

The wet days of December have now arrived...and the final weeks of the Autumn term approach with the excitement of different events in school and holidays ahead. As I reflect upon the term and again the wealth of different experiences shared by children and the school community, I wish to extend my thanks to the care and commitment of the community; from parents to Governors and to our school's own dedicated staff team. With visits from our Governor as well as Trust colleagues watching our new Kinetic Letters in action, and a Mr Howieson visit, the school continues to be a welcoming and purposeful place. I have also shown nearly 100 prospective new families around the school since the start of October and it has been evident that both the environment and focused happy children supported with care, have made very good impressions.

I know Year 1 and Year 2 families will enjoy the story telling sessions in classes when they visit at the end of the term—the dates for these open classroom visits are on the weekly reminders. Nativity rehearsals for Reception are under way, and I have enjoyed lovely singing and clear speaking, and already enjoyed my first dance with the children. Wonderful dress rehearsals are happening, with Year 1 and Year 2 being excellent audiences — before their performances to families throughout the week.

The Winter Bazaar and the grand finale —the Treehouse Pantomime (Alice in Wonderland) are other exciting end of term events in school for the children. A bit of storytelling fun for all and we thank the PFA for funding this. Our PFA are super busy behind the scenes, as many of you may know, planning fundraising activities with the intent to support the school in order to offer exciting memories for your children. Can we say thank you for the wonderful toy donations from our community. I look forward to seeing many of you celebrating this festive season next week after school with Carols and the Band... as well as a few additional surprises.

I end by saying how proud I am of all the children and all that they share with us—their thinking, saying and doing never fails to make my day. Eco Leads, School Councillors, individuals and groups of children shine with their respectful and caring actions. I have one more brief letter to write to end the term with...for now, as ever, I will continue to practice my Twelve Days of Christmas actions—to mark the end of 2025 with some singing and laughter.

Enjoy all the moments we have shared in this newsletter.



Mrs T. Edwards .



OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL



Meet our School Council

2025—2026

**Adrienne, Benjamin, Ezra, Freya, Gagandeep,
Lorin, Toby, Tommy**

Their job is to listen to their classmates and let us know what is important to our children in school. They work with Mrs Mansell at their School Council meetings.



ODD SOCKS DAY



Be the Power for Good!

On the 10th November we took part in **Odd Socks Day 2025**. We celebrated kindness, inclusion, and individuality — reminding everyone that it's our differences that make us special.



This year's theme, '**Be the Power for Good**', encouraged everyone to use their voice, show kindness, and stand up for what's right to make sure that everyone feels happy and safe.

By wearing our odd socks, we showed that being unique is something to celebrate — and together, we make our school a special place where respect and friendship shine every day.





POPPY SELLING for REMEMBRANCE



Thank you so much for all of your donations for poppies this year. Our School Council Team was very busy visiting all of the classrooms. By Remembrance Day there were no shiny poppies left and only a few paper poppies, and the collecting tin was full to the very top!



Our wonderful poppy sellers collected so many donations from you—thank you!

£277.76



CHILDREN IN NEED

WOW!

All of our children looked so jolly in their yellow, spots and colours for Children in Need day.



We raised an amazing amount of money on our Just Giving page, which will make a difference to the wonderful work that Children in Need supports.

Thank you.



Children
in Need

£468



Kinetic Letters



Did you know you can practice Kinetic Letters at home?

Our children are enjoying developing their handwriting with Kinetic Letters in school.

It may be that your child finds one of the Kinetic Letter 'families' trickier than others. Don't worry! You can easily help them at home with some letter practice that is fun and clear.

We now have a bookcase in the main entrance of school with copies of all of the letters for your children to practice at home if they would like to.

Just find the letter they would like to practice and take a copy home

Mrs Wills— English Lead.





It has been lovely to hear and see so many children across Years 1 and 2 enthusiastically talking about their progress in NumBots! As a teaching team, we can track how many children are playing NumBots and for how



long. For children engaging with NumBots regularly we are noticing a difference in their automatic recall of key mathematical facts!

We thought we would share the current classes with the most active NumBots users across Key Stage 1:

- **Year 1:** Badgers class are the most active, with 74% of the children playing over the last 30 days.

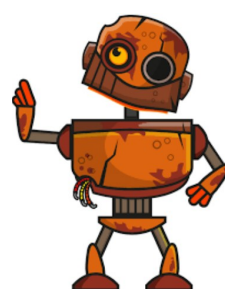
Year 2: Grasshoppers are the most active, with 83% of the children playing over the last 30 days.

As a Key Stage, the children have been playing for a combined 310 minutes or 5.16 hours!

If you have misplaced your child's login details, please speak to your class teacher so we can get you back playing as quickly as possible. If



you are unable to access NumBots on a device at home, please let us know so we can help in school. Thank you for supporting maths at home!



Mr Spokes—Maths Lead

LEARNING ABOUT DIWALI

Year 2 and Reception would like to say massive thank you to Bhargav and Zayd's mums for coming in to tell the children all about Diwali.

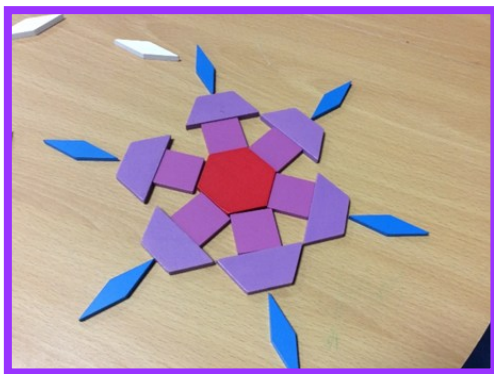
They learnt all about the celebrations and customs linked to this festival



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The children loved hearing the story of Rama and Sita, listening to music and they even did some dancing!



In Reception they also made Rangoli patterns using different shapes.

What a lovely opportunity for us all to celebrate the wonderful diversity within our community.





Street Dance with BEAT...

This half term, our Year 1 children have been having an amazing time learning Street Dance with *BEAT*, our local street dance company. The sessions have been full of energy, fun and lots of fantastic Hip Hop moves!



The children have been introduced to classic Hip Hop foundations such as the **Smurf**, **Prep**, **Alf**, and the all-important bounce and groove that bring Street Dance to life. They have also enjoyed learning the **Lockers Handshake**, trying out some **Poppin'**, and even having a go at the iconic **Robot**



At BEAT, the two big C's are *cool* and *confident*, and it has been wonderful to see these qualities grow in our Year 1s. **Funky Walks** and **Follow the Leader** have been huge favourites, with the children loving the chance to copy, explore and move together.

One of the highlights has been watching the children **freestyle** and express themselves through dance. Seeing some of our quieter and less confident pupils stepping forward, smiling, and dancing with confidence has been truly heart-warming.

Mrs Jackson—P.E. Lead

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH FEARS AND WORRIES

We all worry from time to time, but as children, fear and worry feels big and scary. If your child worries, you may find this webinar helpful.

PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH FEARS AND WORRIES

Is your child experience worries or fears? Are they finding it difficult to get into school, or try new things. The MHST might be able to help. This webinar is suitable for parent/carers of children up to 12.

In this 1 hour pre-recorded session will:

- explore what anxiety is
- how you can best support your young person
- practical tips you can try at home

Tuesday 9th Dec
12.00 - 12.45
Online event

[For more information and to sign up: https://bit.ly/3WTIrEU](https://bit.ly/3WTIrEU)

Always remember you can come into school and chat to your child's teacher or to Mrs Parker if you have any concerns about your child at any time.

**IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK
A LOT LIKE...**



The Parent's Friends Association Proudly Presents

QPIA's Winter Bazaar

On Thursday 11th December

QPIA's Winter Bazaar is back again this year for your children's fun and excitement.

The children love the thrill of choosing and buying preloved treasured toys kindly donated by our families.

Each class visits the Bazaar throughout the day, where supported by the PFA and school staff, the children have the freedom to spend their own money.

Please can children bring in a maximum of £1 and a named carrier bag in which to store their chosen toys.

All funds raised are supporting this year's Pantomime performance as well as enhancing our outdoor spaces with furniture including shelters.

Christmas
JUMPER DAY



Children can also wear their Christmas jumper on this day (over their normal uniform).



With thanks and best wishes from everybody on the PFA

**IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK
A LOT LIKE...**



Carols with the Band



Thursday 11th December
Doors open from 5.30pm

Family carol singing, stalls and refreshments
Be sure to wrap up warm - weather permitting
we will be singing outside

Look out for Father Christmas who will be
making a special appearance

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...



Award-winning Sports Coaching and Ofsted Registered Childcare Provider

FF Foundation Sports & Play Christmas Holidays Sports & Play Camps

Tax-free Childcare & Childcare Vouchers Accepted

Our Team

Enhanced DBS Checked, Staff on the Update Service, Qualified in Sports & Childcare, First Aid Trained & Safeguarding Children Trained. We are always putting the children's welfare first!

Activities

Our engaging programs have 3 areas of play: Sport (football, Gymnastics) Play (board games, lego, outdoor exploration) and Craft (art, masha & biscuit decorating). We have activities for every child's interests.

Venues

Stourfield Junior School, BH6 5JG
BCS Preparatory School, BH14 9JY
The Epiphany School, BH9 3PE
Castle Court School, BH21 3RF

Ages

3 - 13 years old. 3 year olds only able to book on at BCS & Castle Court.

Dates

Starting Mon 15th (Castle Court & BCS) All other venues start Mon 22nd December

Time

9.00am - 3.00pm with early drop off available from 8.00am & late pick-up times for 4.30pm & 5.30pm.



From £27.50
Per Day



Holiday Activities &
Food Programme



Ofsted Registered
Provider



Bookings & Contact

Click : www.foundation-play.com or scan the QR code to the right.
E: dorset@foundation-sports.com

IG: [efsportsandplay](https://www.instagram.com/efsportsandplay) | FB: Foundation Sports & Play Dorset
Phone: 01202 007785



SCAN ME



FROM THE OFFICE TEAM

The Late Book

If you arrive at school after the gates have been locked and enter through the main office please sign your child into school by completing the late book. We will take them to their classrooms

Medication

If your child needs to take a dose of prescribed medicine during the school day, (4 x a day only) please come to the main office where you will need to fill in a form with one of our first aiders. Please do not send medicine into school in book bags.

Please be aware that we are unable to administer Calpol to children unless prescribed as part of a medical plan.

Named Clothing

Please can all items of clothing including: School uniform, hats, coats, PE kit, lunch boxes, drink bottles etc be clearly named.

It makes it much easier to reunite them with the right person if they are lost.

Bikes and Scooters



The school cannot accept liability for bicycles and scooters left on the school grounds. The gates and bike sheds are locked during the day between 9am and 3pm, but at all other times they may be insecure and unattended, so please take bikes and scooter home at the end of each day.

Please remember bikes and scooters are not allowed in the playground unless being carried by an adult.

Second Hand Uniform

Our PFA have lots of good quality second hand uniform which can save you lots of money! Please email them on qpia.pfauniform@gmail.com

Parking Outside School

To keep children safe & healthy, please **turn your engines off** when parked on the road outside school.



ARBOR—Parent Portal

Please make sure that you have signed up for the Parent Portal.

Did you know on the Arbor Parent Portal you can:

- Check the contact details we have registered for your child
- Amend contact details
- Add dietary requirements
- See your child's attendance
- Pay for trips online
- Book Bee Happy After School Club

It is best, once you have registered via the Arbor website, to then download the App onto your phone with notifications activated, as you can also receive messages via the App.

If you need the register email re sent, please email the office on

gpia.office@coastalpartnership.co.uk

Important Information Regarding Absence Messages

If your child is unwell and going to be absent from school please telephone the school office and leave a message on the absence line.

The phone number is **01202 528805** and choose Option 1. Please leave your child's name, class and reason for absence.

You can also send an SMS via Arbor to let us know.

If no explanation for absence is received, you will be sent a text via the Arbor system. You can then either respond to this text or phone the

