



Spetisbury News 25th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. With the days getting longer and the sunshine making a welcome return, there is a real sense of renewal and energy around school.

Over the break, we've been busy developing our school grounds, and it's wonderful to see the improvements already taking shape. A huge thank you to those families who have contributed their time and talents to this project—parents have designed beautiful signage and other features, while families, including grandparents, have built bird and bug boxes ready to be placed around the site. It has been a bit of a wait, but now that the work is complete, we can finally start bringing these fantastic additions into our outdoor spaces. Your support has made a real difference, and we can't wait for the children to enjoy these enhancements.

That said, there's still more we'd love to do! As the term goes on, we'll be looking for more parent volunteers to help us make further improvements—whether planting, painting, or helping with other practical jobs. If you're interested in getting involved, keep an eye out for updates in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, our teachers are busy planning an exciting programme of trips and enrichment activities to bring learning to life this term. We also had a successful recruitment week before the holiday, welcoming new staff who will further strengthen our team.

And, of course, no spring term would be complete without the much-anticipated (or slightly dreaded!) costume challenges of World Book Day and Comic Relief! Whether you love going all out or the kind who sighs at the thought of last-minute costume assembly, we promise to keep things fun and manageable for everyone. More details on these events can be found later in the newsletter.

With so much to look forward to, this half-term feels truly rejuvenating. Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we can't wait for all that lies ahead!

Mr Brown

Staffing Update

We are delighted to share some updates about our school team.

Ms. Erim has now reduced her working week to four days, and we are pleased to welcome **Laura Lavin**, who will be joining the school office team on **Wednesdays**. We also extend a warm welcome to **Vicky Boote**, who has joined our **Teaching Assistant team** and will be primarily supporting **Year 6**. Meanwhile, **Mrs. Oliver** will be spending more of her time working with **Year 3**.

We are also very pleased to have successfully appointed a new teacher for **Year 1**, who will be teaching on **Mondays and Tuesdays from after Easter**. As she relocates to the area, we are hopeful she will be able to start spending some time in school before the break. We will share more details once it has been confirmed that her current school community has been informed.

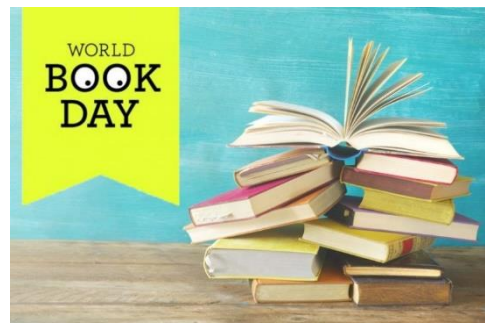
For our **Year 4 families**, you will already be aware that **Mrs. Hill** will be away from school this term. I wanted to take this opportunity to share this more widely with the school community. We are grateful to **Supply Tree**, who have found us a fantastic teacher to cover in her absence. **Mireille Harvey** will be in school from **Monday to Wednesday**, ensuring continuity for the children.

We had a **really strong response** to our recent vacancies, and shortlisting was a difficult process. However, we are thrilled with our appointments and look forward to them joining our team. Please do give them a warm welcome when you see them around school!

World Book Day – Thursday, 6th March!

Next Thursday, **7th March**, we will be celebrating **World Book Day**, and we can't wait to see the children getting into the spirit of the day!

Children are encouraged to come dressed as their **favourite book**



character, and in true creative spirit, **the more homemade, the better!** We love seeing the imaginative ways that costumes come together.

However, if the thought of costumes fills you or your child with dread, don't worry! We are also very happy for children to come to school in their **pyjamas or cosy loungewear** as if they're getting ready to curl up with a bedtime story.

Throughout the day, children will take part in **book-themed activities**, celebrating the joy of reading in fun and engaging ways. We're looking forward to a fantastic day filled with stories, imagination, and creativity!

Thank you for your support—we can't wait to see everyone's outfits! 📖👤

Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March! ❤️🐼

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Comic Relief, and to celebrate, we're embracing the theme **"Wear Something That Makes You Smile!"**

We encourage children to dress up with this theme in mind.

This could be:



A **bright and wacky outfit**



A **funny accessory** (think silly hats, oversized bow ties, or even mismatched shoes!)



A **top with a joke or something that makes you laugh**



A **costume of someone or something that brings joy**

Of course, children are also welcome to simply wear something **red** to mark the occasion!

Throughout the day, students will engage in various Comic Relief activities, including joke-telling sessions, fun challenges, and learning about the impactful causes supported by Red Nose Day. Donations are welcome and can be brought in on the day to support those in need.

Let's come together to make this Red Nose Day a memorable one, filled with laughter and generosity. Thank you for your continued support!

Parking and Road Safety 🚗🚦



We'd like to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of **parking safely and following the rules of the road** around our school site. The safety of our children is our priority, and we appreciate your support in ensuring drop-offs and pick-ups are as safe as possible.

Some parents may have noticed that the police have been made aware of **illegal or hazardous parking** around the school. While this was **not reported by the school**, we fully support efforts to keep the area

safe for children, families, and other road users. Officers have been continuing their patrols and may **take further action** if the problem persists.

Please remember:

⬠ **Do not park on the zigzag lines** outside the school – these are there to protect pedestrians.

🚚 Be mindful of **farm traffic** that needs to pass through **West End**—blocking access causes serious disruption.

🚗 **Park considerably** and avoid stopping in places that reduce visibility or create unnecessary risks.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe!

Important Update on School Communications

We wanted to inform you of an unexpected change regarding our communication system. Unfortunately, we have been notified that we will no longer have access to unlimited texting through Arbor. This came as a bit of a shock to us, and as a result, we are now in the process of adjusting our approach to ensure we continue to keep you informed effectively.

Moving forward, we will be increasing our use of email for communication. Arbor has also suggested that the Arbor App could be a useful alternative for parents, and we would like to gather your feedback on this before making any further decisions.

Please be assured that we can still receive text messages from parents; however, you may notice that our replies are either brief or not sent by text due to the costs involved. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate this change, and we will keep you updated as we explore the best solutions moving forward.

Thank you for your patience and support.



Child Protection and Safeguarding

Please remember that Mr. Brown is our Designated Safeguarding Lead at Spetisbury. If you have any concerns about a child's safety and welfare, you can talk with him. We are also pleased to share that **Miss Edmonds** has now been fully trained as a Safeguarding Lead. This means she is also available to support you, whether in Mr. Brown's absence or if you would prefer to speak with her as an alternative point of contact.

All school staff are trained in safeguarding and will always be available to support you if you need to talk. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and we are here to listen and help whenever you need us.

Free school meals and Pupil Premium

Do you know about...

free school meals

If your child qualifies for free school meals, they will have a **healthy meal every school day**, and can get:

- access to **free holiday clubs**
- **extra money for their school** towards more teachers and activities

You could save over **£450** a year!

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals or phone **01305 221090**

Pupil Premium

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, **you could get extra £££'s for your school!**

Apply for the Pupil Premium at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium

Many parents of children in Reception, Year One, and Year Two mistakenly believe their child qualifies for the Pupil Premium because they receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. However, these meals are provided to all children in these year groups, regardless of household income, and are not means-tested. As a result, we may be missing out on valuable additional funding for eligible younger children. This funding is crucial, as it helps support catch-up programs, provides assistance with uniform purchases, and covers the costs of school trips and other enriching experiences.

Have a look here: [Pupil Premium](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium)