



# Mudford Community Infants School

Happy Confident Learners

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NEWSLETTER 6

11 October 2019

## Dates for the Diary

**Staff training days** – Friday 22 November, Friday 14 February, Monday 22 June, Monday 20 July

**Flu Immunisations**- Tuesday 15 October

**Half Term Holiday**- W/C Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**Coffee afternoon with the school nurse** – Tuesday 22 October at 2:15pm in the school hall

**Parent Consultations** – week beginning 21 October (evening appointments on Wednesday 23 October)

**Christmas decorating day** – Monday 2 December

**Book at Bedtime** – Thursday 12 December (in the evening, details to follow)

**Christmas Jumper Day** – Friday 13 December (raising money for Save the Children)

**Reception Nativity** – Dormice parents Monday 16 December & Hedgehogs parents Tuesday 17 December (in the school hall at 9:30 for approximately 30 minutes)

**Years 1 & 2 Nativity** – Wednesday 18 December between 1 and 3pm at 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre (exact timings to follow)

**Christmas discos** – Thursday 19 December (3:00 - 3:45 Reception, 4:00 – 5:00 Year One, 5:15 – 6:15 Year Two)

**Christmas lunch** – Friday 20 December (menu and details to follow)

**Class Photos** - Friday 6 March

Hello everyone,

Please see above regarding dates for all things Christmas. More information and details will follow after half-term. It is that time of year where we really think about seasonal change and what Autumn brings. Included in this will be our **Harvest Assembly on Monday 14 October** with our local reverend which provides an opportunity for children to think about and be grateful for the food we eat.

**[Please bring to the hall on the day any non-perishable food items which will be donated to Christchurch Food Bank.](#)**



### Message from our school governors:

Last week Mr Pope has reminded parents and carers of the need to observe the parking restrictions around school in order to make members of our school community and neighbourhood as safe as possible.

Just today at morning drop off 5 cars were observed parked across the single yellow lines, and in some cases mounting the pavement, thereby obscuring visibility for those walking along the pavement or trying to cross the road and reach school or the nearby Pre-School in and around the junction of Queens Road and Pauntley Road.

Governors take the safety of our neighbours and members of the school community very seriously.

Those observed breaking the parking regulations and compromising safety will be reported to the relevant authorities.

Please join us in keeping our community safe.

### A message from one of our new school governors:

Hi my name is Dawn Arnold and I'm really pleased to be a parent governor. I have a son who attended Mudeford Infants school and a daughter who is currently in year 2. I also attended the school myself many years ago! I have nothing but praise for the school and really look forward to working with staff, parents and children to support the school.

### Coffee Morning - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2:15pm

Our pastoral worker Mrs Jennings and our school nurse Fiona Phillips will be available to have an informal chat to help with any concerns you may have.



**WORLD SQUASH DAY** this Saturday 12th October at 2 Riversmeet leisure Centre! FREE Squash or Racketball from 12 pm to 5 pm, just borrow the rackets and ball and hop on court! Also, FREE exhibition matches from 5 pm to 7 pm, First the top ladies, then the top men! See how it's really done! Charlie Campbell-Wynter Level 3 Squash Coach 07952 912 732.  
[www.squashatspeed.com](http://www.squashatspeed.com) [www.Facebook.com/SquashAtSpeed/](http://www.Facebook.com/SquashAtSpeed/)

### Year 2 Road Safety

Year 2 had a fantastic afternoon on Tuesday with a visit from the police all about road safety. We have been practising how to STOP - LOOK (right, left, right) – LISTEN and THINK 'is it safe?' before crossing a road. We also talked about how important it is to hold hands with your grown up when walking near a road and remembering your cycle helmet when you are on your bike or scooter. [There is a Year 2 open afternoon on Friday 25 October at 2:30 so the children can show parents all their wonderful learning – we hope parents of Year 2 children can come along.](#)



### Reception parents / carers

You have been issued with a Tapestry log in which you can now access to view and add to your child's learning journey through the final year of EYFS.



### Our School Library

It is wonderful to see so many families enjoying the library. In the last month our biggest borrowers were Squirrels class, closely followed Dormice so well done to these classes. We hope to see every child visit the library on a regular basis so come and have a chat with Mrs de Souza our librarian every day from 8:30 – 8:45 & 3:00 -3:45. Keep reading!

### It's a Whopper! News from the School Garden

Autumn has arrived. The leaves are turning golden and the veg patch volunteers are proud to show off a whopping great marrow! You are invited to visit the learning garden to see if you can find it.



We are particularly proud of this marrow as this year has been a steep learning curve in terms of vegetable gardening. We did manage to grow fabulous lettuces, runner beans, radishes, onions and potatoes. Our blueberries and blackberries also did well. However, our carrots never appeared, we lost our broad beans to blackfly, only produced a few tomatoes, and grew no strawberries or raspberries at all. Bearing in mind we have not used any fertilisers or pesticides, we were happy with our first year's experience.

The two raised beds dedicated to flowering plants did really well, attracting pollinating insects to the garden and providing us with cut flowers. The best of our produce was sold at the summer fair, together with a selection of cut flowers. A few lettuces were handed to parents at pickup time. Most of the summer holiday produce was enjoyed by the garden volunteers as a reward for their work continuing to water the plants while the school was closed.

Now we are trying to improve the quality of the soil, specifically how well it holds moisture and its nutrient content, with the aim to improve our growing success next year. Recently we have been adding a lot of farmyard manure and compost to the raised beds ready for next spring. We are also hoping to get funding to replace the greenhouse so we can grow lots of veg and flowers from seed next spring. We have also been taking out children to visit the learning garden and pond. It was great to give children the chance to dig up potatoes, catch tadpoles and see a real live newt. Working with the children will now be linked to the curriculum through the topic of seasonal change.



After we won the wheelbarrow competition as part of Christchurch FlowerFest in July, we have been able to shop at Stewarts for free with our prize winning voucher. We have bought an apple tree, blueberry bushes, compost, farmyard manure and tools. Outside the learning garden it has also paid for plants for the raised beds in the reception playground and in the flowerbeds by the Year 1 playground.

One morning at the end of September we opened the school for volunteers to come and help us develop the schools outdoor space. On this morning, some Dad's helped secure the boat in the reception playground and we finished off a bit of fence painting. On our next development day, we hope to finish off the landscaping around the pond area by planting it up with wildlife friendly plants. To help fund what we do, we currently have a grant being considered by the Dorset Gardens Trust and are also looking for funding from the Learning Through Landscapes Partnership.



If you would like to get involved in the garden or help taking the children outdoors, please get in touch by emailing [vicky\\_myers@me.com](mailto:vicky_myers@me.com). We welcome anyone, parents, carers, grandparents and friends. The next 'Hour of Gardening' sessions are on Thursday 15th Oct at 9am and then Wednesday 23rd October at 9am. We would also love to hear from anyone who would like to donate money to us to help keep the garden going.

Best wishes

Mr Pope

*Our governing body are as follows: Caroline Watkins, Chair, Daniel Pope, Emma Bollard, Frank Paines, John Churchill, Fiona Sawdon, Oliver Whittaker, Maria Coutinho-Prior, Dawn Arnold, Richard Chumbley, Chris Dear and Clare Fox, Clerk. If you wish to contact them directly, please email [governors@mudfordinf.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:governors@mudfordinf.dorset.sch.uk)*

