

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

This term might have been brief, but goodness, it's been packed with activities and progress!

We kicked off with whole-school INSET training on OPAL, an initiative that's gaining traction. Our staff, families, and community have rallied behind it, propelling the project forward in stages.

The Dorset Reading Partners have been steadfast in their support, enriching our students' reading experiences and supplementing our curriculum. Their dedication is truly invaluable.

The return of Chance to Shine Cricket and Table Cricket brought joy to our students, who always eagerly anticipate these sessions. Thanks to Nationwide staff, certain class groups received training on budget management, expanding their understanding of the financial landscape.

Our staff's commitment to NPQ training courses alongside their classroom responsibilities is commendable. Their enthusiasm ensures we'll boast the best-trained staff in the area!

The Year 3s and 4s were thrilled by the production of Peter Pan. Many thanks to Mr. Ayling and the team for making it a memorable experience.

Our younger children had a positive visit from the Dentist team, with glowing feedback on their behavior and engagement.

Crazy Creatures brought fascinating creatures to our students, who impressed with their knowledge and curiosity. Although I nearly had a close encounter with a python –thankfully avoided!

Parent consultations provided valuable insights, and I hope they were informative for all involved. Any remaining meetings will be scheduled promptly.

Easter Celebrations are underway with a plethora of activities across both schools. Our parent associations have been instrumental in organising these events and championing the OPAL program.

In the realm of education, we're diving into the Maths Mastery Programme and focusing heavily on science, led by Mrs. Cuff. Our participation in the Enthuse program entails extensive training and collaboration.

We're also hosting Autism training for our Trust First Schools on INSET, recognising the importance of continual improvement in understanding and supporting students with autism.

Wishing everyone a fantastic Easter break, filled with whatever brings you joy. We look forward to reconvening for the summer term on April 15th.

Mrs Staddon

NEWSLETTER

WRITING UPDATE

Recognising the fundamental role of writing in academic success and beyond, our writing focus encompasses several key areas:

improving handwriting, enriching content, building resilience and stamina, expanding vocabulary, honing sentence structure, and incorporating dictation practices. Here's a closer look at our approach:

1. **Handwriting Enhancement:** We believe that good handwriting is the foundation of effective writing. To this end, we will be introducing targeted handwriting exercises and workshops, tailored to various age groups, to improve legibility, speed, and comfort in writing.
2. **Content Enrichment:** Our aim is to encourage students to express their thoughts clearly and creatively. Teachers will introduce diverse writing prompts and exercises that challenge students to think critically and express their ideas cohesively.
3. **Building Resilience and Stamina:** Writing, like any skill, requires practice and perseverance. We plan to gradually increase the length and complexity of writing tasks to help students build their writing stamina and resilience, preparing them for the rigorous demands of higher education and professional life.
4. **Vocabulary Expansion:** A rich vocabulary enables precise and powerful expression. We will integrate vocabulary-building activities into our curriculum, encouraging students to explore and use new words in their writing and daily conversations.

5. **Honing Sentence Structure:** Mastery over sentence structure allows for more effective communication. Through specific exercises and feedback, we will guide students in crafting complex and varied sentences that enhance the clarity and impact of their writing.

6. **Incorporating Dictation Practices:** Dictation will be used as a tool to improve listening skills, spelling, punctuation, and the ability to construct sentences, thereby reinforcing the connection between spoken and written language.

To be as effective as possible, we warmly invite your participation and support. Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Encourage Daily Writing:** Simple daily writing practices at home, such as keeping a journal or writing letters to family members, can significantly reinforce the skills being taught at school.
- **Engage in Vocabulary-Building Activities:** Play word games, read together, and encourage conversations that introduce new words in context.

Together, let's inspire our students to write with confidence, clarity, and creativity.

Mrs Simmonds and Miss Self

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OPAL OUTDOOR PLAY & LEARNING

We have all been very excited to launch our OPAL play this half term and the children have responded amazingly well to their new playtimes!

Our schools believe that all children need opportunities to play that allow them to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment. We believe play provision should be welcoming and accessible to every child, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities.

The OPAL Primary Programme rationale is that "... better, more active and creative playtimes can mean happier and healthier children, and having happier, healthier, more active children usually results in a more positive attitude to learning in school, with more effective classroom lessons, less staff time spent resolving unnecessary behavioural problems, fewer playtime accidents, happier staff and a healthier attitude to life."

Our children now have access to small world play on the playground and more PE equipment being accessed at play and lunch times. After Easter, we will be 'opening' our school field so children can access this every day of the week and in ALL weathers. We are also hoping to start playing music, onto the playground, for those children who want to dance and express themselves.

We thank you for your continued support and donations to help with this new way of working. We can already see the benefits OPAL is having on our children.

Mrs Dawson

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FOREST SCHOOL

As you are aware at the end of this term Jess Elvin, our Forest School teacher, will be leaving us. We are unable to offer exactly the same Forest School session as our staff are not 'Forest school' trained, however, our new, chosen way of working is now called **'Outdoor Learning'**. This approach will give our children more opportunity to experience their curriculum 'outdoors' and means they will learn in our woodland environment as and when the curriculum lends itself to being outside.

Class teachers will now run 'outdoor learning' when it is their class's half term, following on from what Jess delivered but with more of a link to our curriculum. Class teachers will share stories outside and facilitate play and investigative learning through the forest environment and will link part of their year group's curriculum to the outside area.

Our teachers have worked alongside Jess to learn from and create a clear progression of skills which they are keen to continue but in a new format.

We are really excited as this new way of working links brilliantly with OPAL and is going to incorporate outdoor learning at playtimes as children will have more access to our woodland area every day of the week.

Mrs Dawson

MILES FOR MOSAIC

Our schools will be fundraising for Mosaic this term, running 'Miles For Mosaic'. Mosaic are a Dorset Based charity who support children & young people who have suffered a bereavement. They offer therapy sessions and events to help families through difficult times.

The week beginning 22nd April, each class will be walking a mile a day in order to contribute to the 26 miles needed to complete this challenge. Please help our schools to support this vital service for local children by sponsoring your child at our Just Giving Page: Claire Dawson is fundraising for MOSAIC - Supporting Bereaved Children ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com)).

Thank you for your support - Mrs Dawson (Year 3 Teacher & PE Lead (Hayeswood & Colehill)).

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SCHOOL TRIPS

Badger Class enjoyed a wonderful educational visit to Marwell Zoo this half term. This was a brilliant way to bring our Biomes topic to life. We enjoyed informative talks on both adaptation and rainforests. The children loved exploring the zoo and discussing how the different animals are suited and have adapted to their habitat.

Well done Badgers!

Mr Herrington



STAFFING NEWS

Mrs Bowring, Office Manager, who works at both schools, will be leaving us at Easter but will remain working for the Trust Central team. We will be desperately sad not to have Mrs Bowring on our Office team and thank her for all she has done for our schools..

Mrs Dani Dalgarno will be joining us shortly and we look forward to welcoming her to 'The Woodhills' team.

Forest School leader, Jess Elvin will also be leaving us. She was given a special send off with cards from the children. We wish her all the best going forward. We are looking forward to reading the lovely book 'The Oak tree' you kindly gave to us.



SCHOOL TRIPS

After a somewhat swift, and somewhat soggy, yomp from our respective First Schools. The Year 3 and 4 children of 'Woodhills' arrived at St Michael's brightly decked in a variety of ill fitting high-vis jackets. As they were ushered into the building through an avenue of smiling and welcoming adults their demeanour became somewhat hesitant as thoughts of transition overpowered their excitement of the imminent musical extravaganza.

All children sat expectantly filled with a healthy dollop of awe and wonder as Mr Ayling warmly welcomed the children and proudly introduced the impending musical extravaganza. What followed was a musical tour de force that was truly impressive to both child and adult alike. For the teachers, it was a fantastic and emotional opportunity to witness a selection of their alumni metaphorically and, in some cases, literally flying in the performance. The young entertainers were inspirationally outstanding. From the stoical backstage crew through to the leading roles were professionally perfect. Plucky Pan oozed with youthful energy and the young actor who played Hook was outstandingly nefarious and is obviously destined for great things.

After being totally transfixed throughout, the lower key stage 2 children from 'Woodhills' felt thoroughly entertained and inspired. 'Will we be able to do this when we come here?' several children inquired eagerly. 'I can't wait until I come to St Michaels because that was amazing!' was a common thread running through the children who had a new found resilience with regards to their own transition.

So, thank you St Michaels! Thank you so much for this opportunity to support and nurture the emotional intelligence of our fledgling super stars.

Mr Rayner

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EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

At Colehill our topic this half term has been 'People Who Help Us'. We have been lucky enough to have visits from many people in our community which has helped bring this learning to life. We have had visits from a doctor, police officers, the dentist, and a vet. The children had the opportunity to find out about each job, ask questions and even dress up and use role play to show what we had learnt.

