



Newsletter 17

19 January 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

If you come onto the site to pick up from Reception, Year 1, 2 or 3 you will have noticed that the playtrail has been fenced over for the past two weeks. We have been patiently waiting for quite a few months but the work to replace the flooring, which had become uneven and slippery and mend broken pieces is complete. Some pieces of equipment on the trail had to be condemned and we are waiting for those to be replaced at the end of February. We will keep the area fenced off allowing the grass seed that has been sown to start to take root. I know the children will be excited to be able to use the trail again soon.

I can't believe how quickly this term is flying past already. The children are absolutely loving this term's learning experiences with Year 2 captivated by David Attenborough and Year 1 excited for their trip into Wimborne next week to the Dorset Museum. Please save the date **Wednesday 7 February at 2.45pm** to come into your child's classroom to share their learning.

Please take a moment to see our Initio Learning Trust attendance page [here](#) which provides practical and supportive advice to families.

Why is attendance at school so important? School isn't just learning about subjects; it's where our young people forge friendships, find passions for hobbies and have access to opportunities that are not available elsewhere, such as participating in school sports competitions, using the latest technologies and school trips to various locations.

What if my child is too ill to attend school? We know that when children are unwell they need to be at home to get better. The Government provides guidance to help make those difficult decisions of when they should be off school and when they shouldn't. Please use this [NHS site](#) to see the full guidance.

For more information please visit our school website [here](#)

Although it was a very cold week, we enjoyed some beautiful sunshine. I hope you all enjoy your weekend,

Katharine Anstey
Headteacher

This is a school for everyone. Everyone is welcome.



Safeguarding and Online Safety

Through partnership working with BCP Council, Dorset Police and the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group the Partnership has put together a briefing document with key information for parents/carers with more information about risks linked to county lines and exploitation.

If you have any serious concerns about a child, particularly if you think they may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm, please share this information promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Team. If you are unable to contact a member of the school team and you wish to pass on serious concern, please call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01202 735046. We are an Operation Encompass school, to find out more please follow the link [here](#).

Open conversation is best when negotiating online safety with children and young people. Find guidance on these conversations here from the NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Privacy Notice

Initio Learning Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. The privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. Please find the document [here](#) on the school website.

Policies can be found on our school website and contact the school office if you require documents in different formats.

Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance in school and being on time every day. Good attendance in school is a top priority and our expectation is that pupils attend school every day for every session. We believe that regular, uninterrupted attendance secures the best possible learning achievement for all our children and we are committed to working in partnership with families to achieve this. Schools are expected to monitor all pupils' attendance records closely and to pass these on to the receiving school when pupils transfer.

This week's attendance

Whole School	95.86%
Year 4	94.56%
Year 3	96.19%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 1	95.67%
Reception	95.96%

When will absences not be authorised?

The school will not authorise absence for any of the following reasons:

holidays, shopping, looking after other members of the family, minding the house, birthdays or similar events.

Children will be marked in as late after 8.55 am and children arriving after 9.15 am are recorded as an unauthorised absence. We carefully monitor pupils who arrive late for school and work with parents and carers to improve punctuality.

Do you have a comment, thought or question you would like to share with the school?

Please use the link [here](#) to access our communication form.

Is your child eligible for Pupil Premium funding?

You may be entitled to financial support towards uniform, trips, an extracurricular activity, milk and school meals. Use the link [here](#) to check.

Outdoor Adventurers Parent/Toddler/Pre-School Sessions:

Parent and Toddler/Pre-school Forest School sessions run by Outdoor Adventurers Forest School at Merley First School.

Tuesdays from 10 am until 11.30am and Thursdays from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Cost is £6 a session payable in advance for the block.

Next block of sessions starts on 20th and 22nd February.

Contact Helen at outdooradventurers10@gmail.com for more details.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL WELLBEING

It's never too early to talk to your children about mental health, as starting off with good habits can help them manage their wellbeing better as they grow up. Teaching them healthy coping mechanisms early on will mean they understand how to cope with periods of low mood and not great mental health.

Each week we will include a different suggestion to help connect with your child and support the development of their mental health.

Five Ways to Wellbeing

This activity is about how to build resilience. The five ways to well-being are a set of evidence based actions to promote people's well-being. They are easy & simple things we can all do in our everyday life.

Explain to the children that just like they have 5 a day of fruit and veg, there is 5 a day for looking after their emotional well-being. Explain what the 5 ways to well-being are:

Connect: With family, friends, classmates, neighbours. At school, home or community.	Be active: Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Play a game, cycle or dance. Exercising makes you feel good.	Take notice: Be curious, ask questions. Notice the unusual, the things around you. How you are breathing.	Keep learning: Try something new. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook. Rediscover an old interest	Give: Do something nice for someone. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time.
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Encourage your children to discuss which of these they have done each day.



Forthcoming Diary Dates

SPRING TERM 2024

January 2024

Monday 22nd January - Year 1 Sparrows - Museum of East Dorset Trip

Tuesday 23rd January - Year 1 Robins - Museum of East Dorset Trip

February 2024

Wednesday 7th February Celebration of Learning - Families invited to see their child's learning 2.45-3.15pm

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

Monday 19th February - Staff training day (no children in school)

Tuesday 27th February - Parents evening (information on booking to follow)

Tuesday 29th February - Parents evening (information on booking to follow)

March 2023

Wednesday 27th March - Last day of term

Thursday 28th March - Staff training day (no children in school)



The
Lantern Church

STICKY CHURCH MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
3:30PM - 5:15PM



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY:

**CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, FOOD &
REFRESHMENTS, BIBLE STORY & SONG, TOYS
FOR LITTLE ONES**

BOOK @ THELANTERNCHURCH.ORG