



SHILLINGSTONE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
GROWING TOGETHER • TOGETHER WE LEARN



Dates for diaries:

Monday 6th October Second day for Active Travel to School

Monday 6th October- Friday 10th October Drop Everything and Read week

Tuesday 7th October 2.30pm Harvest Festival (in school - parents welcome to join us)
Please bring in donations for Blandford food Bank. Details below.

Friday 10th October Mental Health Day – Wear Yellow! Non-school uniform.

Tuesday 21st October Individual & Siblings School photos.

Wednesday 22nd October School Disco 5-6pm

Thursday 23rd October Nasal flu vaccinations in school. Sign up details have been emailed to you.

Friday 24th October INSET Day- school closed to pupils

w/b Monday 27th October- Half Term holiday

31st October Final deadline for secondary school applications.

Monday 3rd November- Back to school - Autumn Term 2

Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th November- Year 5 Residential Visit to Leeson House visit

Tuesday 11th November 3.30 – 5pm Parent / Teacher Consultation Meetings

Wednesday 12th November 3.30 – 7pm Parent / Teacher Consultation Meetings

Thursday 13th November Michael Rosen Day! A day of poetry

Wednesday 3rd December Bedtime Stories 5-6pm

Please see our school website for updates on events and news.

Due to the wet weather today (Friday 3rd), I know some families decided not to take part in our Active Travel Day. If you would like to do this on Monday 6th instead, when the weather forecast is looking much brighter, then please do. Staff will be out the front of the school taking photos. A photo gallery will be shared next week, sharing photos from today, as well as Monday.

Flu Vaccinations

Please sign up your child by clicking on the link:

<https://www.schoolimmunisation.dhc.nhs.uk/Forms/Flu>





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New P.E colours

After feedback from a number of parents, we have decided to make an addition to our school P.E kit. P.E t-shirts will now be allowed in navy blue, as well as white. We understand that the white shirts can get particularly dirty and are tricky to clean. White t-shirts will still be part of the school P.E. kit should you wish to keep using them. Our P.E. t-shirts are the ones with the round neckline, without collars. These are now available to buy on School Trends and My Clothing.

Our school uniform is still the same. The children should have a school jumper or cardigan with the school logo on it. We would prefer if the children wore the collared t-shirts with our school logo (available from School Trends and My Clothing). However, we understand that these are not always affordable and in line with the government initiative to keep school uniform attainable we will accept plain white t-shirts. These can be bought much more cheaply, than those with a logo.

Our priority is for the children to have a jumper or cardigan with our logo.

Spare uniform is always available in the boxes next to the front office.

Children who take part in after school sports clubs should be wearing school uniform into school and bringing school PE kit with them in their bag. They will be given time at the end of the school day to get changed. Thank you for your support with this.

[Uniform | Shillingstone CE Primary School](#) Our school website has been updated with these changes.

Drop Everything and Read

This year, we are working hard to improve our reading culture. We want the children to have a 'Love of Reading' and be enthusiastic about doing so. In order to promote this, we will be having a range of reading-themed events and activities throughout the year.

Next week, is going to be a 'Drop Everything and Read' week. At random points throughout the day, there will be a signal on which the whole school will stop everything they are doing and read a book! This could be individually, in pairs or as part of a group. We want the children to read something that they are enthusiastic about and so they are welcome to bring in books (including comics/graphic novels) from home.





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Individual & Siblings School Photos with Fraser portraits - Tuesday 21st October

Our photographers will be set up and ready to go at 8.30am. If you have younger siblings (who are not yet school age) and you would like a family photograph taken with the children in our school, please come in between 8.30 – 9am.

The individual photos and siblings will be taken during the school day. We will organise this.

Harvest Festival in school Tuesday 7th October 2.30pm

Reverend Gubbins will lead this service for us in our school hall.

Parents are welcome to join us.

Blandford Food Bank is one of the five Food Banks in Dorset run by Faithworks, in partnership with local churches. This supports people in our wider community.



Acceptable Food Bank Donations:

Canned Goods: Items like canned vegetables, fruits, soups, and proteins (e.g., tuna, chicken) are highly valued. Opt for low-sodium or no-added-sugar options when possible.

Dry Goods: Donations of rice, pasta, oats, and wholegrain cereals are essential. These items provide a good source of carbohydrates and can help create balanced meals.

ShelfStable Proteins: Foods such as canned beans, lentils, and nut butter are important for providing protein in meals. These items are often more expensive and are in high demand.

Cooking Essentials: Items like cooking oils, spices, and sauces can help enhance the meals prepared with donated food.

Personal Care and Household Products: Many food banks also accept personal hygiene items (e.g., shampoo, soap, toothpaste) and household cleaning products (e.g., laundry detergent).





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Mental Health – Wear Yellow! Friday 10th October

Take part with thousands of schools, communities and companies wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health.

Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and they are feeling the pressure. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone. Things can get better.

The children may choose to come into school in non-school uniform, wearing something yellow or maybe a whole yellow outfit! 😊 In the afternoon, we will organise workshops for the children to take part in.



A polite reminder





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Attendance Reminder

The attendance cup will be awarded to the year group with the highest attendance for Autumn 1. I know some children have been poorly, which is absolutely understandable. However, please support us by not booking holidays or days out in term time. You can track your own child's attendance through the Arbor app – please have a look and see which category your child would fall into.

EVERY DAY IN SCHOOL COUNTS!					
	9 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence	47 days absence
	100%	95%	90%	85%	80%
	75%				
	GOOD ATTENDANCE		WORRYING	SERIOUS CONCERN	

PTA News

It was lovely to see some new faces at our meeting last night! Please do keep an eye out for our next meeting in November - this one will be held in the afternoon at the school before pick up. We hope this means families who can't make an evening meeting have the opportunity to come along too!

Upcoming dates to remember! Our doughnut sale will be taking place after school on the 20th October - a big thank you to Linda Austin and Morrisons in Blandford for supplying and supporting this event. Our spooky Halloween disco will be Wednesday 22nd October, £1 entry and don't forget some money for a glow stick and treat bags!

We have a date for our big Christmas raffle - 12th December and this will be held in the school hall at 2.30pm with refreshments for sale. If any of our families have raffle donation ideas, please grab a committee member and let them know!





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Outdoor Play Equipment



Do you have an outdoor playhouse in your garden that is no longer needed?

Jungle Class would love to make use of any that are in good condition for their outdoor play area.

Would you like to sponsor our girls' football team?

We are looking for a sponsor for our girls' football team. They need a new kit and our P.E budget is stretched rather thin! Please do pass this on to any local businesses you think may be interested.

Fish tank or similar

We are looking for a large fish tank/terrarium for our school. If you have one you would be willing to donate, please contact the office.

Kindest regards,

Mr Wright - Head of School
(Monday-Thursday)

Mrs Vail - Head of School (Friday)

Free Parent/Carer session:
'An Introduction to Autism'

What is the session about?
The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.
It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and the impact it can have on children/young people
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children.

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

Who can attend?
Any parents / carers who:

- Have an autistic child
- Have a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- Are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?
The Vale Family Hub
22B Butts Pond, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1AZ
Friday the 14th of November 2025 - 9:45am until 11:15am
To book a place, please scan this QR code or click on this Link to Register

Sturminster-Newton An Introduction to Autism - Parent/Carer Autism training

