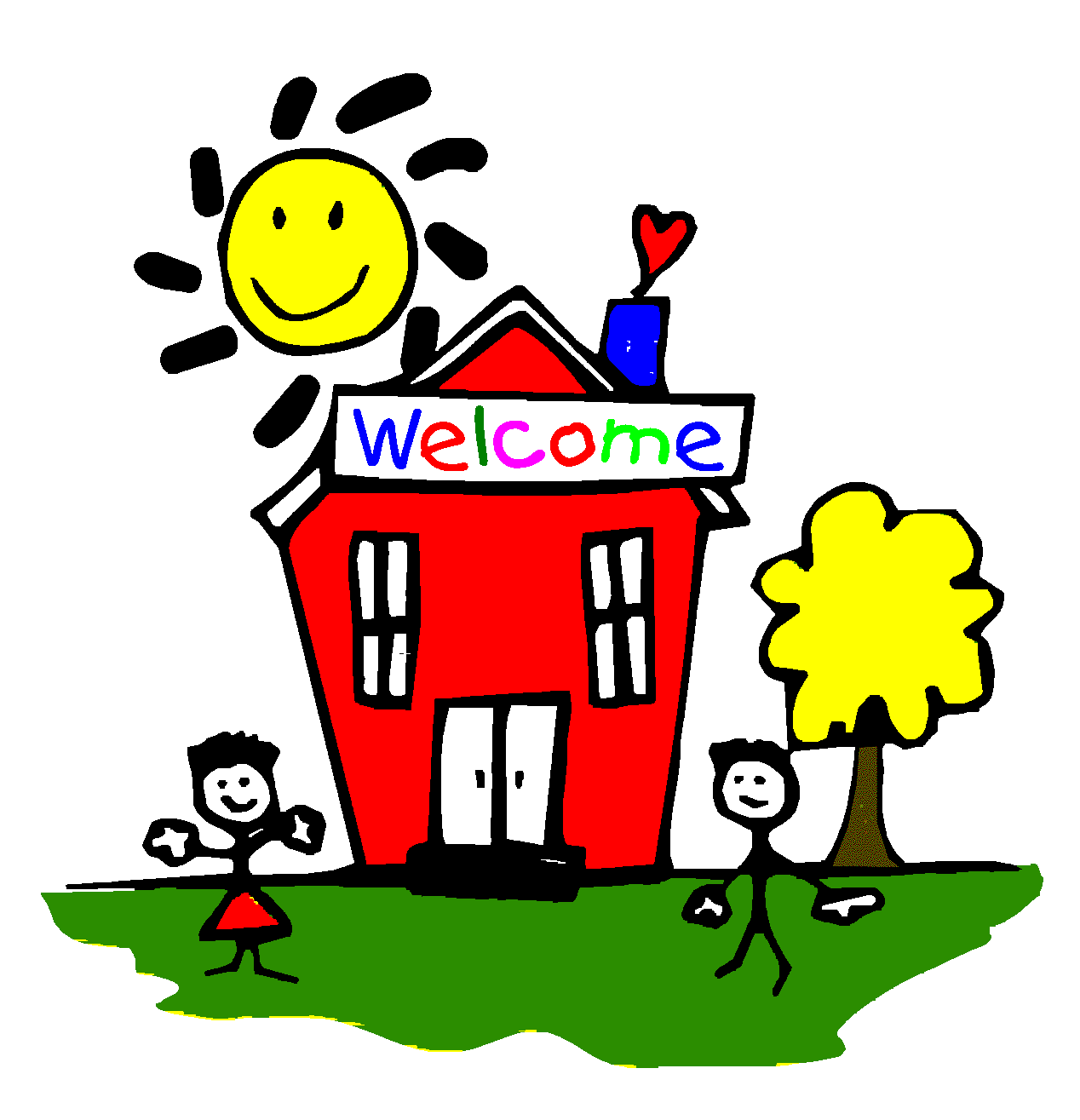


[St Gregs – Where learning has no limits (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/) 28th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a very positive start to the term with the children (and staff!) settling back into school. If you have any questions, queries or concerns about anything school-related please don’t hesitate to contact me via email [office@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) or catch me on the gate to make an appointment.



