



Spetisbury News 4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the term it has been! It's been wonderful to see all of our classes getting out and about, taking their learning beyond the classroom. The children have been bursting with excitement after their adventures—whether it was stepping back in time at the *Year 4 Roman Day*, exploring ancient crafts with Year 3 at the *Ancient Technology Centre*, or our Reception children picking pumpkins at the farm. It's been a joy to see their enthusiasm grow as they bring their experiences back into school.

Our Year 4 students also had an incredible day of singing with *iSingPOP*, filling the room with music and smiles! And of course, there was plenty of excitement (and a few brave moments!) when *The Creature Teachers* arrived with their slithery and scaly friends for Year 1 and Year 2. Watching the children engage so confidently with the animals has been a highlight for everyone!

Looking ahead, we're all eagerly preparing for our upcoming *Harvest Festival*, a special time to come together as a school community and celebrate the season of giving. And before we know it, Christmas

will be upon us—with plenty of festive fun and activities planned, it's shaping up to be a magical end to the year.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your children's learning journey. We have so much more to look forward to in the coming weeks!

Kind regards, Mr Brown

Reminder: School Photos - Tuesday, 8th October



School photos will be taken on **Tuesday, 8th October**. Please note the following:

- **No PE T-shirts** on this day. Children should wear their white polo shirts with a school jumper or cardigan.
- If your child has PE, they can wear jogging bottoms and trainers.
- **Sibling photos** will be taken from 8:30 am. Parents do not need to be present; we will ensure that all siblings, including those in Scamps, are photographed both together and individually.
- If you would like to include a non-school sibling in the photo, please bring them to school at 8:30 am.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Harvest Festival



We are pleased to announce the details for this year's **Harvest Festival on Thursday 17th October**:

- **9:30am**: Parents' Assembly - Parents are welcome to watch each class sing our harvest songs and present their harvest poem.
- **2:00pm**: Grandparents (and other elderly relatives) Harvest Tea Party

Unfortunately, due to space constraints, we cannot accommodate parents at the Tea Party. However, we would love to see you at the morning assembly! **Please look out for a text from the Office when we ask how many grandparents will be attending.**

We are also collecting **non-perishable food donations** (with at least six months left on the sell-by date) for the local food bank. Please contribute what you can to support those in need.

Mark Your Calendars: Festive Fun is Coming!

Get ready for a jolly week in December with some exciting changes to our Christmas events:

🎄 **FOSS Christmas Fair** has been moved to **Wednesday, 11th December**. Join us for an afternoon of festive fun, games, and seasonal cheer as we celebrate the season together!

👤 **Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day** will still occur on **Friday, 13th December**. Don't forget to wear your most festive and fun Christmas jumpers to help support a great cause!

Let's make it a week full of holiday spirit!

Updated Christmas Dates for Your Diary



Christmas planning is already well underway! Below are the key dates you'll want to note:

- **Friday, 6th December:** Non-Uniform Day (for Christmas Fair donations)
- **Friday, 6th December:** School Disco (Details to follow)
- **Wednesday, 11th December:** FOSS Christmas Fair with a 'special' visitor
- **Friday, 13th December:** Christmas Jumper Day (in aid of Save the Children UK)
- **Monday, 16th December:** Year 5 & Year 6 Performances at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 17th December:** Year 3 & Year 4 Performances at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm
- **Wednesday, 18th December:** Acorn Nativity at 9:30 am
- **Wednesday, 18th December:** Christmas Lunch for all children (FOSS pays for KS2 lunch)

- **Thursday, 19th December:** Year 1 & Year 2 Performances at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm
- **Friday, 20th December:** Break up for Christmas holidays

More details about these events will be shared closer to the dates, but do mark them in your calendars!

Beech Get Creative for Diwali!



Our Year 3 students have been getting into the Diwali spirit by making their very own **Diwali lamps** out of clay! These beautiful **Diyas**, traditionally used to symbolize light and joy during the festival, were carefully crafted by the children as part of their learning about different cultures and celebrations.

