

— Summer 2 2025 —

Newsletter

*A newsletter contributed to by the staff and children of
Witchampton and Pamphill First Schools*



Summer Fair Season

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Message from Mrs Staddon

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of a wonderful year at 'The Witchills' I find myself reflecting on all the incredible moments we've shared together as a school community. It's been an absolute privilege to serve as your Headteacher this year, and I'm genuinely excited about continuing our collaborative journey together, working closely with our small schools cluster (SSC).

This time of year always brings a beautiful mix of celebration and transition. Our Year 4 children are preparing to spread their wings as they move on to their respective middle schools - what an exciting adventure awaits them! At the same time, we're warmly welcoming our new Reception intake for September. The transition events we've been running for both groups have been heartwarming to witness, watching nervous excitement transform into confident smiles and new friendships beginning to bloom.

One of the absolute highlights of our year has been the residential trip to Leeson House. This truly represents a rite of passage for our Year 4 children and serves as a wonderful celebration of their time together in school.

Message from Mrs Staddon

It was particularly special to have both schools joining together for this experience - seeing the children support one another, overcome challenges, and create memories that will last a lifetime reminded me why I love working in education.

Our Sports Days have been fantastic celebrations of determination, teamwork, and pure joy. The children's enthusiasm was infectious, and watching them cheer for one another regardless of who crossed the finish line first filled my heart. Our musical events have also been extraordinary showcases of talent and creativity, with every child having the opportunity to shine.

I'm particularly proud of how we've expanded our enrichment opportunities this year. Science Club has sparked curiosity and wonder, while Foundation Sports and Dorset 360 Coaching have offered our children a fantastic range of activities to discover new passions and develop their skills. Children at Pamphill also had the opportunity to try their hand at basketball. These experiences are so valuable in helping our children grow into well-rounded individuals. We have been successful with our application for further funding for Breakfast and After School Clubs - both offering fun learning and social experiences for the children, whilst giving you the security of knowing your children are being well looked after while you work, or just enjoy a little more time to yourself!

Speaking of growth, I want to celebrate the remarkable improvements we've seen in behaviour and learning across the school. Our children have embraced our expectations with such maturity, and their progress has been wonderful to witness.

While we're still working on enhancing our outdoor environment, we have some truly exciting plans in the pipeline that I can't wait to share with you. Music has been transformed this year thanks to Cathy and the incredible enrichment she has provided. The joy and confidence I see in our children when they're engaged in musical activities is simply magical.

We're also working on something very special - a charter for our children based around the **5 Cs: Curriculum, Community, Careers and Choices, Courageous Advocacy, and Culture**. This framework focuses on the skills and characteristics we want to nurture during their time with us, and I'm delighted that this will continue to support them as they progress through middle and upper schools. A bit more work to do and then we will be able to share with you.

I'm thrilled to share that we've finally come off the waiting list for **Canine Concern** - an wonderful agency that connects us with people and their dogs who visit school to support children's confidence and self-esteem. Whether reading to a furry friend or simply enjoying their calming presence, this initiative will provide such valuable support for our children.

Message from Mrs Staddon

We have a few changes in staffing to note. We warmly welcome **Mrs Sarah Fairman**, as Headteacher. Many of you will know Mrs Fairman from her time at the schools as SENDCo. You will have seen her at school events more recently and around school as we worked closely on ensuring a very smooth transition. We also welcome to our schools and Initio **Mrs Joannie Jones**, who is joining our SSC as SENDCo. Mrs Jones is very experienced and has recently moved to Dorset. This is fantastic news for us, as Mrs Jones will be working full time across our schools giving us more time than we have ever had previously. We would like to take the opportunity to thank **Mrs Sophie Leftwich** who stepped in to support us when we needed it and now returns to her full time role at Merley First School. A reminder that we will have **Miss Helen Self**, developing teaching and learning across the schools.

