

03/07/26

Dear Parents,

Learning

Building Strong Foundations

We can hardly believe that we are already two weeks into the new term. Classrooms are buzzing, routines are firmly established and learning is well and truly in full swing across the school.

This year, we are continuing to place a strong emphasis on the core skills that underpin success across the curriculum: handwriting, spelling, reading and times tables. These seemingly small habits make a huge difference to children's confidence and progress over time, and parental support at home remains invaluable.

You may have noticed a few changes to our handwriting approach. We no longer teach lead-ins, we do not loop and join letters that descend below the line, and we do not join from the letters *s* or *b*. Please encourage your child to take pride in their presentation and write neatly whenever possible, whether completing homework, writing shopping lists or simply practising at home.

Reading remains one of the most important skills a child can develop. Listening to your child read regularly, discussing what they have read, asking questions about characters and events, and sharing books together can have a significant impact on progress and enjoyment of reading. Alongside this, daily practice of spellings and times tables will help children develop the fluency they need to thrive in the classroom.

Unlocking Reading Success: Phonics Workshop

On Friday 25th September at 9.00am, we will be hosting our annual Phonics Workshop.

Whilst this session is primarily aimed at parents of children in Oak, Rowan and Maple Classes, it may also be beneficial for families whose child is still finding reading challenging. Mr Moran will explain our phonics programme, demonstrate how it links to our new reading scheme and share practical ways parents can support reading development at home.

Following feedback from the Friends of Sherston School, we have moved the workshop to a Friday morning in the hope that more parents will be able to attend. We look forward to welcoming as many families as possible.

Caring

Strengthening Our School Community

A caring school community relies on people giving what they can, when they can, to support the children. One of the most important ways this happens is through the fantastic work of the Friends of Sherston School (FSS).

The FSS Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in The Rattlebone. During the evening, we will discuss key events planned for the term and year ahead, as well as look to recruit a new Chair and Treasurer.

Whether you can commit to a committee role, help at a single event or simply share ideas, every contribution makes a difference. The FSS raises vital funds for the school through a range of exciting events and activities enjoyed by our children throughout the year. We would love to see some new faces attend and help ensure this valuable support continues for years to come.

Colour Run 2026: A Splash of Fun!

One of the first events of the year is the eagerly anticipated Colour Run 2026, taking place on Friday 25th September from 4.30pm to approximately 6.00pm.

Children are invited to take part in this fun-filled event. Whether they choose to run, walk, skip, hop or dance around the course, there will be plenty of colourful powder stations and fun obstacles along the way. Classes will complete the course separately, with age-appropriate lap targets for each group.

Tickets cost £6 per child, which includes a snack and drink. Families can purchase tickets via the [Friends of Sherston School online store](#).

Children will need to wear a white T-shirt for the event, making it the perfect opportunity to reuse an old PE top. Refreshments will also be available to purchase on the day.

Events like the Colour Run not only raise valuable funds for the school but also create lasting memories for our children and bring our community together. We hope to see as many families there as possible.

Achieving

An Outstanding Day at Longleat

On Friday, children from Chestnut and Willow Classes enjoyed an exciting visit to Longleat Safari Park as part of their rainforest learning. During the day, they took part in an educational workshop, explored a wide variety of animals and habitats, and enjoyed a guided safari tour, helping bring their classroom learning to life.

The children represented Sherston Primary School exceptionally well throughout the visit. Their behaviour, enthusiasm, curiosity and respect for others were highly praised and they were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school.

A huge thank you goes to all of the parent volunteers who generously gave up their time to support the trip. Visits such as these simply would not be possible without your help.

Educational visits are a vital part of the children's learning journey. They provide opportunities to deepen understanding, make meaningful connections with classroom topics and create memorable experiences that inspire future learning.

Together

Crabapple Season Returns

One of Sherston's most successful and unique fundraising traditions has returned. Crabapple season is officially here!

Each September, Tracklements transforms donated wild crabapples into its delicious English Crabapple Jelly. For every kilogram of crabapples donated, Sherston Primary School receives 50p, with a further 25p donated from every jar sold nationwide.

This initiative raises over £1,000 each year for our school and is a fantastic opportunity for families to spend time outdoors together. Whether it is a weekend walk or an afternoon adventure, collecting crabapples is a simple way to support the school whilst enjoying the local countryside. Next week, Willow Class will also be heading out to support the collection effort.

Crabapples can be dropped directly at Tracklements or brought into school and we will ensure they reach the collection point. Every kilogram really does make a difference, and we would be incredibly grateful for your support.

A Gentle Reminder About the School Gate

Thank you for your support with our new coded school gate. The gate has been introduced to improve security and help us keep all children safe during the school day.

We would kindly ask parents not to share the gate code with their child. Whilst we did not explicitly state this when the system was introduced, it was assumed that the code would remain for adult use only. If children know and share the code, it significantly reduces the effectiveness of the security measures we have put in place.

We appreciate that children are naturally curious and may ask for the code. However, we ask all families to support us by keeping this information confidential. By working together, we can ensure that the gate serves its intended purpose and helps maintain a safe and secure environment for all children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school and wider community. Together, we can ensure every child continues learning, caring and achieving together.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mr Towers