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**BA NEWS SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Getting to know you...**



**School development aims 2021-22**

This year we will be working on:

**English:** Improving standards in speaking and listening, spelling, handwriting, writing and reading across the school with targeted groups of pupils

**EYFS:** Implementing the new Early Years Curriculum Framework

**Curriculum:** Continuing to review and refine our curriculum offer to ensure learning in all subjects is progressive, ambitious and equitable and developing our pupils' understanding of sustainability through participation in the Better Planet Project

**Other key initiatives are:**

**Safeguarding:** To maintain a high standard of safeguarding and continue to develop provision to support pupils' and staff's emotional health in the wake of the Covid19 crisis

**SIAMS:** Maintain the distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Mary's as an outstanding Church School

**SAST:** Develop more effective school to school partnerships with our SAST partner schools in order to access high quality professional development and additional learning opportunities for our pupils

Our new pupils are settling in well into school life and are now full time. The Government have introduced a new Early Years Curriculum framework this year which is currently being implemented by EYFS staff.

It was lovely to see parents attending the class welcome meetings teachers held this week. This was a valuable time for you to meet staff and ask any questions you might have at the start of the year as well as learning about expectations and class routines.

Friday sharing sessions will start on 24th September. This is a chance for your child to share a piece of work with you of which they are most proud. Please note this is **not** a time to discuss your child's work with the teacher. Sessions will finish promptly on the bell so please be mindful of this as the gates will be locked soon after.

We look forward to seeing you all at parent/teacher meetings next month. Letter to follow in early October.

### Staffing news

We welcome Miss Maisie Parker, our new sports apprentice who will be developing her role leading PE across the school over the next 24 months.

We also welcome Mrs Sarah Williams who is supporting learning in our Year 6 class as well as supervising Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils at lunchtime. They are both fantastic additions to our team.

### Curriculum Enrichment—making learning meaningful and relevant

#### Fitness

This year, the school will be continuing with the Golden Mile initiative. The Golden Mile is a safe, simple and measurable health & physical activity initiative and an all year round one whereby Pupils and Staff can get involved. We simply walk, jog or run around our Golden Mile track within the safety of our school grounds and then upload the number of laps our pupil's achieve. Physical activity brings all sorts of benefits, such as confidence and stronger self-esteem, more energy, better memory, and simply a good feeling about ourselves. We hope again to see all sorts of improvements over the year.

We have also reinstated wake and shake—our morning dance session—twice weekly.

#### Life Education

We welcomed the Life Education team back to school last week. The Life Education staff deliver age appropriate sessions on health and safety, making wise choices and developing good self esteem. The children really love these sessions; they form an important part of our Personal, Social, Emotional and Health curriculum.

To find out more, visit: <http://lifeeducationwessex.org.uk/>

#### The Dogs' Trust

As part of our work on having a school dog, all the children will have had or will be having a virtual session with Helen from the Dogs' Trust. These sessions teach about how to behave safely around dogs which is an important life lesson. You may see Prince, our school dog, around the school from time to time as he continues to develop his confidence in the school environment.

#### Orchard Gym

We have used some of our sports funding to send Key Stage 2 pupils to Orchard Gym in Yeovil again this term. This is an amazing provision which builds on the basic curriculum entitlement the children receive in school.

#### Christian Values

This half term's value is Generosity. We are learning how we can be generous with our time, talents and skills.

#### Music

Our Year 4 pupils will be learning the Ukulele this term under the tuition of Dorset Music Service.



## Other news items

### Autumn uniform

Winter uniform (collared shirt with a tie and not polo shirts, skirt, pinafore or trousers) must be worn after the half term break please. We are very proud of how smart our children look and ask for your support with this. If we look good we feel good.

Large hair accessories are inappropriate for school. Please remember that long hair needs to be tied back for hygiene and safety reasons with a small hairband or ribbon.

Please make sure the children bring their coats with them every day when the weather gets colder as we like to get them outside in the fresh air even in the rain!

### Environment

The carpets in Underdown Hollow and Churchwell classes were replaced over the summer.

A new interactive TV has been installed in the potting shed (our intervention room) to make this space a more productive space for learning.

New sports court—planning permission has been submitted to Dorset Local Authority. We very much hope to be able to progress this project before Christmas.

### Covid19

Please remember that children must stay at home if they have Covid19 symptoms and you should book a PCR test. If a member of the household tests positive, then parents are **strongly advised** to get a PCR test for children before they come back to school as it may be likely that they too could be positive. If a parent refuses to get a PCR test for their child then the Headteacher does have the right to refuse the child's entry to school if other data suggests they might be positive, i.e. other cases in a class, etc.

### Future dates:

29th September at 7pm (TBC): PTA AGM in school hall—all parents welcome

8th October at 1.30pm: Governors' meeting

15th October at 9.30am: Harvest festival in church—all parents and villagers welcome

19th, 20th, 21st October at 3.30-5pm: Parent/teacher meetings

Half term: 25th—29th October inclusive

16th December at 9.30am: School carol service in church – all parents and villagers welcome

16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm: Carols around the tree in the school hall – all parents and villagers welcome

Break up 16th December 2021.

17th December: INSET day

### Final thoughts...

It's been a flying start to the year and the school feels a-buzz with activity which is so lovely. Please do keep checking Google Classroom and the website for information.

Thank you for your efforts in getting your children to school on time and before the bell. This is really key to a positive start to the day.

If you have any worries or concerns going forward, please share them with us so we can work together to solve them. We are here to help.

Kind regards

Miss Emma Grunnill

Headteacher

### We have three golden rules:

Listen to instructions

Keep hands and feet to yourself

Respect everyone and everything

The roots to grow, the wings to fly.

