

Puddletown CEVC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No. 7

18th January 2019

Dear Parent

A belated Happy New Year to you all, I hope that you had a good Christmas with your families and a nice break. The children have come back really well and slipped into their class routines very smoothly.

Christmas DVD

As promised before the holiday Mr Cray has worked hard to produce a DVD of our fabulous Christmas Production, please ensure that your order is completed by 25th January if you would like a copy. In the meantime there is a trailer for it on the website.

Further Developments of our school grounds

I am really pleased to say that we have been successful in applying for a grant of £10000 to build a 'Walk and Talk' reflection area. Key to being successful in our application was the work and support of Rachel Partridge (school governor) and Katie Priestly (chair of FOPS). This is a really exciting project that we are looking forward to working on, Dorset Landscapes are currently producing the designs for this.

We are planning to build an 'off road' go kart track this term. This we will be doing ourselves and will require a few willing helpers. We therefore are planning a grounds work day soon, details will be sent out shortly for this.

FOPS are also directly supporting the development of our grounds by financing a further project. This is the construction of a gothic folly which will be used for role play and imaginative play. One of the companies that supply these structures is www.redwoodstone.co.uk if you would like to see the kind of thing we are planning.

Redwood Stone can build the structures for us but also supply them as 'kits'. Clearly as staff we don't have the building skills required but if there are any skilled builders out there I would love to have a chat with you as obviously if we are able to take out the construction costs we would be able to get a much bigger structure for the children.

It is exciting times at Puddletown First School and as ever I am grateful to our governors, FOPS and you for your support in developing the provision we are able to offer your children.

Winter Arrangements

Whilst no snow is forecast and we always try to stay open if possible, last year the weather did beat us once. Therefore please do make sure that you have read the letter outlining the arrangements and procedures we have in case of snow etc.

As I have said we do try and stay open and one of my favourite days last year was when we opened during the snow and spent the morning sledging and snowman making!

Parent Skills Courses

The Dorchester Family Partnership Zone are running some practical workshops on parenting in our area. They are at Frome Valley First School on the 4th Tuesday of each month, the first being 22.1.19, 9.00am – 10.30am. Please phone 01305 221348 or see me for further information. They are open to all, with an ethos of helping parents, not making 'bad' parents into 'good' parents.

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

Looking at our take up for Friday afternoons we are proposing to run our after school provision until 5pm not to 6.00pm as is the current situation. The change in times would be from the summer term onwards. If this would cause you significant difficulties please do get in touch with me so we can discuss it.

2019/20 term dates

We have sent out the dates for next academic year to help you with holiday planning, they are also on our website.

Diary Dates

30 Jan – Class R dance festival at St Mary's
07 Feb – Class R open afternoon 1.45pm
08 Feb – Year 3 trip to Cranborne Tech Centre
13 Feb – Joint Pre-School/School parent mtg 6.15
14 Feb – Break up
15 Feb – Inset Day
25 Feb – Return to School
27 Feb – School Nurse drop in session
27 Feb – Year 2 SATS meeting 2.30pm
07 Mar – World Book Day
07 Mar – FoPS Books at Bedtime
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 St Osmunds
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
5 Apr – Year 4 'Hooke' open afternoon
5 Apr – Break up

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

