



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience and understanding yesterday as we had to make the difficult decision to close the school. Although the storm did not reach us yesterday, at least we all had the peace of mind to know that everyone was safe.

It was lovely to see so many of you supporting your children at parents evenings before the half term break. If you were not able to meet with your child's class teacher, please can you make another appointment.

We have a survey for you which should just take a few minutes to complete regarding church services. Your responses to the survey are very helpful for us to know about your wish to be involved with our important links to the church. To find the survey follow the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RHFRHXC>

Thank you to everyone who took part in the shoe box appeal this year. The Rotary are very grateful for all of your contributions.



#### REMINDERS

- **Class trips** – Purple class to visit the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth on Tuesday 7 November.  
Red and Green classes to visit the Roman Palace at Fishbourne on Thursday 9 November. Please remember to bring a packed lunch!
- A reminder that there will **NOT be a swimming lesson** on Friday 10 November (next week) for Red and Green classes due to our service of Remembrance.
- **Photographer** in school for portraits on Monday 13 November. Pre-school children welcome to come in from 8:45am to have a family picture with siblings.

#### Poppy Appeal and Service of Remembrance – everyone welcome



In preparation for our special service of Remembrance on **Friday 10 November at 10:45am (prompt)**, we will have poppies available in exchange for a voluntary contribution to the British Legion. Year 6 children will be selling them on the playground at drop off and collection each day.

The children have all been making poppies for our display in the Memorial Garden opposite the school, and this year we will be joined by Chris Davidson playing the Bagpipes as we think of the brave soldiers from Durley who gave their lives in the first and second world wars. The children will be singing and pausing for a two minutes silence to pay their respects to our Armed Forces community, past and present. **Everyone is welcome to join us for the short service of remembrance.**

#### Co-opted Governor Needed

Co-opted Governor, Tanya Metcalf stood down from the Governing Body at our October meeting due to her increasing work commitments. We are very grateful to Tanya for all her work on the Curriculum Committee over the years and will hugely miss her commitment and support to the team.

The position of co-opted governor can be filled by a parent, however the reason for having the position as co-opted is to broaden the expertise of the committee by involving people from business or interested parties outside the school. If you think you know someone who may be interested in working with our Governing Body the team, please contact either Chair of Governors Jenny Carkeet or myself.

## CHILDREN IN NEED



You should have received a letter today giving details of this year's charity event for Children in Need. Due to the busyness of school on Fridays (swimming and after school activities), we will be holding the fundraiser on **Thursday 16 November** and not the Friday as stated on the diary dates. If your child would like to attend film night we would be very grateful for a speedy reply to help us with purchasing refreshments for the interval.

### DSA Christmas Gift Store

This year the DSA are setting up a Christmas gift store to give pupils the opportunity to purchase a gift for a family member for £1.00. In order to make this happen they need donations of previously unwanted gifts, boxes of chocolates, toiletries, unwanted items of clothing etc. Children can bring these into school from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, ready for the Gift Sale on Thursday 14 December. Please speak to a member of the DSA for further detail.

### Christmas Fayre Saturday 9 December 3:00-5:00pm

The DSA are well underway with organising this year's Christmas Fayre to be held on Saturday 9 December 3:00-5:00pm. We will be holding the fayre in the late afternoon to enable us to finish the event with a festive bonfire on the school field. We have arranged non uniform days for **Wednesday 29 November** (for the bottle stall) and **Wednesday 6 December** (for the sweet stall). We will once again be asking for cakes for the Hungry Snowman competition to be brought into school on **Friday 8 December**.

Kind Regards

**Kirstie Baines – Headteacher**

### DIARY DATES 2023

#### IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2023-2024

Friday 1 December 2023

Monday 3 June 2024

Monday 22 July 2024

Tuesday 23 July 2024

**Diary Dates for the 2023-2024 school year – all dates can be subject to changes. All changes and new dates in the diary will appear in red.**

#### Autumn Term 2023

Tuesday 7 November

**Wednesday 8 November**

Thursday 9 November

Year 6 visit to D-Day museum, Portsmouth

**Gift contributions for the DSA Christmas Gift Store**

Red and Green class visit to Roman Palace at Fishbourne

Friday 10 November	10:45am Remembrance Service (No swimming). All welcome.
Monday 13 November	Photographer in school (portraits)
<b>Thursday 16 November</b>	<b>Children in Need - line of coins and film night (date change)</b>
Sunday 26 November	9:30 for 10:00am start Church in School, stir up Sunday cake making service
Wednesday 29 November	Non uniform day in exchange for bottles
Friday 1 December	School closed for staff training
Monday 4 December	School Christmas Post Box open
Wednesday 6 December	9:20am Blue and Yellow Class Nativity
Wednesday 6 December	Non uniform Day in exchange for sweets for children's tombola
Thursday 7 December	9:20am Blue and Yellow Class Nativity
Friday 8 December	Final Year 3 and 4 swimming lesson
Friday 8 December	Hungry snowman competition – bring in a cake
Friday 8 December	KS2 church rehearsal
Saturday 9 December	3:00-5:00pm DSA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 12 December	Whole School Flu immunisation
Tuesday 12 December	pm Class Christmas parties
Wednesday 13 December	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Thursday 14 December</b>	<b>DSA Christmas Gift Store</b>
Friday 15 December	1:30pm Carol Service in Holy Cross Church School ends at 3:30pm. No after school child care or clubs.

#### **SPRING TERM 2024**

Tuesday 2 January	8:50 school opens for the Spring Term
Friday 2 February	2:45pm Christingle service – all welcome
<b>12-16 February</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Tuesday 20 February	3:00-6:00pm Parents Meetings
Thursday 22 February	4:00-7:00pm Parents Meetings
18-22 March	Year 5 and 6 Residential visit to Isle of Wight
Thursday 28 March	1:30pm Easter service Holy Cross Church. All welcome 3:30pm school closes for Easter break. No after school club.

#### **SUMMER TERM 2024**

Monday 15 April	8:50am School re-opens for the summer term
13-16 May	Year 6 National SATs week
Monday 20 May	School photographer –class and whole school photos
<b>27-31 May</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Thursday 13 June	7:30-8:30 new parents meeting
Saturday 15 June	Church Fete
Wednesday 19 June	1:30pm SPORTS DAY all welcome
Saturday 29 June	School Summer Fayre
Tuesday 2 July	Year 6 Wyvern Induction day
Tuesday 9 July	1:30pm KS2 school play
Wednesday 10 July	6:00pm KS2 school play
Thursday 11 July	6:00pm KS2 school play
Friday 19 July	1:30pm Leavers service Holy Cross Church School ends for the summer break. No after school club.