



Newsletter 20

9 February 2024



Growing together to build our future

Message from the Headteacher

Another half term has flown by. The longer and warmer days are getting closer which is very welcome indeed!

This week started with our whole school assembly on Children's Mental Health Week with the theme 'My voice matters'. We talked about the importance of speaking and sharing our feelings and thoughts. There are many people who care and listen in school and it is essential that our children feel confident to share concerns and worries to trusted others.

I wrote to you earlier this week to share a staffing update. This half term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Walker, 3K teacher and Mrs Priest, HLTA. I would like to thank them for being a wonderful part of our team, who have given many years of service to the school. Although it is always sad to say goodbye to staff, I know they have new and exciting adventures planned and we wish them all the best. We are welcoming Mrs Tubbs-Bates to 3K, who visited yesterday and I hope to share with you details of our HLTA appointment after half term.

A highlight of each half term is to open the doors of the classrooms and invite families in to share learning with the children. This week's celebration of learning was absolutely fantastic and children felt so proud showing what they have been learning. We had lots of comments of amazement at how hard the children work and how much they do. Yes, we do work hard every day and every lesson.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful half term and manage some time to rest and recharge.

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	91.23%
Year 4	90.13%
Year 3	92.89%
Year 2	96.67%
Year 1	93.01%
Reception	82.11%

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.



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.

Feeling grounded

Help your child to feel grounded in their environment rather than focussed on their worries. Ask them to name five things they can see. Four things they can feel. Three things they can hear. Two things they can smell. And one thing they can taste.

Encourage them to use this exercise whenever their emotions feel too big.

St. John Ambulance Free First Aid Course - Merley Community Centre

FREE First Aid training run by St. John Ambulance from 1pm -2.30pm on Thursday 22nd February at Merley Community Centre

Includes basic first aid including choking, recovery position, bleeds, shocks and burns. Also including CPR and use of an AED.

Course completion certificates available on the day.

To book a space email mca.allbookings@gmail.com

Forthcoming Diary Dates

SPRING TERM 2024



February 2024

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

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

Tuesday 27th February - Parents evening (bookings now live on Parentmail)

Thursday 29th February - Parents evening (bookings now live on Parentmail)

March 2024

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - dress up as your favourite book character

Wednesday 27th March - Last day of term

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

June 2024

Friday 14th June - Sports Day - morning only

Tuesday 18th June - Reserve Sports Day

Friday 21st June - Staff training day (no children in school)

July 2024

Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd July - Year 4 PGL Residential

Friday 12th July - PTA Summer Fair

Tuesday 23rd July - Last day of term. 3.15pm finish.

Magical Merley Memories



Reception

What a super time we had baking Gingerbread men as part of our Traditional Tales topic. We worked as a team to measure the ingredients to make the dough and had a great discussion about what would happen to the dough when it was baked in the hot oven

We had a fascinating visit from an Advanced Dental Nurse who is an Oral health Champion from My Dentist in Wimborne. We learnt all about how to keep our teeth clean and what foods we should eat to keep our teeth healthy.



Year 1

This half term, the children wanted to bake some shortbread. We learnt about the importance of hygiene, and how to bake safely. We listened carefully to make the class shortbread. The children got to mix and use a cutter in order to successfully make a piece of shortbread.

We have also walked to the Priest House Museum. This visit followed on from our History learning to bring learning to life. We got to see real artefacts, make peg dolls, go on a gingerbread hunt and play old fashion games.



Year 2

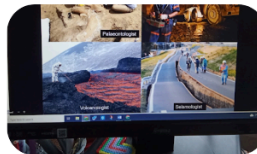
This term Year 2 have been learning about the wonderful Sir David Attenborough and the work he is doing to help preserve animal species and our world. We have used our writing skills to write a letter to Sir David about our learning in science and informed him of something that we are interested in about his work. We have sent the letter off and are eagerly awaiting a response from Sir David and his team



Year 3

This half term, Year Three have been learning about rocks and soils as part of our Science learning. At the end of the topic, we had a virtual visit from a scientist called Richard Butcher, who is a geologist. He talked to us about different types of rocks, about people who work with rocks (geologists, volcanologists, seismologists and palaeontologists).

It was really enjoyable and we learned lots of interesting facts about fossils.



Year 4

In preparation for our end of year trip to PGL, Year 4 has been learning how to pack a suitcase with all the essentials needed for our chosen trip. In our Biomes topic, we have learnt all about different Biomes and their environment, so using this knowledge we discussed which Biome needed which items of clothing and extras. We then made our own suitcase, and packed it with all the essentials needed for our chosen Biome!





WORLD BOOK DAY[®]

COSTUME SWAP

MONDAY 26th FEB
after school pick-up



**Please donate your pre-loved World Book Day
Costumes ready for a costume swap!
Donation bin in reception**

MAY THE TOYS BE WITH YOU

from a galaxy far, far away...

Comes a limited time exhibition displaying one of the UK's finest collections of **vintage Star Wars toys** and **original cinema posters**.

Now on display at the **Museum of East Dorset**.



Photo Competition

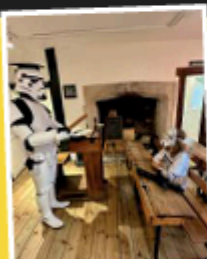
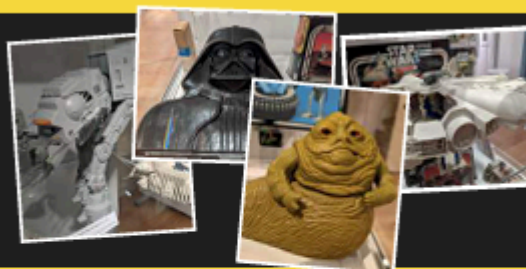
Is your alter ego a Baby Yoda or perhaps a Stormtrooper? Send in a photo of yourself dressed as your favourite character and you could win a prize!

Send your photo to learning@museumofeastdorset.co.uk

Online Community Exhibition

Do you or a family member have any original Star Wars toys or movie memorabilia? **We would love to know!**

Please send us a photo and a brief history of your Star Wars toy to learning@museumofeastdorset.co.uk



Free Clay Workshop*

What kind of space creature will you create? Bring your creations to life in clay using textures and hand-building techniques, and add personality to create something truly unique. This drop-in session on Wednesday 14th February opens at 10am until 12.30pm with last entry at 12pm.

*Free as part of museum admission

Museum of East Dorset, 23-29 High Street, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 1HR
Museum: 01202 882533 Information Centre: 01202 886116 Website: museumofeastdorset.co.uk
Email: info@museumofeastdorset.co.uk | Museum of East Dorset is the trading name of the Priest's House Museum Trust Registered Company No. 3488337, Registered Charity No. 1068540