

# Puddletown CE VC First School

*'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'*

## Newsletter No. 3

19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parent,

This ½ term has flown past here at Puddletown First School with plenty of great activities. Y1 had a great Village Walk where they met locals and family relations who told them fascinating stories of Puddletown's past. Harvest Festival was a lovely celebration at St Mary's Church, thank you to all those who supported it this year. We also had a wonderful Reflection Day based on the story of Sarah and Abraham. There are some photos on our website of all of these events.

I hope that you found the parent/teacher meetings useful this week. I am grateful to all the staff for the time spent on these important sessions. If for any reason you missed an appointment or were unable to make the times set please do get in touch with your child's teacher to arrange a meeting.

### Christmas

I know it is early to mention this but our new parents may find it useful to know the ticketing arrangements for the Christmas Production. There will be 2 evening productions that will be in our school hall, this does impose limits on numbers to comply with all health and safety regulations. This means that each family will be able to apply for 2 tickets only. This ensures that **every** child will have 2 family members coming to see them perform. Tickets are not available yet but when they are they will be allocated through the parent evening system. When considering who in your family will be attending we ask that no child under school age attends an evening performance. The Pre School children will be invited to watch the dress rehearsal during the school day, there may be limited availability for other family members for this performance.

### Parking and the School Carpark

I met recently with our Police Community Support Officer to discuss parking. Please do continue to ensure that you park with consideration for our neighbours and the safety of the children. There is ALWAYS space in the Rec carpark for you.

**Please do not use the school carpark without prior arrangement with the school.** Due to the school buses there is not the space for parent cars. It is not safe to use the carpark as a walking route either, please use the pedestrian gate. It is really important that all adults model the behaviours we want for the children on all occasions.

### Home Reading

Please do keep up with reading over the ½ term break. It does have a massive impact. Please find attached some advice on home reading from the book trust and a link to some great books to read at home. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

### Helping boys!

I do hope that some of you have had a look at this clip *Parents- Boys will be brilliant* may be of interest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8ieFsoXA5k>  
One of the key things within the clip was the need to promote independence. Boys will quickly identify that '*learned helplessness*' makes life a lot easier! 'Faff' around with a zip long enough and someone will do your coat up for you. 'Forget' your book bag and someone will carry it for you. This list goes on! Make a list of what they need to do in the morning and when they get home, display it clearly and show them what to do. Then grit your teeth and let them do it! Where they get it wrong let them live with the consequences and don't let big sisters step into the parent role. Remember short term pain for long term gain!

### Open Day

Parents of pre-school children have until January to complete their school applications. Visits are always welcome for prospective parents but to help we will have an open day on 21<sup>st</sup> November 9.30am - 11.30am and 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

### Sickness

If your child is unfortunate enough to pick up a sickness bug please ensure that they stay off school for 48hrs after their last 'event.' We are very keen to avoid the situation we found ourselves in last winter. Thank you.

### Diary Dates

19 Oct – Break Up  
29 Oct – INSET DAY  
30 Oct – Return to school  
31 Oct – School nurse drop in session  
13 Nov – Year 4 open afternoon 1.45pm  
13 Nov – Parent meeting re: spellings 6.30pm  
14 Nov – M&M Production  
15 Nov – Class R open afternoon 1.45pm  
21 Nov – Open day for new YR parents for Sept 19  
21 Nov – Year 2 open afternoon 1.45pm  
28 Nov – Year 1 open afternoon 1.45pm  
11 Dec – Carols around the Village 5pm  
11 Dec – Whole school 'Nasal Flu' vaccinations  
13 Dec – Carol Service @ Church 2pm  
17& 18 Dec - Christmas production – details TBC  
21 Dec – Break up  
07 Jan – Return to school

### 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](mailto:head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

