



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



Dates for diaries:

Monday 20th April 9 – 9.40am Music Concert with RockSteady Music School – parents welcome

Tuesday 28th April – Friday 1st May – Scholastics Book Fair

Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May Year 6 SATs Week

Summer 2:

Monday 29th June – Sports Day 9.30am start / 1.30pm finish

Wednesday 1st July – Back Up Sports Day (if weather poor on Monday)



Rock and Pop Band Lessons with Rocksteady

On **MONDAY 20th April** please join us if you can at **9.00am - 9.40am** for a music concert with Rocksteady Music School who are going to be delivering fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons, right here at Shillingstone Primary School!

'Rocksteady' are currently working with other local schools including William Barnes, Pimperne, Spetisbury and Sixpenny Handley. We have heard fantastic things about the band sessions that they provide and are delighted to be welcoming them into our school.

These weekly music lessons will take place in school on **Thursday afternoons starting on May 7th** and will be led by a professional musician who makes learning music fun. It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to amplify confidence, wellbeing and social skills.

Here's what else you need to know:

- There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.
- Watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come.
- Children learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills, whilst playing songs they love.
- Children can achieve an Ofqual-regulated Music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London, without having to take a single exam.
- You'll receive regular progress updates, including photos and videos.





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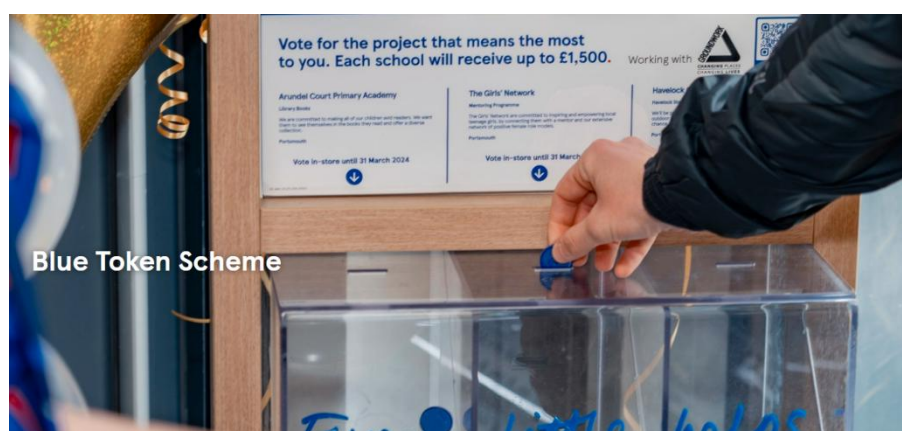
There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Information about lessons will be distributed on our launch day after the concert on MONDAY 20th April.

We really hope that you can join us. If not please ask your children about the concert and workshop that they will have taken part in and look out for the flyer that they will be taking home with them.

Many thanks for your support with this new musical opportunity for our children.
Maria Higgs (Music Lead)

Please vote for our school at Tesco!



From the 28th April, our school will be one of the options to vote for with your blue tokens at Tesco, Blandford. We would love to buy some more bikes and trikes for the children to use at playtimes, they cost between £300 and £600 per bike. If we get the most votes, we will be given £1,500 which would be amazing! Please support us!

Mr Wright climbs a mountain, or 3

Watch my video by clicking on the link: [Andy Wright Challenge.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

This year, I'm taking on the UK Three Peaks Challenge – climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon – to raise money for our wonderful school.

As a school, we know how much our children benefit from trips, outdoor learning, and new experiences beyond the classroom. These opportunities build confidence, resilience and unforgettable memories. However, the rising cost of transport means that hiring buses for school trips has become increasingly expensive.

Every penny raised from this challenge will go directly towards funding buses for school trips, outdoor activities and forest school, helping ensure all of our children can access enriching experiences, regardless of circumstance.

If you are able to sponsor me – whether it's the cost of a coffee or something more – your support will make a real difference to our pupils.





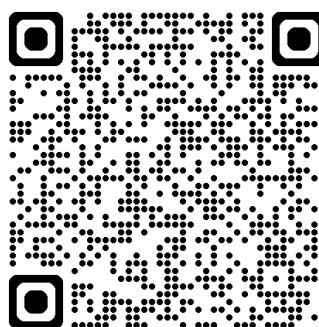
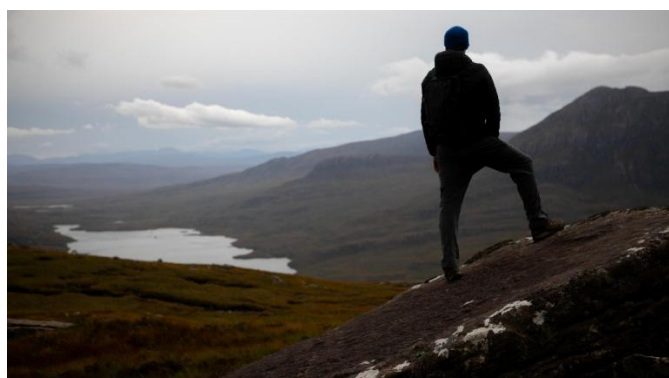
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Thank you for cheering me on as I take on the peaks!

Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, I will withdraw funds directly. It's the most efficient way to donate and saves time and costs.



https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/andrew-wright-238?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL

Frogspawn!

Our Jungle class are looking for a bit of frogspawn. If you may have any available, could you please contact the class team or the office.

Classes for next year

At this point in our school year, we begin to look to the future, to plan for our next academic year. We had previously planned to change our school structure and have a stand-alone Reception class, however, due to a low birth year and a smaller intake in September, we will keep the structure as it stands for another year.

The classes for 2026/27 will be:

Jungle Class: Reception and Year 1- Mrs Bray and Mrs Panther

Woodland Class: Year 2 and Year 3 - Mr Harris

Ocean Class: Year 4 and Year 5 - Mrs McCall and Mrs Higgs

Desert Class: Year 6 - Mrs Vail and Mrs Higgs





Scholastics Book Fair

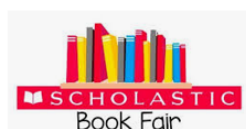
We are looking forward to welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair from 28th April to 5th May and in preparation we are launching a Reading Bingo! Children should have come home with a bingo sheet this week, please could you encourage them to have a go at ticking off as many challenges as they can between now and the 27th April. Completed bingo forms should be returned to Mrs McCall, clearly named. Winners from each class will receive a gift certificate to spend at the book fair. Please speak to Mrs McCall or your class teacher if you have any questions.

Reading Bingo!

Your challenge is to complete as many challenges as you can between now and the 27th of April please return your completed bingo page to Mrs McCall by Monday 27th April. £5 voucher to spend at our Scholastic book fayre for each class winner!

Please ask a grown up to verify your challenges by signing each box and colour in a challenge when it is completed – you can provide photographic evidence if you wish, but this is not compulsory. You may also wish to keep a diary of all the challenges you have completed!

Read a poem out loud with expression.	Read a book in a funny place.	Read for 15 minutes outside.	Read to a family member.
Build a reading den and read for 10 minutes.	Read a non-fiction book about a subject of your choice.	Read a graphic novel or a comic book.	Read a book under the duvet by torchlight.
BINGO!			
Read a chapter to a pet or a stuffed animal.	Read a book you think is too easy for you.	Read a book about an animal.	Read a book with a friend, alternating sentences.
Read an article in a magazine.	Read a book about an athlete.	Read to a baby or a younger child.	Read to an older person.



Name: _____

Parents signature _____





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Children's coaching at Shillingstone Tennis Club

Mondays starting 20th April 3.45pm -4.30pm

5 week course for children aged approximately 5-8 years old

Cost £35

Wednesdays starting 22nd April 3.45pm - 4.30pm

5 week course for children aged 8-12 years old

Cost £35

Visit Shillingstone Tennis Club website for the link to Southside Tennis

<https://southsidetennis.com/shillingstone/>

After School Clubs - Summer 1



To book Athletics club with TCW Sports, click on the links:

All 6 sessions booking = £27:

[Shillingstone Athletics ALL TERM | TCW Sports](#)

Per session booking:

[Shillingstone Athletics PER SESSION - TCW Sports](#)

Summer Term Music lessons

1:1 music lessons in Piano / Keyboard, Guitar and Recorder with Mrs Cooper BA. PGCE. LTCL. MISM.

Practical music lessons are offered developing skills in playing technique, reading music notation, improvisation, composing, music theory and aural skills.

When teaching, Mrs Cooper can demonstrate and accompany a pupil to maintain an enjoyable, creative and enriching musical experience during each half hour lesson.

If interested in further information, please contact Mrs cooper at music.teacher@keebo.co.uk.





