

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH
2024

Dear Parent,

We have had a busy two weeks in school with lots of visitors and events! On Monday of last week we had a visit from Geoff, his dog Pringle and their friends to talk about Guide Dogs for the blind. The children really enjoyed the dogs visiting their classes after the assembly and learnt a lot about how the dogs support people who are partially sighted or blind.



Reception, Year 1 and 2 also helped plant new trees to replace those that fell in the storm earlier this year. A big thank you to the Bridport Tree Planting Group for providing the trees and expertise to help us plant them!



Year 6 enjoyed a visit from the Royal Navy last Tuesday with lots of activities to challenge their thinking!

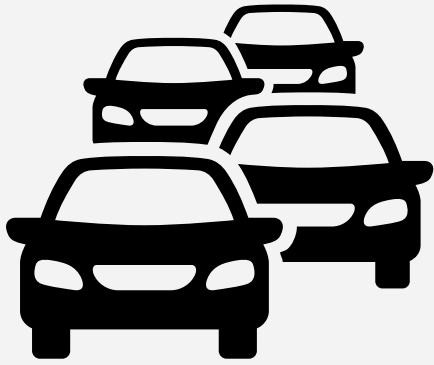


Class Dojo points have proved very popular and the children all enjoyed their reward afternoon at the end of last half term. From today, class teachers will be activating the parent communication option. This means you can contact them through class dojo rather than having to email. We hope this system will provide a quick and easy communication tool.

Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to everyone who filled in our annual parent questionnaire. We have provided further details on the actions and next steps we will take as a school in response to your feedback.

We asked...	You said...	We will...
What would support you and your child with reading at home.	Book recommendations. Inviting parents in to the school library. Longer loan period for library books.	Include a staff member and child recommended book in each newsletter and the school newspaper. We will hold an open library afternoon each half term – the first of these will be 3:30 on Monday 25 th March. We will extend the loan period to two weeks
Whether you would support our junior leadership teams idea for word wheel to be sent home so that children can practice spelling key vocabulary.	Yes You suggested ideas to support spelling practice could be included.	This half term we will trial sending home the list two weeks before the end of term. This means children will have explored most of the words in class teaching time already. We will send home spelling activity ideas too. This will be voluntary but any child who has shows they have practised and can spell some of the words will be awarded 20 extra dojo points.
What clubs your child enjoyed and what cost you felt was affordable.	You requested running, Drama, Gym, Lego, Art, Coding and Dance clubs. Suggested costs ranged from £3 to £6 per session	We are looking at how we can broaden our offer to include some of these clubs either for the Summer or Autumn terms. Each club will cost £4. Pupil premium children will be entitled to one free space at a club and a 50% discount on any other clubs they wish to join.
<p>In our Parent View Ofsted Questions section, all questions received an average of between 4 – 5 out of 5, with improved scores for each question compared to last year.</p> <p>We have included feedback for the questions which scored between 3.5-4.0 out of 5 below</p>		
The school lets me know how well my child is doing. It has high expectations for my child.		We are implementing a new system of reporting in Autumn this year where a report card will be issued before parent's meetings that shows attitudes to learning across each subject in Autumn and attainment in each subject for Spring. This will support our discussions with you about your child's progress.
My child with SEND has the support they need to succeed.		Miss Wiscombe, our SENCO will be contacting parents to better understand concerns and would like to hear your views about how you feel provision could be improved.

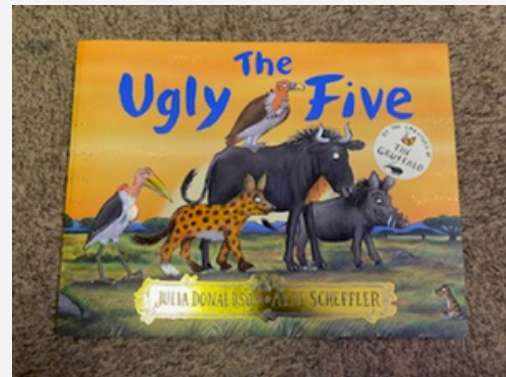


Thank you to those parents who are now using the council car park. We have received complaints from residents near the leisure centre due to cars parking on the double yellow lines.

We have requested that the local **community police** team visit the road at drop off and picks up times.

MRS BATORSKA'S RECOMMENDED READ...

This week in collective worship we have been thinking about how to encourage one another in our school community. 'The Ugly Five' by Julia Donaldson is a tale of belonging where a community show kindness and appreciation for one another.



Local Area SEND & AP Inspection – For Dorset Council and its partners

For parents and carers:

Ofsted would like to hear your views about the support that your child receives and how it has helped you and your child. This survey is for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities. You can provide your views by completing an online survey at the following link:

[Area SEND inspection for Dorset Local Area Partnership \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk)

Support available from Dorset council:

Dorset Education Advice Line (DEAL)

Contact the Dorset Education Advice Line if you want to discuss your child's emerging special educational needs, or if they're not making the progress they should be. We will arrange a 30 minute conversation with you to talk through your concerns and issues.

Dorset Education Advice Line

Click to visit the website

Book your slot to talk to a professional
10am to 4pm Term time only

Educational psychologists

We offer parents and carers of children age 3 to 18 years (25 if the young person has Special Educational Needs & Disability) the opportunity to speak with a Dorset Educational Psychologist (EP). For younger children talk to your Health Visitor or early years provider first.

This is for people that:

- live in Dorset
- have a query or concern about learning or behaviour
- have worries about wellbeing and emotions

Click [here](#) to book an appointment to speak with the Educational psychology team



Click on the pictures to read these guidance documents

SPEECH & LANGUAGE
WEBSITE
RESOURCE

PARENT
GUIDE TO
SUPPORT
YOUR CHILD