learners to be the best they can be’*

Newsletter No. 8 14th February 2019

**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

Dear Parent,

Breaking up for the February ½ term break is a bit of a landmark time in a school as it is the midpoint of the academic year. Over the past few weeks I have been encouraging the children to consider their attitudes to learning and their school work. In the process we have invented a new word – botheredness. Our definition of this is the children’s willingness to pay attention to the details in their learning. We sometimes find the children misspelling words that we know they have learnt previously and not then self-correcting as an example of a lack of botheredness. Across the school this is something we are working to address. This week in our collective worship we looked at the work of the GB cycling team who became bothered about the small details, the *marginal gains,* an attitude we want for our children. We can do this in school by ensuring we build the right habits and it can be supported at home by ensuring that home reading, spelling and tables learning etc are part of a daily routine. Being ‘bothered’ is not the same as pressurising our children rather it is showing we care too much for them to let them fail or pursue the mediocre.

On the subject of reading and at the risk of pushing things a bit far, I recently heard an ultra-runner (one of those people who run 5 marathons consecutively, or runs across the Sahara) say that ‘*if a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing badly’* this struck me as odd at first but then he explained. If the job is worth doing then you should always be trying to do it, however you can. Using the analogy of running he explained that we know that running is good for your health so even a ‘bad’ run (a 2 minute jog to the corner shop) is worth doing. Some food for thought for reading? No time for a 10 minute reading session, but you’ve 2 minutes while you’re waiting for a brother to get changed from swimming? That’s 2 minutes of reading or spelling practice is a ‘bad job’ worth doing!

**E Safety**

There has been a lot in the news recently about online safety for children following some well publicised tragedy. Therefore, rather than focus again on a curriculum area in the short presentations I am doing at your child’s open afternoon I am looking at some of the resources available to support you in working though the virtual world with your child. All the resources I will be talking about including the latest Police E Safety Newsletters can be found on our website in the Information and Policies section. There are some excellent resources aimed specifically for parents. We will be covering E Safety in our lessons at school to supplement this.

**Diary Dates**

15 Feb – Inset Day

25 Feb – Return to School

27 Feb – School Nurse drop in session

27 Feb – Year 1 Victorian Day in school

27 Feb – Year 2 SATS meeting 2.30pm

07 Mar – World Book Day

07 Mar – FoPS Books at Bedtime

13 Mar – Class R Hearing Check

13 Mar – Year 2 open afternoon 1.45pm

13 Mar – FoPS Disco

15 Mar – Red Nose Day

15 Mar – Year 4 parent meeting re: ‘Hooke Court’

20 Mar – Class photos

20 Mar – Year 4 concert at Thomas Hardye

20 Mar – Year 1 open afternoon

22 Mar – Reports to parents

25 Mar – Book Fair Week

26 & 28 Mar – Parents Evening times tbc

1-3 Apr – Year 4 at Hooke Court

04 Apr – Easter Service at Church 2pm

05 Apr – Year 4 ‘Hooke’ open afternoon

05 Apr – Break up

23 Apr – Return to School – Summer Term

01 May – School Nurse drop in session

01 May – FoPS Meeting 7-8.30pm

13 May – Year 4 trip to Nothe Fort

21 May – New Class R Parent Meeting 7pm

22 May – FoPs Movie Night

23&24 May – Life Education Van

24 May Break Up

**Hooke Court**

Just a reminder to our Y4 parents that our Hooke residential visit is at the end of this term. There is an information meeting for you on 15th March at 3.15pm

**After School Club**

As indicated in the last newsletter from the summer term our afterschool provision will finish at 5.00pm not 6.00pm on Fridays.

No parents have been in contact with me to raise any concerns over this so this will be the new arrangements from April 26th.

Finally I hope that you are able to spend time as a family this break and enjoy the beginnings of the first signs of spring!

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

**Dance Club.** Terri-Ann has very kindly agreed to continue with Dance Club on Tuesdays after school for children in Years 2, 3 and 4. She will need help if the club is to go ahead. If your child is interested, please return the attached form.

**Football Club** will re-start on Thursday 15 Sep with Terry Higson-Guy. All children are welcome. For more information please return the attached form.

**Friday Seekers.** The Junior Church team will again be running their club on Fridays (starting next week—23 Sep) all children welcome. If you would like more information please complete the attached form.