The students showed incredible creativity and attention to detail while shaping and decorating their clay lamps, which will surely bring a festive glow to their homes. A huge well done to Year 3 for embracing this wonderful tradition and spreading the light of Diwali throughout the school!





A Bountiful Harvest: Our School Garden Project



Last year, every class got their hands dirty and planted a variety of seeds for **fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers** as part of our school garden project. From tiny seedlings to flourishing plants, the children have nurtured their gardens through the seasons, learning about growth, patience, and sustainability along the way.

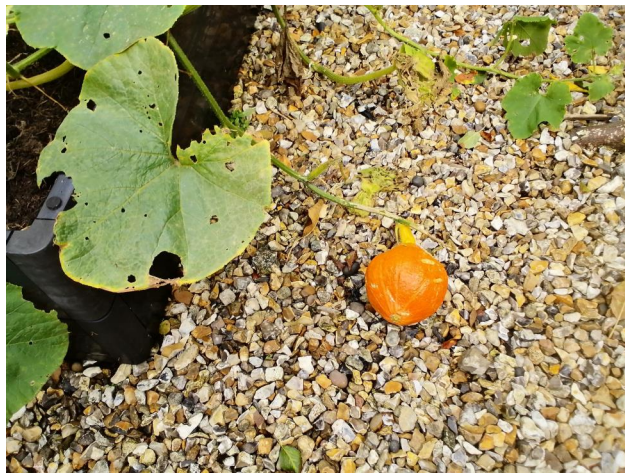
Now, it's **harvest time**! This week, **Maple Class** had the exciting task of gathering the fruits of their labour, collecting a bounty of vegetables they've grown with care. As seen in the photos, the class took great pride in harvesting a wide range of squashes, celebrating their hard work and the wonders of nature.

We can't wait to see what delicious dishes are made from their fresh produce. Well done to all the classes for their efforts throughout the year!











Slithering, Crawling, and Cuddling Fun with the Creature Teachers!



What an unforgettable day for Ash and Elm! The *Creature Teachers* paid us a visit, bringing along a whole host of amazing animals—including snakes, cuddly creatures, and some super cool insects! 🐍🐸🦋

The children were buzzing with excitement as they got up close and personal with their new animal friends. Under the guidance of two expert Creature Teachers, everyone had the chance to *gently* hold and interact with the animals—learning all about each creature’s incredible talents and why it’s important to treat them with kindness and respect. From snakes showing off their smooth scales to tiny critters displaying their super senses, it was an action-packed animal adventure!

The room was full of “oohs” and “ahhs” (and maybe a few brave squeals!) as the children explored the wild side of nature. We’re sure they couldn’t wait to tell you all about their favourite animal from the day!

We’re so grateful to The Creature Teachers for bringing this fun and educational experience to our school. What a wildly wonderful way to learn!











Clubs

Our after-school clubs are now available to book via the **Arbor Parent Portal** under Activities > Clubs. Please note the following important information:

- If a club is full, the system will not allow further bookings.

- If you need to cancel a club booking, please get in touch with Miss Erim directly. She will then free up the space for another child to join.
- A reminder for our **netballers**: Please come to school in your PE kit on Thursdays!

Uniform Reminder



This is a gentle reminder to please ensure all uniform items are clearly **named**. We are confident that this reminder is given regularly, but we continue to build up a tub of school uniforms, including brand-new school sweatshirts. School policy allows parents to claim any unnamed jumper they come across while searching for their child's lost items. Help us reduce lost property by labelling all belongings! Stick-on name labels can rub off over time, and our top tip is to regularly back these up by marking your child's name in Sharpie on the label and also on the washing label in case any marking fades.

Attendance and School Absence



If your child is going to be absent, please inform the school **before 9:30 am** to avoid an unauthorised absence. You can notify us via text, email, or by leaving a telephone message. Please note that phone messages are not always reliable, so we encourage the use of text or email whenever possible.

We also want to remind parents of the importance of good attendance. The government's target is **95% overall attendance** for the year, and consistent attendance is vital to your child's learning. We appreciate your efforts in helping us reach this goal.

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. All school staff are trained, though, and will be able to support you if you need to talk.

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](#)