



Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a busy start to this half term, with a range of visitors to the school to look at our new Little Wandle reading programme, the Write Stuff approach to writing being trialled in Foxes Class, and the Curious-city enquiries which take place in the afternoons. Everyone has been very impressed with the work they have seen, and they have all said how brilliant the children are!

PRAISE ASSEMBLY

We had a very busy Praise Assembly on the last day of term, with certificates and presentations for a wide range of achievements. A large proportion of the children were awarded 100% Attendance Certificates, and it was great to see the children's hard work in class being acknowledged by their teachers. Many children also shared their successes in out-of-school activities, including Tae-Kwon-Do belts, swimming badges and gymnastics awards.

LEARNERS OF THE TERM & PEN LICENCEES:



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS:



100% ATTENDANCE:



APPRENTICE ELECTRICIANS:



NETBALLERS:



EXTERNAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

(Model Making / Tae Kwon Do /
Gymnastics / Reading Challenge)



DANCERS:



DANCE FESTIVAL

Our dance troupe had a fantastic time at Mere Primary School, having to wait until nearly the end of the festival for their turn to perform. After seeing dances performed by children from 6 other local schools, our team danced brilliantly and received some wonderfully positive comments from the judges (two of the national Tap Dancing Squad!). The judges were particularly impressed that the children had chosen the music and choreographed the dance themselves. Well done to everyone involved.



DISCO

Thank you so much to Sandy and the group of parents who helped to make this event a great success. The children had a wonderful time showing their moves and enjoyed all the extras on offer.



ASH WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICE

We had a lovely service with all children and staff receiving an ash cross, using ashes from last year's palm crosses that we had kept in school. In the morning Reverend Gaenor visited the children in school to explain what was going to happen in the service later and why the cross is given.

[What is Ash Wednesday? 2024 Guide to Start of Lent \(christianity.com\)](https://christianity.com/2024/Guide-to-Start-of-Lent)



SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY – Second School Forum Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended this meeting and offered some great ideas for our celebrations. Many of the children took part in the logo design competition and, after shortlisting, the school council chose the winning entry: Well Done to Arlo, for his truly eye-catching design! He will receive a special prize and will see his artwork on posters, tea-towels, letters heads and much more! We will be holding a whole week's celebration from Monday 3rd June which culminates in a special event that the whole community is invited to - see details below about our Family Fun Day!



PARENT WORKING PARTY

To help make the most of our celebrations later this year, we are looking to arrange a couple of weekend working party events to smarten up the outside of the school. Painting the fences and railings, weeding and planting, sweeping and clearing activities will be on the agenda. Dates will soon follow on a Ping, so please do come along and help!



CHRISTMAS BOXES – House of Opportunity

Were delivered successfully and you can see Christmas boxes being given out on their YouTube channel – just search “House of Opportunity” The children will be learning more about the charity’s wider work in an assembly next month



INTERNET SAFETY TALK

This was held on Weds 7/2/24 by a volunteer from JP Morgan – lots of interesting information was shared with the children & more details on this poster: If you would like information on how to keep your child safe when on-line, please use the ThinkuKnow or NSPCC websites for lots of resources



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Continuing on from last half term but please sign up again to confirm that your children would like to continue or join the clubs for this half term. Some of the clubs have a very low take-up which will sadly have to fold if there is no more interest.

The only change to clubs is Tennis (Thursday Lunchtime) & Football (Thursday After School). Please sign up on the Prime Sports Link and the Ping. The clubs will change in the Summer Term; Mrs Cook-Paine is planning on running a Gardening Club and we have had some mini greenhouses and new raised beds delivered in anticipation. These have been paid for by the money kindly donated by Marnhull Choir last year.



PERSONAL DETAILS

Please do let the office know if you have moved, changed your contact numbers / email address or want to amend who is allowed to collect your child.



NEW TA

We are very pleased to welcome Charlotte Down to our staff team. She will be working mostly with Badgers Class and we hope she will enjoy working with us.



GOVERNORS - Spread the word about governance

The role of a governance volunteer is often not very well-known or understood. Governors for Schools hosts regular webinars to introduce prospective governors to the role, with opportunities for participants to ask questions. For more information and to sign up to their next webinar: [School Governors: who are they and what do they do? - GfS \(governorsforschools.org.uk\)](https://www.gfsforchools.org.uk)



SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

Available from the office lobby. Please do see if there is anything you may need – there are coats, shoes, wellies etc as well as all the uniform



CLASS TRIPS

Arrangements are being made for YR-2 & Y3-4 trips so please look out for consent Pings and payment requests. As previously advised, the PTFA fund is paying for coaches - Foxes visited Stonehenge in the Autumn.



VALUES CERTIFICATES – Church Services Fri 2.40pm

Are given to a child from each class for representing the term’s value best, for this Spring it is Faith. There is a section at the top of the showing the name of the children who will receive the certificates. Parents are notified the day before.



