



Headteacher:
Mr Wheeler

*“Shine like stars in the sky as you hold on to the word of life”
(Philippians 2:15)*

Friday 24th
March 2023

Evening all,

Another busy week towards the end of a very busy and productive term. Firstly, I sincerely hope that you have all valued and benefitted from the recent parents evenings. All the feedback I have received has been positive and I'm sure you don't need me to tell you how important the strong relationship is between home and school; so thank you for continuing to engage with us. I also want to say a huge thank you for the hard work of our new parent reading volunteer group who will be joining us on Tuesdays. They got off to a flying start this week and we are enormously grateful for their support which means that not only do the children continue to have regular opportunities to change their 'love of reading' books, but also receive an additional opportunity to read with an adult 1-to-1.



Author Visit and Book Signing: Wednesday 29th March

We cannot wait to meet author **Keith Hatton** in school next week. Mrs Woolnough and I have made a short video containing all the details: just [click here!](#) You will also find a letter explaining his purchasing and signing offer attached to this newsletter if you and your children wish to partake. You can also check out his website for more information: www.gingercattales.com

Music and Extra Curricular Opportunities

It was absolutely wonderful to welcome so many Stags supporters in for their Samba performance this week. Mr Whitmarsh from Dorset Music Service has run yet another incredible 10 week unit for the children that came to an end on Tuesday. The children have valued the experience so much and learned a great deal about the technicalities of how to create music; not to mention the teamwork skills it takes to collaborate and perform as one large band. Offering a broad and balanced curriculum to our pupils is so important and our work with Dorset Music Service is a key part of that.



It has also been great to see James Longcake and Steph Martin-Papp's small group / individual music lessons becoming so popular. I am delighted about the growth of this kind of provision in addition to the sporting and creative clubs on offer. We are seeing so many children broadening their interests and maximising these extra-curricular opportunities - which is a crucial element of their personal development. Hopefully there are further opportunities to represent the school in the pipeline too, as I'm working on a potentially very exciting sporting partnership with Dumpton.



Comic Relief and Courageous Advocacy

One of the things we encourage and develop as a church school is courageous advocacy among our staff and pupils (the championing of a cause which is special to that person). In the feedback from our SIAMS inspection earlier in the year we were encouraged to enable the children to take more ownership of what causes to pursue, which is why the Comic Relief event was such a perfect one for us to utilise. Watching and listening



to the children tell their peers and the staff all about their 'best idea ever', and how it solved a problem they were passionate about, was joyous. The passion with which they spoke for helping others or the environment; and the creativity that they had shown in designing and building their ideas blew us away. To my mind it was courageous advocacy in its truest form and I was so impressed by the children's maturity too - they all seemed about a foot taller and 5 years older in that moment.

This was then followed up with another example of pupils championing a cause that is important to them. Our Eco

Ninja team spent a lunchtime working together out on Pamphill Green as part of the Great British Spring Clean. We're so lucky to be in such a beautiful, clean area but the children were still able to fill a bin bag with plastic waste to help our local environment - well done to Mrs Legge and the Eco-Ninjas, you made a big difference.



Easter, Worship and Perseverance



Through worship, we have continued our work around having **the courage to persevere** so that we can **shine like stars**. In the build up to Easter we are now focussing more specifically on the end of Jesus' life and Holy Week. We have also welcomed 'Captain Kev' who is based out of St. John's Church in Wimborne to tell the story of Jesus's perseverance when resisting temptation in the desert, and how that links with lent for Christians today.

In addition to Kev's visit, we will also be joined by the Open the Book team next week to tell 'John's story' before welcoming all who can join us in our Easter service at St Stephen's from 2pm on Thursday 23rd March. This will be followed by the easter bonnet parade. After last year's incredible showing I can't wait to see what arrives next week.

And finally, check out the Stour and Avon Magazine to see the article about Lego club's recent achievements (p4).

Have a great weekend!

Mr Wheeler

Upcoming School /PTFA Events

Wednesday 29th March: Author visit and book signing (see the video link above and the attached letter)

Thursday 30th March: Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Service @ St. Stephens (poster above)

Friday 5th May: Coronation event during school hours TBA

Saturday 6th May: Sponsored Bluebell Walk (TBC due to clash with the King Charles' coronation)

May: KS1 assessment period (Year 2 SATS)

w/b 12th June: KS1 phonics screening (mostly Year 1 Pupils)

A message from Reverend Suzie...

New life

What does new life mean to you? Blossoming flowers? A baby being born? Little lambs bouncing in the fields?... New life to Christians is central to who we are. We are a people of new beginnings, forgiven by God and because of this we experience a new kind of life as a result – we are released from things/the past/others and able to move forwards. And it doesn't stop there... because we are forgiven, we are asked to also forgive others. Forgiveness is hard but possible (especially with God's help). Whether you are a Christian or not may you be blessed this Easter and may it be a time of forgiveness and new starts for us all.

