

## NEWSLETTER 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014



### Dates for your diary

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 2 trip to Minstead
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Art Club starts (Y2)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	German Club starts
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Belinda's Street Dance starts
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Sports Challenge - Years 1 & 2 starts
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	French Club starts
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	2.15pm Parents of Foxes and Hedgehogs sharing time
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	7.00 - 8.00pm Reading / Phonics evening
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	1.45 - 2.45pm Reading / Phonics afternoon
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00am Parent Forum
<u>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October *Date Change*</u>	3.15pm-4.30pm Photographs (Siblings/Juniors)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	8.45 - 9.15am Sharing time (all year groups)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parent's Evening 3.00 to 6.30pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parent's Evening 3.00 to 5.30pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	School finishes at 3.00pm for half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	School re-opens at 8.45am
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Maths open afternoon 2.00 - 3.00pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School photographs
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need Day
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Inset Day
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00am Parent Forum
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day for Art Club (Year 2 only)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm Xmas performance (dress rehearsal - grandparents and pre-school siblings invited)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm Xmas performance (parents invited)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Xmas performance (parents invited)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day for Belinda's Street Dance
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm Evening Xmas performance
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day for Sports Challenge - Years 1 & 2
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Last French club
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Xmas shopping day
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Xmas lunch / Xmas party
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School finishes at 3.00pm for Christmas

### Important things to remember

- Everything your child wears or brings into school must be labelled
- All children require a water bottle in school everyday
- PE kits must be in school at all times and include a tracksuit and trainers for outdoors
- Children must be registered with Cool Milk ([www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)) in order to receive milk in school, even if they are entitled to it free of charge. This includes children who are entitled to free milk until the term before they turn 5.

The children have settled down into school really well and "all is calm" around school! Miss Parker and Miss Alexander are particularly impressed with the way in which all of the children in Foxes and Hedgehogs have settled into school life very quickly. They are also really impressed with how they have said goodbye to parents and come in so independently. You have obviously been working very hard over the summer on encouraging the children to do things independently - everyone was amazed at how quickly the Autumn and Spring born children got changed for P.E. yesterday morning. We will be inviting Reception parents into school (see details further on in this newsletter) so that they can see what their children are doing in class.

As many of you may have seen, the Reception playground is being set up each morning so that the children have a larger outside space to engage in outdoor learning. Please could we request that you do not allow children to use the resources before school. The children know that they must not touch anything that has the "No Hands" symbol on it and we would appreciate your support in continuing with this.

It was lovely that so many parents were able to attend the Curriculum Information sessions for Years 1 and 2. If you were unable to attend you will be able to access the information through the website.

I try to be out in the playground at the end of the day at least a couple of times a week so please do come and speak to me if you have any concerns. I can also be reached via e-mail directly - [head@hi.jetrust.org](mailto:head@hi.jetrust.org) I will try to get back to parents as soon as I can. The new website will have an e-mail link that parents can use to e-mail the office and there is a Governor e-mail address to the Chair of Governors, Jenny Jones, which goes directly to her.

### Hot Meals

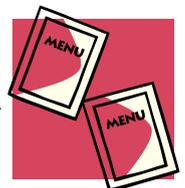


As we explained at the end of last term, we have changed contractors for supplying the school meals; all of our staff in the kitchen are the same. As with any change there are always teething problems and we are doing our best to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible. I would like to say a huge thank you to the kitchen staff who have coped so well with the change and the meals that they are serving the children are really tasty. The food is all cooked on site and is designed to comply with new Government regulations around all schools providing a free hot meal for Infant aged children, that is balanced and nutritious. We fully intend to invite parents in for a tasting session later this half term.

I would just like to clarify the following concerns that have been brought to my attention:

### Menus

We only had access to the menus at the very end of last term and feel that they are not very child friendly. We will ensure that the next set that are sent out are clearer for both parents and children. We are only offering Jacket Potatoes as an alternative to the meat and vegetarian options and we do not have a salad bar. I believe that some parents are concerned that children are choosing Jacket Potatoes too many times and the teachers are now monitoring this and encouraging children to make different choices. If you are happy for your child to have a jacket potato as many times as they like, then please let us know.



### Choices



At the moment we are trying to encourage children to try different things. The children are therefore not getting a choice of vegetables and everything is on their plate. We have talked to the children about this and reassured them that they do not have to eat anything that they do not like. I have been impressed, though, with the number of children who have tried new foods and said that they like them. If your

children are anything like mine were, they will eat things elsewhere but never at home! If we notice that your child is hardly eating anything then we will let you know. We appreciate how many of you are trying out the free hot meals and don't want to put children off lunchtimes, particularly our youngest children.

The logistical reason for giving children their lunch with everything on the plate is that we now have a lot more children having hot meals which is great but if all of them are able to choose it takes too long to serve them all; children in Reception have a longer lunchtime and we have staggered it slightly to help with this.

Unfortunately City Catering took the lunch bands with them which we had not anticipated. This is the system through which the kitchen staff know which meal a child has chosen. From today we have new bands so this should stop any confusion and children will get the meal that they chose in the morning. There is a separate coloured band for jacket potato.

We are monitoring lunchtimes very closely and want to run the menus through. We are going to use our School Council children for feedback over lunches and talk to all the children. If there are clearly things that a lot of children do not like then these will be taken off.

Thank you for your understanding with the change.

### Year R Sharing Time

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm we would like to invite parents of Year R children to come into school and see them in their class rooms once they are all here full time and settled in. This is an opportunity for you to see how well they are doing already.



### Harvest Festival



This year's Harvest Festival is to be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at St James' Church. This allows us to invite parents along which we are unable to do when it is held in school. Unfortunately, space is still limited so there will only be 1 ticket per family and I'm afraid we cannot accommodate younger siblings.

A letter will follow next week with more details, but we will require the help of some parent volunteers to walk to and from the church, time to be confirmed but it will be in the morning.

### Christmas Performance

This year we have decided to trial a whole school Christmas Performance, which will be performed on:

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm-2.30pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am-10.15am
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm-7.00pm



There will be a maximum of 2 tickets per family and unfortunately we cannot accommodate younger siblings. However, there is a dress rehearsal at 1.30pm-2.30pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December which grandparents and/or siblings can attend; again we will need to limit tickets on a first come first served basis.

We are holding an evening performance for parents that are unable to get time off work, but as there are only a specific number of tickets available for each performance, we would ask you to attend one of the daytime performances if you are able to. This may mean you use your 2 tickets for separate performances.

### Playground

Once you have collected your child, please ensure you leave the playground promptly.



We would like to remind all parents that scooters are not to be ridden anywhere in the playground, this includes younger siblings. The playground is too small and too busy and there have already been some near misses this year. There is a scooter rack just outside the school office, so we recommend using the rack to store your child's scooter during the day and then collecting it once you have collected your child.

### PE Kits

A reminder that all children should now have their PE Kit in school at all times, including our new Year R children. The kits will be sent home to be washed at half term. For your information, PE Kits should be in a labelled drawstring bag and include:

T-shirt  
Shorts  
Tracksuit trousers  
Sweatshirt  
Trainers



Please remember to label all items of clothing, both uniform and PE kit.

### Date Change

Please note, the date for the photographs for brothers and sisters at Junior school has changed to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014, at the same time. This has been updated on the 'Dates for your diary' list.