TUCK SHOP CAKES - Badgers 23rd Feb / Foxes 8th Mar / Hedgehogs 22nd Mar

The Hedgehogs contribution was superb so thank you to the parents from that class and again to Sandy for running this.





INTERIM REPORTS – Sent Fri 23rd Feb & PARENT MEETINGS – Tues 27th 3.30-5pm & Weds 28th 3.30-6pm Feb
Being sent home this weekend is a brief progress report on key areas of your child's learning. This overview will be discussed at the Parent Meetings next week – please sign up for your appointment time on Ping.



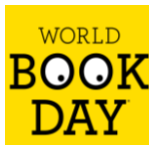
ROAD CLOSURE – Tues 27th Feb – Thurs 7th Mar

B3092 From Stur to Marnhull between 9am and 4pm. Please allow extra time for collection, if travelling from Stur



NON-UNIFORM & QUIZ DONATIONS DAY - Fri 1st Mar (St David's Day)

Children can wear their own clothes and please bring in a suitable donation (chocolates / biscuits / wine etc) so we can make up lovely hampers, to add to the other prizes for our raffle.



BEDTIME STORY - Thurs 7th Mar Time TBC & DRESS UP DAY - Fri 8th Mar

We will be celebrating World Book Day over two days this year. In the early evening on the Thursday, the children are invited to come back to school in pyjamas and dressing gowns for a bedtime story reading and cocoa. On the Friday, they can come in dressed either as a favourite book character or, as a change, to bring in an item which represents something from their favourite book (eg an empty medicine bottle from George's Marvellous Medicine, or perhaps a wand from Harry Potter) We will also be giving out tokens to encourage the children to expand their own libraries at home.



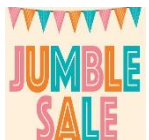
QUIZ NIGHT & RAFFLE TICKETS – Sat 9th Mar 7pm

This is now sold out and we are looking forward to seeing parents and villagers at this great annual event. Please do support us by purchasing raffle tickets – there are some really good prizes. The draw will be at the event but winners of tickets not attending will be notified the following week.



FUNDRAISER - Fri 15th Mar

The children can don the best home-made costume ever, go red from head to toe or simply dig out their brightest socks. I would love for the children and staff to wear something which makes them and others smile, in return for a donation online to: www.justgiving.com/page/st-gregorys-cofe-primary-school-rnd24



JUNGLE HUT (SCHOOL HALL) - Sat 16th Mar 9.30 – 11.30am

Please give donations for this (drop in at the School Office or Jungle Hut) and please come along to support this fundraiser – a tombola and refreshments will be available.



Y6 LONDON TRIP - London Trip Weds 20th Mar

We are really looking forward to our visit to London with children from other local schools. The children have come home with sponsorship forms ready for our Sponsored Events day on Thursday 7th March. Please make sure all sponsor forms are completed and back in school by then.



SPORTS FESTIVALS

We like to take as many children as possible to participate in external events. We hope to be able to attend these so please make a note in your diaries of these and encourage your child to take part:

Y3&4 Football Tournament - Weds 13th Mar 3.30-6pm Gill High Astro

Y5&6 Bee Netball Tues 19th Mar 2-4.30pm Sherborne School for Girls

R-6 Gymnastics Competition - Fri 22nd Mar 9-4pm Riversmeet

Y1&2 Gym & Dance Festival Port Regis - TBC



SPRING MUSIC CONCERT Tues 26th Mar 5-6pm

All children learning an instrument will be invited to attend and the instrument teachers will be there to support and to make the occasion as memorable as last year's. Refreshments will be provided and more details to follow.



EASTER SERVICE - Weds 27th Mar 2.15pm

Everyone is warmly invited to this class-led service



PRAISE ASSEMBLY – Thurs 28th Mar 8.45am & BOOK LOOK 9.15am

All parents are welcome to help celebrate the children's achievements this half term, we look forward to seeing you here! Please send in external achievement certificates.

Book Look will take place immediately after the Praise Assembly – do stay in school to look at the children's work.



EASTER HOLIDAYS – Fri 29th Mar to Sun 14th Apr

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



M12k & CHILDREN'S FUN RUN – Sun 21st Apr 10.30am & 10.45am

For all children to enter fun race to win a medal and small prize, as part of the M12K annual school fundraiser. More details will follow.



150th ANNIVERSARY FAMILY FUN DAY - Sat 8th June

Jointly with The Jungle Hut, we have started arrangements for this exciting event. There will be stalls and activities, food, a bar and for the evening a band and DJ.

We will need support to make this event to be a great success, so please do let us know what you might be able to offer in the way of stalls / setting up etc

2024 is going to be an exciting year for the children and the school - I do hope you will be able to join us for the festivities.

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](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)

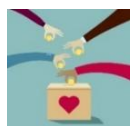


MEDICINES IN SCHOOL / EMERGENCY ASTHMA INHALER – Consent Form Required

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](https://stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) (stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)

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

**GENERAL
INFORMATION**



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](#)



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

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](#).

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