**NEW STARTERS**

We have all been very impressed to see how well the new Reception children are settling in to Hedgehogs. They are quickly getting used to the routines and have joined in with all activities, even swimming, from the very first week. Well done! I realise they have only just arrived, but if you have a child who will be 4 this school year, the deadline for applying to Dorset County Council for Reception (Sep 2024) applications is 15th January 2024 [Starting School & Forms – St Gregs (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/startingschool-forms/)

**PUPIL LEADERSHIP**

I have also been impressed by the Year 6 pupils, many of whom have worked hard to present a speech to the whole school to persuade their peers to vote for them in roles of responsibility. They obviously care very much about their school and are keen to do what they can to make it even better. Well done to you, too. Congratulations to the following children who have been voted into these roles:

**School Council:** Chair: Parker, Vice: Amy, Scribe: Harriette

**Young Worship Ambassadors:** Rosie, Amy, Lily, Harriette, Parker and Jessica

**House Captains:** Red – Isaac and Daisy Blue Holly and Haiden Yellow – Brooke and Rosie

**Sports Ambassadors:** Leila, Izzy, Jonathan and Holly

I am sure they will all make a fantastic effort in these roles and, for those children who were perhaps not successful in getting their first choice, I am sure you will support your peers wonderfully.

**POOL**

It has been brilliant to be able to use the pool this term – many thanks to the Pool Committee for ensuring it was ready for swimming from Week 1 – a real bonus in the scorching heat we had.

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**FOREST SCHOOL**

We are hoping to start this fantastic lesson for each class again, later this year. More information will follow about times but please do get some waterproof trousers, coats, wellies and warm clothes prepared for this.



We would love to hold some fundraising events in school and will be asking for parental assistance…. Plus it would be great if the tuck shop could be reopened – the sweets etc can be organised by school we would just need parent volunteers to run it every other Friday after school!

**Schedule of Events for the Year:**

• Autumn 1 – Movie Night for children only

• Autumn 2 – Christmas Gift Shop

• Spring 1 – Family Movie Night

• Spring 2 & Summer - TBC

**HOME LEARNING**

The children will be coming home with regular homework, starting with reading and phonics for Reception, (Phonics Play is a great website) up to a range of English and Maths activities for the oldest Foxes. Additionally, logins will be given for the following links, clipped to Reading Records:

FRENCH - Language Angels / [Glurbs](https://www.glurbs.com/), MATHS - [Times Tables Rock Stars: Play (ttrockstars.com)](https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student) / Cool Maths Games and MUSIC - [Student Home | Sing Up](https://student.singup.org/).

**CLASS TRIPS & Foxes’ Residential**

We are still in the early stages of re-planning our whole curriculum, but the teachers have already made some plans for some exciting visits throughout the year. Details of these, and the Residential trip for the oldest children, will be sent home shortly.

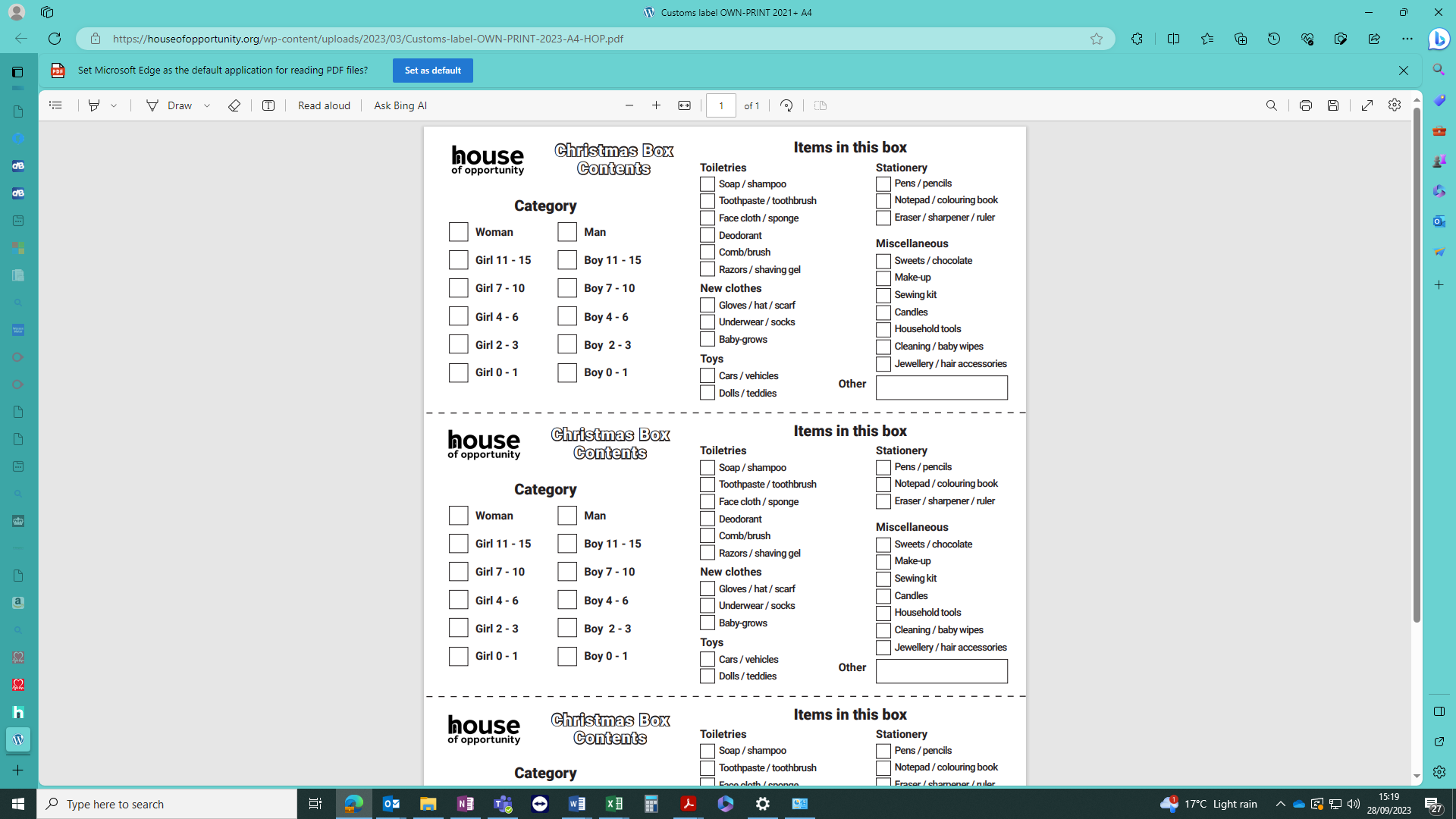
**CALENDAR 23/24**

We have now been given all the dates for the School Games Tournaments. These will be sent out on a separate Ping (plus added to the calendar) and individual invites will be given, closer to the time of each event as not all children can be accommodated on every event. The PE curriculum and after-school clubs have been organised to enable us to provide coaching for these competitions which are organised by Gillingham School when we compete against the other local schools in the catchment area. More details on: [Your School Games - How It Works](https://www.yourschoolgames.com/how-it-works/)

**CHRISTMAS Shoebox Appeal – with House of Opportunity** [Christmas Box Appeal - House of Opportunity](https://houseofopportunity.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/)

It’s that time of year again when we like to support the Christmas box appeal. We would very much like to send as many as possible to support vulnerable children across Europe, who are far less fortunate.

Please either bulk buy one or two items or several from the following list:



We also need empty, wrapped shoeboxes **max size 395mm long x 240mm wide x 118mm deep** which the children will fill according to the ages of the children. In addition, HOO ask for £4 per box to help with shipping and distribution costs. These are being collected in November. Please send in your donations by Fri 3/11/23

**CHRISTMAS CARDS - For Sale**

As you will have seen, the children are designing their own cards again, which will be professionally printed and available for purchase. Their designs have been coming home for parents to complete an order form and for every pack (or other item) ordered, the school receives a donation from the printers. As advised, please do not send in a cheque (or cash) – a Ping payment request will be sent for each design. However, payment will need to be made immediately otherwise we will unfortunately be unable to send the design for printing. **Deadline of Mon 2/10 for designs to be returned and Mon 9/10 for payments.**

**ROAD SAFETY - Bikeability**

Your children’s safety is our main priority while they are in school, and we try to teach them the skills to stay safe while out and about, too. Bikeability sessions for the oldest children with an external provider have been taking place and this is a great skill they have been enhancing, first in the playground and next riding around the local roads.

**AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB**

Please let us know if you would like the club to be extended to 5pm. We would need a minimum of 4 children to attend in order for us to cover costs and if you book this session and then do not use it the charge will still be made. Please inform the office if you would like to sign up.

**DEFIBRILLATOR**

Last year we held a fundraising event to start the saving for this lifesaving equipment and thanks to a very generous donation from a parent with a local business and an additional Government grant we now have a Defib in school. We will be using the money that we have left over to buy a suitable cabinet and additional pads / consumables. The community is welcome to use this within normal school opening times.

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**ASTHMA INHALERS**

A ping will be going out with updated consent forms and information. On receipt, please complete these and return to the office, if relevant to your child. We have an emergency Salbutamol inhaler in school but this can only be given if your child has already been prescribed an inhaler and we have a current consent form.

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**HEALTH HELPLINES**

The School Nursing Team are delighted to be able to provide a confidential text messaging service to the parents and carers of children and young people aged between 5 and 19 - ParentLine 5-19. Parents will also be able to gain advice from a member of the School Nursing team via text message for topics such as Development, Healthy eating, Weight management, Behaviour management, Emotional health and wellbeing, Toileting, Sleep and more.

On our website there is also more information about [Attendance and Health – St Gregs (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/attendance-health/) including information on when your child should be kept away from school due to illness

**MORNING DROP OFF**

This seems to have got off to a very good start with the children coming in really well and settling quickly to their work.

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**WELLIES & COATS**

In to school every day please

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**TERM DATES & EVENTS**

Are all on the Ping calendar and will be added to as more are confirmed.

Inset Days – Fri 9/2/23 & start of Summer Holidays 22&23/7

**CURRICULUM ASSEMBLY – Thurs 14th Sep 2.45pm**

It was lovely to be able to see those of you who were able to join us for the celebration of the children’s first Curious City Enquiry. Dates for the next ones will be sent out via the Class Ping.

**Book Looks**, which were previously held every half term will now be held at the end of each class Enquiry, please look out for a Ping from your child’s teacher with an invitation.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE – Fri 13th Oct 2.30pm**

Our school Harvest Festival will take place as usual in St Gregory’s Church with donations to the local Food Bank being gratefully received. A list of their food requirements will be sent out on the Friday update. All classes will be involved and I hope many of you will be able to join us.

We will be holding parents’ evenings on the **Tues 17th Oct:** 3.30 – 5pm & **Weds 18th Oct:** 4.15-6pm. This is for you to come in to talk to your children’s teachers and discuss how they have settled this term, how they are engaging with their new learning and to ask any questions. A PING will be sent out from our office to enable you to book. **THERE WILL BE NO CLUBS this week**

**Y3&4 SWIMMING GALA - Clayesmore School Thurs 19th Oct**

For our stronger swimmers in the above years. More details to follow.

**PRAISE ASSEMBLY – Thurs 19th Oct 2.45pm**

All parents are welcome to help celebrate the children’s achievements this half term.

**HALF TERM - Sat 21st to Sun 29th Oct**

There are details listed on the school website for the local area [Things To Do Outside of School – St Gregs (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/outsideschool/)

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER – Thurs 9th Nov**

From 8.30am for children with siblings that are not at St Gregs. Both potrait and class photos will be taken and available to order in time for Christmas. Details will be sent out at the time for ordering.

**POPPY APPEAL / REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – Fri 10th Nov** **2.30pm**

We will have poppy-related items for sale to raise money for this cause, via the Royal British Legion. Please send your child in with funds after half term if you would like to support. In the morning of 10th November, we will be holding a minute's silence for the whole school in our playground. We will also be having our school Remembrance Service, led by Year 6 in St Gregory’s Church in the afternoon. All parents / carers are welcome. Our Year 6 pupils will be attending the community service at the war memorial and laying their own wreath.

**CHILDREN IN NEED – Fri 17th Nov**

We will be raising money for this annual event through a range of activities in school and as part of Anti-bullying Week, we will also be teaching the children skills to stay safe and happy. Children may wear onesies / Pudsey t- shirts / spotty clothes etc. Please give generously to this brilliant cause via: [St Gregory's CofE Primary School is fundraising for BBC Children in Need (justgiving.com)](https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-gregorys-cofe-primary-school-cin23)



**VACCINE CLINIC – Thurs 23rd Nov**

A letter from the NHS will be sent to you nearer the time on SchoolPing, for completion of the online consent form.

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**CHRISTMAS NATIVITY / LUNCH / JUMPER DAY / DISCO / GIFT SHOP / SANTA WALK - TBC**

There will be many festive activities taking place in the last couple of weeks of term and these will all be confirmed during the next half term

Many more events are being planned for this term, the details of which will be shared with you as soon as they are finalised; I am sure you will encourage your children to take part in as much as they can!

With best wishes

James Stanford

Please do use our school website for information.

If you have any questions / queries or need to book a time to see me for any other reason, do not hesitate to contact the school office or speak to me on the playground but please notify the office with general messages about your child.

Please note, emails and telephone calls will only be responded to within school hours.

**READING VOLUNTEERS**

We would love to have more people to listen to readers. Please contact the office for a volunteer form, a DBS check will need to be carried out.



**HALL HIRE**

The school hall and field are available to hire for private occasions. Please contact the office for further details

**MUSIC LESSONS – From Y2 upwards**

Please contact the office or see the school webpage, if your child is interested in starting music lessons. [Music – St Gregs (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/music/)

**MEDICINES IN SCHOOL – Consent Form Required**

It is vitally important that we have a completed form, if your child needs any medicine to be administered – otherwise we will be unable to do so. Please do not send children in with their own medicine to take – we need to be aware of any medicines in school. [Permission-to-Administer-Medication-Form.pdf (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/Permission-to-Administer-Medication-Form.pdf)

Plus, please keep your child off school if they have been vomiting and/or had diarrhoea for 48 hours after the last episode.

**EASY SCHOOL DONATIONS - Shop & Give Website**

Please sign up to the website and use the following code to find St Greg’s. Donations will be automatically paid to school each time you shop via their website.

School Code – 267421 [TheGivingMachine | Give For Free Every Time You Shop Online](https://shopandgive.thegivingmachine.co.uk/)

**SECOND-HAND UNIFORM**

Please do donate any that are out-grown and still in good condition and do check the rails in reception for any you might need. Please order any name tags for uniforms from [www.mynametags.com](http://www.mynametags.com)

They will donate a % of each sale to school when you use the School ID Code - 22362

**CAR PARKING**

The staff car park is for staff only, any visitor / parent parking is on the road but please do not park on the Bus Stop or Zigzags (this creates a problem for passing traffic as there is nowhere for them to pull in and is enforceable by law). The Crown pub also kindly allow parents to use their car park at drop off and pick up times. If for some reason you need to temporarily park closer to school – then please inform the school office and we will advise you where to park.

**EXTENDED SCHOOL / BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:**

You are able to book in for a half-term at a time. Please ensure that payments are kept up-to-date. You can deposit amounts on your School Ping wallet to spread the cost of this facility.

**ORDER DEADLINE – 2 weeks before**

Please sign up and choose options, if you would like to order school lunches [Dorset Meal Selector | Home](https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk/).

If you do not order in time, please bring in a lunchbox for the first 2 weeks. All children in years R,1,2 are entitled to free hot lunches.

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

If your child qualifies for free school meals, not only will they receive a healthy meal on every school day, they’ll also get, access to free holiday clubs, extra money for their school towards more teachers and activities. It’s easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals or telephone 01305 221090

**PUPIL PREMIUM**

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, you could get extra £££’s for your school!

Apply for the Pupil Premium at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium



