



Newsletter 26.04.2024

'Live a Life of Love Just as Jesus Loved Us' Ephesians 5

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Another week has flown by!

Last Friday afternoon the Foxes visited Gulliver's Bookshop and DMW architects in Wimborne. This was as part of the 'Start Small, Dream Big' careers project we have signed up to. The children were really inspired by their visits and had some great ideas. Our hosts were really impressed by their Witchampton Ways and we would like to thank them for giving up their time to tell us about some of the jobs they could do in the future. We would also like to thank Mr Wheeler for driving the minibus!

This week we were lucky enough to work with Akulah Agbami who is currently the community resident poet at Cranborne Chase. She wrote some wonderful poems with the Badgers and Foxes and even got them dancing and moving to music. She very much enjoyed her day with us and has asked if she can return to lead a whole school assembly.

Please see the information below about Open Gardens and the Mr Gilchrist Concert. It is not too late to sign up for the concert and we would love to see as many people there as possible - it is always a very uplifting event.

Please also see the information shared by Little Owls Pre-school who are inviting us to make scarecrows to display around the village.

It is still chilly outside so children do still need to bring a named coat to school just in case.

I hope you have a lovely weekend!

With warmest wishes

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads 'J Hancock'.

Mrs Hancock

Worship Focus

This term our worship focus is Respect which is also one of our school values. We have especially thought about how respect can be shown at school.



Mr Gilchrist Concert



We have been invited to, once again, take part in a wonderful community evening of music on Friday the **10th May at 6 p.m** in the church. This is in memory of Euan and Sue Gilchrist who were much loved members of the village and contributed significantly to the life of our school.

This is a celebration of local music and musicians of all abilities are welcome to perform. Last year, many of our children performed either as part of the school choir, in a group or as soloists. It was a wonderful opportunity to show our value of courage whilst also inspiring others.

If your child would like to perform this year in any capacity or you would like to take the opportunity to perform please let the school office or Mrs Hancock or Mrs Porretta (Iola's Mum) know. We will also need to know the piece or pieces for the programme. Alternatively, if you would rather experience the concert purely as part of the audience you are very welcome.

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is able to perform either as a soloist, as part of a group or as part of the choir. The more the merrier!

Open Gardens 2024



Every 2 years the Witchampton Open Gardens takes place which is a wonderful community event. It is a unique opportunity to visit 10+ stunning gardens around the village and enjoy afternoon refreshments. The Club will be open and will provide entertainment, plus other organisations participate, including our school. All proceeds go to the Church and various village organisations, including Witchampton CofE First School.

This year this event is taking place on the weekend of the **26th and 27th May**. To enable the school to open, we will need a bank of volunteers to help 'man' the gate. If we don't have enough volunteers then we unfortunately will not be able to open which would be such a shame. Further information will be shared soon but in the meantime if you are able to help please let us know.

Fairy Doors

It is a school tradition that we decorate our grounds with fairy doors and create a 'fairy door' treasure hunt for visitors at Witchampton Open Gardens. We now have fairy doors available to purchase from the school office for £2.00. These can be decorated and returned ready to be displayed in our gardens as part of a Fairy Door trail. Visitors will be asked to judge and the winners will receive a prize. If your child would like to decorate a door but you are unable to decorate one at home there will be a Dragonflies Club session running on **7th May** to decorate them at school. Please book in and let the office know you would like your child to decorate a door.

A message from Little Owls

For our next fundraising event as a small charity we would love to get you, as the beautiful community you are, involved. Little Owls are very excited to be running a scarecrow trail as part of the open garden weekend Sunday 26th and Monday 27th May. We would love for as many people as possible to create a fun scarecrow to display in their gardens or in front of their house. Please do email Imbjewellery@hotmail.com by 1st May if this is something you'd like to participate in. If you're on the outskirts of the village but happy to make a scarecrow we would love to have some made for communal areas such as the rest and be thankful bench. We will also have trail maps available from the village shop (during their normal opening hours) from Saturday 25th May. Scarecrows to be left up until Saturday 1st June for anybody who can't make the open garden weekend!



Free school meals

A free healthy meal is available every school day to children whose parents or carers receive qualifying benefits.

Please visit the [Dorset Council Free School Meals web page](#) for more information to see if your child is eligible. This contains a quick, easy, and confidential online application form. The financial information you provide will not be seen by your child's school or teachers, and the school will only be notified if your application is approved.

Free holiday activities

If your child qualifies for benefit-related free school meals, they also get access to free activities and nutritious food in the school holidays: [Find out more](#)

Get extra funding for your child's school

Even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and already gets universal infant free school meals (UIFSM), please complete a free school meals application form if you think you might be eligible. If approved, you will gain access to free holiday activities and your school will receive extra funding (called pupil premium) to support your child's education and development: [Apply for free school meals - Dorset Council](#)

Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance at school and being on time every day. We know that this is the time of year when children are prone to illness

but we really appreciate your commitment to keeping your children at school when they are well enough and **NOT** taking holidays in school time.

Our current attendance percentage is:

This week:

Hedgehogs: 100 %

Year 1: 97.7%

Year 2: 97.1%

Year 3: 100%

Year 4: 100%

Whole school: 98.8%

Thank you and keep on going!

[Safeguarding and Online Safety](#)

Mrs Hancock is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Hancock is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in School.

If you have any serious concerns about a child, particularly if you think they may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm, please share this information promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Team. If you have a concern about a child outside of school hours please contact the following Local Authority out of hours services: Dorset ChAD - 01305 228866 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) - 01202 738256 We are an Operation Encompass school. To find out more, please follow the link [here](#)

The NSPCC provides online safety advice for parents and for children. Please click [here](#) for more information.

[Data Protection](#)

We are committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. Our Privacy Notice for parents and pupils can be found in the [Policies and Documents](#) area of our website. This privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989.

[W/C 22nd April](#)

Monday 29th April - Outdoor Explorers for reception and year 1
Dragonflies

Tuesday 30th April - Piano, guitar and ukulele lessons with Mr Longcake
Foxes cricket with Mr Hayter
Dragonflies

Wednesday 1st May - Football Club
Dragonflies

Thursday 2nd May - Singing Lessons with Mrs Hawker
Dragonflies