When learning about farmers and how they help us, we also thought about fair trade, the symbol for this and where our food is grown around the world. The children enjoyed finding the Fairtrade logo on lots of different foods, including the banana muffins that we made!



EASTER CELEBRATIONS



On Wednesday 27th March, Colehill First School went to St. Michael's Church for an Easter Service led by Vicar Suzanne. The children sang songs beautifully and shared their learning about both Easter and Spring. Year 3 shared poems and diary extracts they had written in role as Mary Magdalene. They also shared sketched, chalked pictures of the cross, while Year 4 told us about Easter around the world and how it is celebrated. A special thanks to Parent helpers who walked to the church with us and Mrs Radford and Vicar Suzanne for all their contributions to the service.

At Hayeswood, Vicar Suzanne led an assembly about Easter using the letters in EASTER to remind the children of the key messages for Christians. The children shared their own ways of celebrating this special time and had some reflection time on what this means to them.

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ECO CLUB & SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The children enjoyed Break the Rules Day (a little too much!) After we raised an astonishing £392 from 'Break the rules day', each class created a wish list of books they'd like to see in our Library. The School Council then decided on which ones to order and everyone's dreams have now come true!

The books have been delivered and will be sorted over the Easter break so they're available in our Library for children to read and take home.

Once again, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting this fundraiser.

Mrs Cuff



Evie, Juniper and Maisy represented the school at Wimborne School's council in the Town Hall where they discussed various issues including eco awareness in Wimborne town and facilities for young people. All the children present were very polite, respectful, articulate and attuned to the needs of the town. They will feedback to the school council team within school at the next meeting after Easter.

Mrs Kirby and Miss Walker

NEWSLETTER

VISION AND VALUES

Everyone Matters, Every Day Counts

Vision: A school where everyone is nurtured and empowered to be their best selves.

School Values : Respect, Reflect, Resilient

Respect	We respect ourselves, other people and the world around us
Reflect	We think about how we can make things better in how we learn and how we behave
Resilient	We keep on trying even when it is hard and know that the harder we try the better we will be.

ATTENDANCE

We really appreciate your hard work and support in ensuring the children are in school as much as they possibly can be. The school day follows a very tight schedule and even missing short amount of time or arriving late will mean your child is missing out on learning opportunities that other children will be getting.

As always, we want to work together to ensure the children can be in school .
Please do talk to us if you are having any difficulties getting your child into school.

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CHILD SAFETY

The safety and security of our children during drop-off and pick-up times remain a paramount concern for all of us.

We have observed that the areas around the school, particularly the junctions and the zigzag lines near the entrances, have been increasingly congested during these peak times. This congestion not only makes it difficult for children to safely reach the school premises but also poses a risk to their well-being.

In light of this, we kindly urge each one of you to adhere to the following guidelines to ensure the safety of all our children:

1. **Avoid Parking on Zigzag Lines:** The zigzag lines outside the school are there to provide a clear visibility zone for both children and drivers. Parking in these areas, even for a brief moment, can obscure sightlines and create potentially dangerous situations.
2. **Keep Junctions Clear:** Ensuring that junctions around the school are not blocked is crucial. This allows for the smooth flow of traffic and enables emergency vehicles to access the school without hindrance if needed.
3. **Respect Parking Regulations:** Please adhere to all posted parking regulations in and around the school. Utilise designated parking areas or spots that do not disrupt the flow of traffic or pedestrian movements.

4. **Practice Patience and Courtesy:** We understand that mornings can be rushed and afternoons hectic. However, a moment of patience and a courteous gesture can significantly enhance the safety and efficiency of our drop-off and pick-up routines while improving everyone's day!

Consider Alternative Transportation: If feasible, walking, biking, or carsharing not only alleviates congestion around the school but also contributes to a healthier environment and offers a wonderful opportunity for additional exercise and social interaction for our children. We are all in this together, striving to create a safe and nurturing environment for our children to learn and grow. Your cooperation and commitment to following these guidelines are greatly appreciated and will make a significant difference in our collective efforts to ensure the safety of our children.

Should you have any concerns, suggestions, or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We are here to support each other in every way possible.

PARENT LINE

The NHS offers a free text service for families to get advice and guidance, called Parentline 5-19. This is available for anyone with children between 5 and 19 years of age.

TEL 07312 263131

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