



STICKLAND'S C.E. V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer Lane
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Dorchester
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September 23

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first newsletter is always the longest as it contains important information for the year. Please ensure you take time to read it to ensure you do not miss anything.

Pupil and Contact Information

To ensure we have the latest information for your child/children please could you login to Arbor to check that the information we hold is correct, especially the medical and contact information. Please make any changes required and the system will notify the office of the changes you have made.

Should you have any queries regarding this please do not hesitate to contact Lisa.

School Staff Car Park

I would just like to remind you that the staff car park is for staff only or for people that need to use the disabled space. At the start and end of the day the car park can be very busy and although it may be more convenient to drop children off, it can delay staff getting into school and make it very difficult for the school buses. We would really appreciate it if you could refrain from using this area to ensure the children's safety when getting on and off of their school transport and also ensure staff can get into school in the morning.

Attendance

Following some relaxation on the guidance for monitoring and recording absence, we are now, as a school required, to prioritise attendance. Absence from school is a potential safeguarding risk, and can affect attainment, well-being and wider outcomes. There will be a separate letter coming out to explain our approach, and the importance of good attendance at school.

Important - should your child have a stomach bug then they should remain absent from school for 48 hours from their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea to ensure that the bug is not spread amongst the school community.

Electronic Sign System

Just a reminder that if your child arrives after the door has closed in the morning then you will need to sign them in on the Ipad in the foyer. Also, if you take your child home early for an appointment or they are ill could you please also sign them out.

The system is an important part of our safeguarding procedures to ensure that we are aware at all times of who is in the school.



Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children return to school this week looking smart in their new uniforms, and this always makes us feel very proud. Please can we keep it this way throughout the school year, as at the end of the terms / academic year there are times when standards can slip. Whilst I completely understand that finances are likely to be more stretched at the moment, it isn't always a matter of cost.

Particular things to note are: School shoes must be black (or dark grey).

- There is a huge amount of uniform available in the entrance hall for a small voluntary donation to FOSSA - please come and have a look if you need anything extra during the year!
- Children should wear only studs as earrings, and no other jewellery except a watch for safety reasons.
- PE kits - children can either wear a school hoodie if they have one, a **plain blue** hoodie, or their school jumper / cardigan. No labelled / written tops please. We have plenty of spare school jumpers that we can lend out if needed.
- We recommend that children should be wearing shorts underneath their skirts if they are playing on the play structure / doing gymnastic activities at playtime.
- All children with hair that sits beyond their shoulders need to wear it up in a hairband. This should be small and simple please!
- **Please name all uniform items!** Even initials with a permanent pen on the label will help prevent all of the 'lost' items. Reuniting children with their school uniform takes up a considerable amount of the teachers time which could be better spent with the children.

Free trips / visits and uniform!

With the current economic situation, and following on from the welcome letter, please remember that if you are entitled to claim certain benefits, then you can claim for free school meals at school, and that this will also entitle you to certain other financial help.

Whilst children in Reception and Key Stage 1 already receive free school meals, unless you apply, you will not receive the other benefits and school will not receive the extra funding. This includes a uniform contribution and payment towards the cost of trips and visitors. It also means that the school will receive extra money to help support your child. If you think that you may be entitled (and even if you do not wish to claim for the meals, or if your child is in Key Stage 1) please visit the Dorset For You website for further information.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals>

Important - Hometime and Buses

Lisa does not work every afternoon therefore, if you need to make any changes to hometime arrangements, then please ensure that you notify us **by 12pm**, by emailing hometime@sticklands.dorset.sch.uk to ensure that the correct members of staff are aware.

Unfortunately, children without a bus pass are unable to use the school bus even if they are going home with a child who uses the bus.

We all find the bus system frustrating at times but can I just reiterate that the school does not organise the buses!

Clubs Start the Week Commencing 17 September 2023

Just a reminder that if you have added a club to your basket on Arbor and checked it out then your child has been allocated a place on that club, we do not send out a separate confirmation.

Should a child not show commitment or their behaviour is unacceptable then we will write to you and their place will be offered to another child. [I am also sure you are all aware that the staff provide these](#)

clubs during their own time and we would therefore be grateful if you could collect your child promptly at the end of these clubs.

Dorset Library Summer Reading Challenge

It was lovely to visit your school last term and tell the children about this year's Summer Reading Challenge "Ready, Set, Read". We have been delighted to see so many pupils in the library collecting stickers and more recently their medals

If your child has not yet finished the challenge there is still time, just come along to the library and they can tell us about the books they have been reading. Even if you have had a hectic Summer and not yet signed them up for the challenge, come into the library before September 23rd and we can register them, hear about the books they have read, give them stickers, a medal and ensure the certificate goes to school

We look forward to seeing you

Mary, Sarah, Georgie & Ollie
Dorchester library

Reading at Stickland's

Reading is the most important skill your child can learn in their time at primary school. It allows them to access all areas of the curriculum more confidently and successfully, building a wider vocabulary and awareness of the world around them.

We use a range of approaches to teach reading at Stickland's, starting with RWI Phonics in Reception and KS1 and moving to comprehension lessons and Accelerated Reader (AR) in KS2. AR is used to motivate, monitor and manage children's independent reading ensuring that they continue to read books that are challenging and accessible to them. All classes have daily story time and volunteers who listen to the children read each week.

How you can support your child at home

We have a range of rewards in place in school for the children when they meet certain targets, but your support is essential if they are to achieve their potential.

Please listen to/read with your child as often as possible. Ideally, this will be every day but a minimum of 3 times per week, and then record in their reading log each time this happens. In KS2, children can record their independent reading in their records, in addition to reading with an adult. These records will be checked in class each week and your child's class teacher will be very happy to discuss any problems or questions that you may have about achieving this.

It just takes reading aloud for 15 minutes each day to help a young child be better prepared for future learning and school, communicate more clearly, and think creatively.

Harvest Service

This is planned for Thursday 12 October at 9.15am, at St Osmund's Church in Evershot. Families are welcome to attend - more details to follow.

Bags2Schools Friday 22 September

Bags2Schools make a donation to schools for any clothes that they collect from us and I just wanted to let you know that we have arranged for them to make a collection of clothes on Friday 22 September 2023. We would be really grateful if you could save any old clothes that you are throwing away and bring them into school after school on Thursday 21 September or between 8.00am and 9.00am on Friday 22 September. Unfortunately, they are not supplying bags this time, we would be grateful if you could bring the clothes in black bin bags.

Please support us as the money from this will be used to buy resources for your children's classrooms.

Lunch boxes

We do try to encourage children to eat a healthy lunch, and to have a balance of food items in their lunch boxes. Please ensure that not every item is sweet, that you include some fruit / vegetables, and that any sweet treats are not full-sized chocolate bars!

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings are planned for 30 and 31 October, more details will follow in the next newsletter.

Parents' Information evening

We are planning to hold a Parents' Information Evening on Tuesday 12th September 3.30-4.30pm. This will be to share information about our PSHE/RSE curriculum - what is statutory and what you have the right to withdraw your child from. These evenings are always a really good way of enabling you (as parents) to learn more about what your children do in school and how to support their learning. Miss Stone has already sent out information about the information evening so I am hopeful that this event will be well attended.

Coffee morning

The Governing Body would like to invite you to an informal coffee morning from 8.30 - 9.30 am this Friday, 8th September. It is an opportunity for new parents to get to know each other, celebrate getting through the first week of a new school and to meet other members of the school community. It is also a chance for existing parents & carers to catch up after the summer break.

Christian Values

This half term we will be focussing on Friendship as our Core Christian Value. This will be discussed and explored during our Collective Worship, and followed up by relating it to our everyday lives in the classrooms. Please find attached a leaflet with some activities and information for you.

School Dates

Can I just remind you to check the school calendar for details of inset days, school events and school holidays. These dates are usually set before the start of the new academic year and are generally available on the school diary from June onwards. Dates include the Harvest Service, Nativity and Christmas Service - for you to get them into your diary as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Ruth Adler
Headteacher