



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school for parent's meeting this week and to be able to share your children's work and progress in their learning. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the teaching staff for their continued hard work and support of your children.

Once again we had a great turn out for **family reading evening** before the half term break which was a wonderful finale to our book week. A huge thank you to our readers and organisers who did a fantastic job.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the DSA Bags2School initiative this week which raised £131. Following recent fundraising, the DSA are funding the development of the muddy patch on the playground beyond the KS1 slide for use all of the year round. It will have an all-weather surface, seating and storage for games for use by Blue and Yellow classes at playtimes and for the Reception children throughout the day. We look forward to the grounds development starting over the coming fortnight.



The Governing Body have welcomed new parent Governor Kieran Brenchley to the team. Kieran has a daughter in Year 1 and lives in Durley. He will be part of the Governor's premises committee.

A reminder that as we head towards the end of the financial year, we would be very pleased if you could ensure any debts for clubs, music, trips or lunch money are paid up in full.

Please note the updated diary dates for this term including the in-service days for 2024-2025.

## LENT project



During this period of LENT – which is the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter in the Christian calendar- we always have a charity fundraiser in school where we 'take up' rather than 'give up' for a good cause. We use this period to show an act of kindness towards others. Instead of giving up something such as chocolate or biscuits, we try to do something that will help change peoples lives for the better. In previous years we have raised money for Turkey earthquake appeal and Water Aid. This year we have been inspired by a project called Dare2Dream which Miss Saunders has been involved with for a number of years working alongside under-privileged children in Romania throughout her summer holiday. We have posted more information about the project on Google Classroom. Blue and Yellow class would like you to come along and buy cakes on **Tuesday 26 March at 3:30pm**.

## Internet Safety Day



Thank you to Green class for leading the assembly for Safer Internet Day this year on 'making space for conversations about life online' for our internet safety day. Please take time to ask your children about their experiences online and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We were rather disappointed at the poor take up for our online internet safety meeting for parents. We had been hoping to undertake more online curriculum events to enable parents to support their children with learning at home. We would be very grateful for responses to our survey monkey giving us an indication of the best timing and advertising for any future events.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R6N7Q5X>

### Music Concerts

We have two music concerts this term. Year 1 and 2 will be performing in a drumming concert on **Thursday 21 March at 2:00pm**, and all children who have peripatetic music lessons will be performing on **Monday 25 March** at 2:30pm. Please come along and join us.



### Visit from SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship)

Coram Life, who produce our PSHE curriculum, will be visiting us to work with children in Blue, Yellow and Purple classes next Friday 1 March. They have agreed to deliver an online meeting for parents and carers on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm** about growing and changing bodies which will also have a question and answer session. I will send you the link closer to the time.

### Staffing

As many of you may have heard from your children, Miss Goodall has left us to spend more time with her family. She is a huge loss to our staff team and to the many children she supported over her time with us. We wish her well for the future.

Mrs Fealy has not been in school this term as she is currently unwell. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her back with us soon.

### Café Church in School

Café Church will be in school this **Sunday 25 February at 9:30am for coffee and croissants with a 10:00am** start. Everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate the incredible work of the women in our lives.



Finally, we have all experienced some difficulties due to the problems on the M27 this week. Thank you to those parents who have kept us informed of their situation. We understand the M27 will remain shut to West bound traffic for the remainder of this week. Please ensure you leave enough time for your journeys.

Kind regards,

*Kirstie Baines*

Kirstie Baines  
**Headteacher**

### DIARY DATES

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

Monday 3 June 2024  
Monday 22 July 2024  
Tuesday 23 July 2024

#### IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS (School Closures) for academic year 2024-2025

Monday 2 September 2024  
Friday 20 December 2024  
Monday 2 June 2025

Monday 21 July 2025

Tuesday 22 July 2025

**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.**

Thursday 22 February	4:00-7:00pm Parents Meetings
<b>Sunday 25 February</b>	<b>9:30am for 10:00am start Café Church in school</b>
<b>Tuesday 27 February</b>	<b>Red and Green class trip to River Meon</b>
<b>Friday 1 March</b>	<b>PSHE SCARF visit for Blue, Yellow and Purple classes</b>
<b>Monday 4 March</b>	<b>1:45-2:45pm Vocal Festival rehearsal at Upham School</b>
Thursday 7 March	World Book day – dress up as a character from a book
<b>Sunday 10 March</b>	<b>9:30 for 10:00am Mothering Sunday Service in School</b>
Thursday 14 March	Y5 and Y6 vocal festival in Thornden Hall (15 places only)
18-22 March	Year 5 and 6 Residential visit to Isle of Wight
<b>Thursday 21 March</b>	<b>2:00pm Year 1 and 2 music concert (drumming) Parents welcome</b>
Sunday 24 March	10:00am Palm Sunday church in school.
<b>Monday 25 March</b>	<b>2:30pm music concert for KS2 pupils who have peripatetic music lessons</b>
Thursday 28 March	1:30pm School Easter service Holy Cross Church. All welcome 3:30pm school closes for Easter break. No after school childcare 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

#### **27-31 May**

Thursday 13 June	<b>HALF TERM</b> 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 12 July	1:00pm Y6 Leaver's service Portsmouth Cathedral (children only)
Friday 19 July	1:30pm Leavers service Holy Cross Church School ends for the summer break. No after school childcare club.

Monday 22 July	School closed for IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS
Tuesday 23 July	School closed for IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAYS