

17/04/26

Dear parents,

Learning

A Fresh Start After Easter

Welcome back to everyone after the Easter break – we hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday. While the children were away, staff have been busy clearing clutter and reorganising spaces across the school to prepare for the exciting opening of our sixth classroom next year. This work ensures that our learning environments remain calm, purposeful and ready to support high-quality learning. At home, we ask parents to continue supporting their children by reading daily with them, practising spellings and reinforcing times tables. Please also refer back to this week's communication outlining changes to how we assess spellings. A reminder that the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) takes place after half term, and all Year 4 children should be confident with their times tables up to 12×12 .

A Crucial Term for Year 6

This term is particularly important for our Year 6 children, who are now only three weeks away from their end-of-year SATs. The coming weeks are a vital opportunity to build steady, supportive routines at home. We encourage parents to help by reducing screen time, ensuring children complete the homework set by Mr Stewart, and prioritising healthy eating, plenty of water and good-quality sleep. Small, consistent habits can make a significant difference to children's confidence and readiness, and your support during this final stretch is greatly valued.

Caring

Stepping Out for Hedgehogs

Our children have been taking part in Hedgehog Walks as part of a national initiative led by the Wildlife Trusts to help protect and learn about local hedgehog populations. These walks encourage children to look closely at their surroundings, develop care for wildlife and understand how small actions can make a big difference. Activities such as this reflect our commitment to nurturing empathy and responsibility within our school community. A big thank you to Miss Harrison for organising and leading this meaningful experience.

Kindness at the Heart of Our School

Our whole-school value for this term is Kindness, and it underpins everything we do. Kindness is about how children speak to one another, how they include others, and how they treat both people and the world around them. By encouraging kind actions, respectful language and thoughtful behaviour, we help children develop strong relationships and a positive sense of self. Kindness creates a safe, supportive environment where children feel valued and confident to learn, and it prepares them to be caring, responsible members of the wider community. We will be talking regularly with the children about what kindness looks like in action and celebrating those who demonstrate it each day.

Achieving

Cricket in the Sunshine

Congratulations to all the children who took part in this week's cricket taster sessions. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, teamwork and resilience on display. Sport plays an important role in children's physical health, confidence and enjoyment of school life, and cricket is a particularly lovely sport to enjoy during the summer months. Families interested in continuing cricket outside of school can find more information about our local club at Sherston Magna Cricket Club. A big thank you to Mr Stewart for organising the sessions.

Writing for Success

As part of our ongoing school development, we have placed a strong focus on improving writing this academic year. To support this, we have made the decision that all children will now use pencil in all subjects rather than pen. Pencil allows children to edit, improve and refine their work without fear of mistakes, supporting a growth mindset and higher-quality outcomes. Writing is a process, and the flexibility to correct and enhance ideas helps children develop clarity, accuracy and confidence — all key to raising achievement in writing.

Together

Smiles Ready for Photo Day

A reminder that class photographs will be taken next week by Tea Smart Photography on Thursday 23rd. Children should arrive looking smart and in full school uniform. If children have PE on that day, they should still come to school in uniform and bring their PE kit in a bag to change into later. Thank you, as always, for your support in helping the children look their best — we're looking forward to capturing some lovely class memories.

A Library to Love

Over the Easter holidays, our school library was revamped and transformed into a warm, calm and focused space where children can enjoy choosing and borrowing books. This inviting environment encourages a love of reading and provides children with a quiet place to immerse themselves in stories and information. Reading daily together at home remains one of the most powerful ways to support children's learning and wellbeing. We would like to thank Mr Brown for his hard work repurposing and adapting bookshelves so they fit the space perfectly — the results are fantastic.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mr Towers