

26/09/25

Dear parents,

Learning

A Theatrical Treat for All!

Over the past two weeks, our children have been lucky enough to enjoy some fantastic theatre experiences. KS2 visited Bristol to watch *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, a magical performance that brought C. S. Lewis' classic to life on stage. Meanwhile, our EYFS and KS1 children travelled to Bath to enjoy the lively and engaging *Three Little Pigs*. Both trips provided brilliant learning opportunities – from experiencing storytelling in different forms, to sparking imagination and inspiring creative writing back in school. We would like to thank all the parents and staff who supported these trips and gave up their time to help. A special thank you goes to Miss Harrison for her excellent organisation of both visits.

Writing: A Whole School Focus

This year we are focusing on developing children's Writing across the school. For our youngest children in EYFS, this might look like mark-making in mud, sand, or paint, while in Year 6 it means producing extended, independent pieces of writing. A big part of this journey is ensuring children are exposed to high quality texts, which enrich vocabulary and inspire ideas. Parents can support us with this focus by ensuring their child is reading every day at home, as regular reading makes a huge difference to writing outcomes.

Caring

Celebrating Friendship

Our value for this term is 'Friendship'. It is such an important value for children to learn about and practise as they grow. We will be focusing on it in our daily Collective Worship, as well as through activities across the school day. From being kind and helpful to one another, to listening carefully and including others in play, we will encourage children to live out this value both in and out of school.

Phonics Fun!

A big thank you to Mr Moran and all the parents who attended this week's Phonics Workshop. Phonics is a way of teaching children to read by breaking words down into sounds, and it provides them with the building blocks for successful reading and writing. Parents can support their children by listening to them read regularly and helping them to practise their sounds at home. Reception parents are reminded that further phonics information is available on the Oak Class page of the school website. If you need any advice or support, please don't hesitate to speak with either Miss Ponting or Mr Moran.

Achieving

Rugby Spirit!

On the 8th and 15th October, we will be taking KS2 teams to Minety to compete in the tag rugby festival. To prepare, we are delighted to be working with Tetbury Rugby Club, who will be running coaching sessions for the whole school. Children in Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will enjoy sessions on 3rd October, while Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 will take part on 10th October. Our aim is for the children to have fun, learn new skills, and gain exposure to a sport that many may not have tried before. Of course, while enjoyment is our top priority, we would also love to come away with a win!

Together

Scarecrow Trail Fun

The Scarecrow Trail, part of the Sherston Arts Festival, is a much-loved tradition in our village, and this year's theme is 'Stories, Myths and Legends'! We would love lots of families to take part, and if you would like to join in the fun (hassle free!) why not book onto the Scarecrow Making Workshop on Saturday 18th October 2025 (Sherston Village Hall, 2pm-4.30pm, £15 per group). All materials will be provided and there will be plenty of help on hand to make your scarecrow. It's a really enjoyable afternoon for parents and children of all ages! To book your place, please email kirsty.strachan@icloud.com. Spaces are limited to 15 groups, so be quick!

If you can't make the workshop, you can still join in by creating your scarecrow at home and entering it on the trail – completely FREE! Just email Kirsty by Monday 20th October to get your scarecrow on the official trail map. Scarecrows need to be displayed between 8th-16th November, and there will be prizes for the best entries, as voted for by the public!

Drama Day Delight!

Also as part of the Sherston Arts Festival, Sherston Drama Group is hosting a fantastic day of children's drama workshops with professional theatre company The Last Baguette on Saturday 15th November. No prior experience is needed – children can simply come along for a confidence-building day full of fun, games, and creativity! There will be two sessions:

Reception – Year 3: 9.30am – 11am (£10)

Year 4 and up: 11.30am – 4pm (£20, bring a packed lunch)

Further information and an application form are available at: sherstonartsfestival.com/about

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mr Towers