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Newsletter 8 – 23rd October 2025

Secondary School Applications – Closing date 31st October 2025

For those children that are due to be starting secondary school in September 2026, you can apply online at

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place

If you live in Hampshire please ensure you apply via Hampshire.

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

Class News

Nursery	- have enjoyed singing some Autumnal songs including 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'.
YR	- have been writing ingredients for magical potions then reading our list to create them!
Y1	- have enjoyed putting the finishing touches to our class castle.
Y2	- have been designing, making and evaluating our Tudor Houses during DT.
Y3	- have thoroughly enjoyed performing our assembly to our parents.
Y4	- have thoroughly enjoyed our Samba and Dance lessons this week.
Y5	- have been learning about BODMAS and using it in our maths lessons.
Y6	- have enjoyed combining together all the things they have learnt in Forest School over the half term including fire lighting, den building and water filtering.

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible half term it has been — well done to Y3 for a fabulous Class assembly today! Wishing everyone a wonderful half term! Thank you to SISA for organising two great events, the school disco & Break the rules day! The SISA Committee desperately needs more support for these type of events. Can you spare a few hours to help?? Without your support these events will not be able to happen.

Communication Survey Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your thoughts and feedback about how the school communicates with parents. We were delighted to receive so many positive comments, and we also really appreciate the constructive suggestions on how we can continue to improve in this area.

In response to your feedback, we have created a 'Dates for the Diary – Autumn Term 2' sheet, which includes key events taking place next half term. Please note that all dates and times are accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publishing, but occasionally changes do occur beyond the school's control.

Sporting fixtures are not included at this stage, as these are often confirmed at short notice. We are also exploring ways to make event information more 'live' on our website. In the meantime, please remember that all newsletters and curriculum letters can be found here:

🔗 <https://www.stivesprimary.com/newsletters>

We'd love to hear whether these changes make a positive difference for you.

Some of our newer parents mentioned that they occasionally find out about school rules/events through other parents or via a parent WhatsApp groups. To help with this, each teacher is creating an 'All About Year [X]' information sheet, containing key details relevant to your child's year group. These will be sent out shortly after half term as a trial, and we'd really value your feedback — especially from our new families — on whether anything important might be missing or how useful this would be for a new starter or at transition stages.

Your feedback has been incredibly valuable and we hope that, over time, you will see the benefits of these improvements.

School Council

The school council are currently organising a Christmas elf hunt fundraising event. All children (including nursery) will be able to purchase an elf colouring sheet from their classes for 50p from **Monday 3rd November - Friday 7th November**. Please return completed pictures by **Monday 10th November** and the school council will then select the winning pictures to be including in the elf hunt later in the term. All monies raised will go towards our chosen charity Greyfriars Community Centre.

Nursery Open Morning for perspective families

We currently have some spaces in our nursery. Come and see it in action at one of our nursery open mornings at 9.30-10.30 on the following dates: (Please book via the school office)

Monday 10th November
Wednesday 19th November
Wednesday 26th November
Monday 1st December



Online Safety –

Fortnite's latest season is packed with eye-catching features – but that can mean longer screen time, pressure to spend, and the lure of party chat with strangers. This week's guide shines a spotlight on what parents and educators need to know to help young players stay safe.

School Nursing Team Drop in Session –

We have been offered a drop in session from the NHS School Nursing team, on Thursday 20th November from 08:45am, with 15 minute slots available. Parents and carers can get advice about a range of issues, including toileting, sleep, development, behaviour, healthy eating, mental health, bullying, school refusal and exam stress. Please see the poster attached to the Newsletter for more information and please attend the school office to book your slot.

Parents that are unable to attend, please give them the Parentline text number 07312 263131 for confidential advice and support from a member of the school nursing team.

New PE Kit days for November 2025

YR – Wednesday & Thursday
Y1 – Wednesday & Thursday
Y2 – Wednesday & Thursday
Y3 – Monday & Thursday
Y4 – Monday & Thursday
Y5 – Monday & Wednesday
Y6 – Monday & Wednesday

Dates for Diary

October

24th INSET Day
WC 27th October Half Term

December

1st Treehouse Theatre
10th Christmas lunch (please order via Forerunner)
16th 2.00pm KS1/Nursery Performance
17th 9.30am KS1/Nursery Performance
17th KS2 Christmas Performance @ Verwood Hub (4pm & 6.45pm)
18th Carol Service @ All Saints Church @ 1.30pm
19th School closes for Christmas 1.00pm – Nursery
1.05pm – Key Stage 1
1.15pm – Key Stage 2

November

3rd Back to school
5th – 7th Y4 Leeson House Residential
11th Individual Photographs
12th NEW Reception 2026 Open Evening 4.30 – 6.00pm
19th Flu Immunisations
27th Book your Nativity/Panto Tickets on Bookwhen
28th SISA Christmas Fair

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Crossley
Headteacher

