

Southill Primary

# Headteacher's NEWS



Friday 19th  
January  
2024

Hello everyone. Here's one of my occasional newsletters!

### Domvs Writing Award

Mrs Wood and I were delighted to attend the awards ceremony for the Domvs writing competition, 'Story House,' this week. Two of our fabulous writers, Amelie and Lysander, had been invited to accept the congratulations of special guest Julian Fellowes at the event in Dorchester. We were told that all the stories were of a very high standard, so well done to them both! Lysander was crowned winner of the whole competition, with his story about the breakdown of a childhood friendship which, he says, could relate to other people. Brilliant stuff!

### Poppy Appeal

We have had a big 'thank you' this week from the Royal British Legion. With your help, the children of the school raised £233.67 for the poppy appeal. These funds will make a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community, so thank you to everyone for your support.

### The Big Ambition

#### A message from the Children's Commissioner for England:

"I hope everyone at Southill Primary School enjoyed the much-needed Christmas break. I just wanted to offer my thanks again for your support with my national campaign 'The Big Ambition' which will be closing soon.

I have been overwhelmed by the response the survey has received so far. More than 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers have participated, making it one of the largest surveys of its kind, but I want to give even more people the chance to have their say.

I'd like every child in England to have had an opportunity to share their views with policy makers ahead of the General Election.

By sharing my survey with your pupils and parents or carers, you can make sure that the children and young people of Weymouth are fairly represented in the results."

Children and parents or carers can complete the survey here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

### New Headteacher: update

After much hard work by the Governors, and having consulted with the children, parents and staff, the advert for the Headteacher's post has gone live this week. The ad will run for a number of weeks, during which time it is expected that potential candidates will visit the school to see us in action, something I'm sure your children will tell you about.

### Moments Matter, Attendance Counts



Both Dorset and the Department for Education have recently launched a new campaign to improve school attendance. They would like to make sure parents and carers' understand the importance of school attendance. As we regularly make the same points, we are happy to support these campaigns too.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [is my child too ill for school?](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-see-a-doctor/when-to-see-a-doctor-when-to-see-a-doctor/) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At Southill we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-

long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

Here's what we'd like you to do:

- Send your child in every day, when you feel they are well enough to do so.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

Please also see [Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty's letter on mild illness and school attendance](#) that says a prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future.

### NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child-friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities (which we have reviewed). The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. I will deliver the separate KS1 and KS2 assemblies and there will also be some follow-up work in class to discuss the key messages of the programme. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe* programme, please visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout) or get in touch with me directly.

Below are additional resources from the NSPCC that you may find useful.

<b>Additional NSPCC Resources for families to help keep children safe</b>	
<b>Parent/Carer support</b> Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers. <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents">www.nspcc.org.uk/parents</a>	<b>Activities to extend learning at home</b> Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe. <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities">www.nspcc.org.uk/activities</a>
<b>Online Safety Hub</b> For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more. <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety">www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety</a>	<b>Childline – under 12s</b> Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content. <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/buddy">www.childline.org.uk/buddy</a> (5-7) <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/kids">www.childline.org.uk/kids</a> (7-11)
<b>Talk PANTS with your children</b> Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants">www.nspcc.org.uk/pants</a> .	

That's it from me for now. Have a great weekend everyone.

Paul Mason



## Other messages for our parents and carers



**MINI ATHLETICS**

**FEB 13th - 15th**  
Tue, Wed & Thur  
9am - 3pm

**SUPERSTAR HOLIDAY CAMP**

£28 per day  
3 days for £80

MULTISPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES

For children aged 5-8 Years  
Limited spaces available  
All coaches fully trained  
DBS Checked & First Aid Qualified

St Nicholas & St Laurence Primary School  
Weymouth DT3 5DQ

westdorset@miniathletics.com 07473 286601

**BOOK NOW**



**PRIMARY FOREST SCHOOL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

**February Half Term Holiday Clubs**

Has your child ever been to a holiday activity club that keeps them active, entertained and smiling ALL day?! That's just what we offer!

Bridport, Dorset  
Burton, Christchurch, Dorset  
Radipole, Weymouth, Dorset

Dates:  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Extended Day: 08:30 - 17:30 £35  
Standard Day: 09:00 - 15:30 £25  
Siblings discount - apply SIBLINGS at the basket.

For all other enquires regarding holiday club please contact Rachel  
Email [admin@primary-forest-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@primary-forest-school.co.uk) / phone 07486562710

SCAN TO BOOK or visit [www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings](http://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings)



### Ryan Bissett's Tennis Camp

We are pleased to announce that we are going to be running a half term sports camp in February. A perfect opportunity for your child to participate in a range of sports and multi skills.

The camp will be run inside at The Wey Valley Tennis Centre at Wey Valley School and involve a mix of tennis, multi skills and some other sports. There will be coaching, individual and team skills and lots of games!

Date - Wednesday 14th February

The camp will run from 9-12pm and the session cost is £15.

The camp is aimed for children from aged 4 up to 14.

If you would like to book your son or daughter in, please email me or send me a text which includes:

Child's name

Age

Contact number

Any medical conditions we need to be aware of.

Payments can be made via bacs or cash.

[metennis@outlook.com](mailto:metennis@outlook.com)

07540625887



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