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Community

Longmead Community
Farm

April 2026 Newsletter



Longmead Community Farm

Strengthening and Supporting Families

A warm welcome from the Longmead team

A big hello from everyone here at Longmead Community Farm – Karen (Chief Operating Officer), Lisa (Community Programme Lead) and Sharon (Family Programme & Safeguarding Manager).

Spring has arrived and the farm is feeling brighter and busier by the day. We're pleased to share a short update on what's been happening recently and what's coming up, and to thank you for being part of the Longmead community.

We've been working hard across the site – on the farm, in the woodland and in the Art Barn – preparing for an active and productive season ahead.

Welcome to a New Team Member

We're delighted to welcome Tamara Loakes to the Longmead team as our new Nature Wellbeing Facilitator.

Tamara will be delivering nature-based wellbeing activities across the farm and woodland, helping to create calm, nurturing outdoor experiences for children, young people and families. We're really pleased to have her on board and look forward to sharing more about the activities she'll be leading over the coming months.

Farm Highlights

- Music workshops – We've now run music workshops, all of which have been popular. Due to demand, we're additional sessions in the coming watch this space.



three
been very
planning
weeks –

- Kitchen Garden transformation – progress has been made clearing old slabs and weeds to make way for new planting beds, fencing, a greenhouse and cold frames. These improvements will allow us to grow fruit and vegetables throughout the year.

Some of the instruments
we played..

► Harp, guitar, drums and keyboard

Fantastic
fencing,

Family Programme News

- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) – We're running three HAF sessions over Easter, all of which filled quickly and required waiting lists. This highlights the demand for calm, supportive holiday provision, and we hope to offer more sessions in future.
- Listening sessions for young people (ages 8–24) – We're listening sessions in our welcoming therapy room, delivered by based at the farm. Parents are welcome to wait on site. £5



offering 45-minute
a trainee counsellor
donation per session.





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Upcoming Events & Opportunities

- Volunteering at Longmead – Opportunities include gardening, housekeeping, supporting children's activities and helping with family programmes. For more information, contact Lisa at Lisa.Gravett@longmead.org.
- Fundraising – Tesco Blue Tokens – Please look out for Longmead Community Farm when shopping at Tesco Blandford and choose us with your blue token at the exit to support our work.

Volunteer & Community Spotlight

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who give their time and energy so generously. From preparing the kitchen garden for the growing season to supporting activities on site, your help makes a real difference to everyone who visits Longmead.

How You Can Get Involved

- Volunteer with us
- Share and engage with our Facebook posts
- Spread the word about Longmead to friends and colleagues

Contact Details

Longmead Community Farm
Milborne St Andrew, Dorset
Tel: 01258 837960

Family programme enquiries: Sharon.sibley@longmead.org
All other enquiries: admin@longmead.org



Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming many of you back to the farm over the coming months.

Warm wishes,
The Longmead Community Farm Team

Mini Marathon

Today the children completed the mini marathon, they had a lot of fun and were very supportive with each other, cheering each other on, we even had Riley our therapy dog joining in. Please can we have sponsor forms and money in next week, pictures will be updated to our website soon but here are a few.





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SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

May 2026 Holiday Club

26th-29th May

Open from
8:15am-
5:15pm

Sunbeams
Shillingstone

01258 863523
shill@sunbeamsdaycare.co.uk

BOOK A SESSION

Slime making
SUNBEAM SCIENTISTS
PIZZA PARTY
BOAT RACE

Previous attachment

THIS SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

Stourpaine Village Hall • 8:15-10:00am • Ages 7-12

More Than Just Cycling & Running!

- ✓ Build Confidence
- ✓ Solve Problems & Make Decisions
- ✓ Adapt & Be Resilient
- ✓ Learn Through Doing

FUN • ACTIVE • NO PRESSURE!

Spaces Available - Book Now!

bit.ly/Tri-Du-Tasters-2026

Instagram: @dorset_junior_triathlon_hub
Facebook: /tracycooksportstherapy

#ActiveKids #ResilientKids #TrySomethingNew

TOUR DE FUN 2026

SATURDAYS
April 4th, 11th, 18th 25th
May 2nd

STARTING AT 8:15 -10AM

Stourpaine Village Hall,
Blandford DT118TJ

7-12 Years

REGISTRATION 07834194872

<https://bit.ly/Tour-de-Fun-Taster>





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Kindest regards,

Mr Wright - Head of School (Monday-Thursday) & Mrs Vail - Head of School (Friday).

