

— Spring 2 2025 —

# Newsletter

*A newsletter contributed to by the staff and children of  
Witchampton and Pamphill First Schools*



*Enjoying a walk in the spring sunshine in Pamphill woods.*

## **INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:**

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School Improvement Plan-  
School Readiness

Highlights and  
achievements

## **Message from Mrs Staddon**

Dear Families,

Spring has truly blossomed, and it's been a joy to witness the children embracing the sunshine, even amidst the lingering chill. Their enthusiasm for playing on the green areas more, is a testament to their boundless energy!

The spring term has been remarkably productive, and despite the occasional bouts of illness, we've navigated it with resilience. I hope you found the parent consultation meetings insightful, gaining a clear understanding of your child's progress through our discussions and their work showcased in their books. I personally found it incredibly rewarding to see the children's focused engagement and pride as they shared their accomplishments with you. We value your feedback on the new "Parent Consultation" document and welcome your thoughts on how we can continue to refine this process.

We've also been encouraging the children to establish positive morning routines, particularly the simple act of making their beds. It's been heartening to hear how many have embraced this practice, whether it was already part of their routine or a new endeavour. Your continued support in reinforcing this at home is greatly appreciated.

# Message from Mrs Staddon

Our recent assembly on morning routines highlighted the importance of setting a positive tone for the day, and we were surprised by how many children immediately turn to screens upon waking, but it was lovely to hear about the more usual morning routines.

This term has been brimming with enriching experiences: trips, bedtime stories, gingerbread men activities, Red Nose Day, Mother's Day celebrations, Fresh Air Club adventures, an Easter Egg Hunt, the Easter Experience, and our beautiful Easter Service, to name just a few! We are always looking for ways to enhance these experiences. If you have any suggestions for future enrichment activities, please let us know.

We are proud of our consistently high attendance rates across both schools and deeply appreciate your unwavering commitment to ensuring your children arrive at school on time. We understand that life can sometimes present challenges, and we recognize the effort you make to overcome them. Punctuality is crucial, as the first part of the day sets the foundation for learning, including vital support and pre-teaching that can be missed by late arrivals. Even a few minutes of lateness accumulate over time, impacting your child's overall learning experience.

We were deeply moved by Mr. Collins's presentation from The Emily Collins Foundation, where he shared his daughter's dream of building a school for children in Uganda. The children were captivated and compassionate, expressing concern about the lack of resources and safety measures, particularly the absence of a fire alarm due to unreliable electricity. We are eager to foster a meaningful connection between our schools and the children in Uganda, sharing stories, work, and videos to build understanding and empathy. The children have also expressed a desire to sponsor a child, a project we will explore further in the future. The Pamphill children were thrilled to see their contribution to the Ugandan playground being enjoyed.

It's inspiring to see our children's genuine concern for global issues, such as climate change, and their desire to make a positive impact. We commend their enthusiasm and commitment to creating a better world.

We also want to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of several children, which are highlighted in this newsletter.

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for September with Mrs. Fairman and look forward to building a strong foundation for the new academic year.

With a mix of sadness and gratitude, we bid farewell to Mrs. Giles. Her dedication and warmth have touched the lives of countless children and families at Witchampton School. Her kindness and humour will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. We hope she will visit us again soon!

As we look forward to the summer term, we will continue to cultivate a learning environment characterised by high expectations for behavior and academic achievement, where respect and personal best are paramount.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy a relaxing and joyful Easter break with your loved ones.

Warmly, Mrs Staddon

# School Improvement Plan 2024-5

Mrs Staddon

## Are we School Ready?

Last week we welcomed other Early years teachers, The School Nurse and a Forest School Teacher along with some new families and their children who will be starting school this September, into our sunny garden. This was part of The Initio School Readiness Programme.

This initiative is new this year and is designed to enable us to offer more support to children and their families as they transition into school. Anyone with children starting school (not just at Pamphill!) this September who has missed the opportunity to be involved in one of these sessions please do contact me if you would like any information. If you have a child starting in September 2026 do look out for information early in the Autumn Term about this project.

Mrs Legge



## The Big School Clean Up!

We are very fortunate to have a very clean school so thanks to Wimborne war on waste we took our litter picking equipment off site and did a fab tidy in the area around school. The children collected a huge bag of rubbish that we could only just carry! Thank you to all of the children who helped and we will hope to continue this great work after the Easter holidays.



# Highlights and Achievements

Last Friday, Foxes and Owls class teamed up for a spring walk. Before we went out, Mrs Lloyd talked to the children about the birds that we might see and how we could identify them. We also thought about the different signs of spring that we would see. Once outside, the children had great fun being nature detectives, spotting spring flowers, buds growing on the trees and birds flying around us. When the lawnmower wasn't going on the green, we were also able to listen out and hear the birds singing! We had a lovely morning enjoying the first bit of spring sunshine.



Two children at Witchampton deserve special mention for their achievements this term:

Elsie did a fantastic job representing Dorset in the U10 Southwest finals. They just missed out on progressing to the next stage. What a wonderful achievement!



Austin wanted to get involved in Comic Relief and ran 30 km over the month of March, raising over £300. Witchampton children joined him for 2 km on Red Nose Day.



Lastly, we wish Mrs Giles many happy years in her retirement and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all she has done for staff, children and families of Witchampton School. She was given the royal treatment today!