Mrs Lisa Tarchetti joins us to work across both schools who amongst other things will be covering PPA. Mrs Tarchetti comes with a huge amount of experience teaching across all ages and I know she will be an asset to our school.

Mrs Georgia Cook, joins Initio and Pamphill. She also brings a wealth of experience and has been busy in our schools teaching the children and working with staff, so many of you will already have met her.

I'd also like to welcome our new lunchtime kitchen staff, **Mrs Penny (WIT)** and **Katie (PAM)**, who have settled in beautifully. **Mrs Marie Tudor Murphy** joins us to host the breakfast Club from September, is spending time in school these last few days and planning superb experiences.

We say a sad goodbye to **Mrs Anneka Green** who has taught at both schools, and many of you will know. Mrs Green will be missed by all, but I'm sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new role.

Mrs Edwards and **Mrs Norrish**, are also moving on, both taking on very different roles within the Trust. We thank them for their dedicated service to our school community.

I must extend a massive thank you to all our volunteers - parents and friends of the school who commit their time weekly to support our children. Your generosity and dedication make such a difference to what we can achieve together.

Most importantly, I want to celebrate our fantastic children, our incredible staff, and you, our wonderful parents.

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." - Mark Twain

Sharon Staddon, Headteacher

School Improvement Plan 2024-5

Mrs Staddon



Outdoor play (EPIC)

We know that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time is the very best it can be.

Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom

Many of you will have heard me talk previously about OPAL, which we have successfully adopted at Hayeswood and Colehill, and very recently received the Platinum award

At Pamphill and Witchampton we have been busy creating our own version of this **EPIC (Explore, Play, Imagine and Create)**

Initially, we need storage. We know without properly stored, child accessible materials this project will not be successful. A big thank you to Mrs Greaves, who has been busy measuring and ordering and we now have storage arranged which should be in place early September. This includes zoning areas for extending learning outside during lesson time too.

Watch this space, some exciting EPIC play opportunities, coming our way.

2024-5 A brief review

One objective this year was establishing links across the schools to develop staff collaboration and share good practice. We now have shared subject leadership roles and examples of staff working together with colleagues in their schools. This has been particularly effective and beneficial with PE. It takes time to change working practice, but we've made a great start.

We have reviewed our enrichment offer and set up Fresh Air Club, a resounding success for children and staff alike. There has been significant positive feedback from parents too. This has now been extended even further for next year. We have also worked with specialist providers for Music. This will be developed to encompass PE too next year.

Our behaviour systems had an overhaul, and there was further clarity over expectations for all and support for those who needed it. As our use of Arbor develops and we grow in confidence, behaviour logging will also move to Arbor. We have worked on setting up the template this year and it should be live early September. The outdoor area has been reviewed and there is no plan for moving forward with EPIC. The arrival of the sheds on site will herald the beginning of a new era in terms of play. I can't wait to see how it works when it is set up.

Following the retirement of Mrs Giles, we now have Breakfast and After School cover in place.

Most importantly, we have worked on relationships, building them, maintaining and nurturing them. Everything we have achieved this year has had relationships at its core. Positive Noticing Day (and very day), colour bracelets, Crown awards and much more subtly, the language used by staff, the quiet word, acknowledgement of a deed, recognition for a small step in improvement - all lead to seismic change.

School Improvement Plan 2025-6

Mrs Staddon

Key Priorities - a preview

Mrs Staddon

Mrs Fairman and I have been busy drafting the plan for development for the year 2025-6.

More collaborative working as a Senior Leadership Team including the new Lead for Teaching and Learning and new fulltime SENDCo will be a key area for development.

Focused work using our Drop in and dialogue system to develop teaching and learning and the use of Walk Thrus as a teaching strategy.

Developing EPIC across both schools will be another key area. This will be linked to the Enrichment programme through our School Charter (5Cs).

Ensuring the clubs at the start and the end of the day remain viable by encouraging use whether or not childcare is needed. These are great opportunities for wider learning and social development.

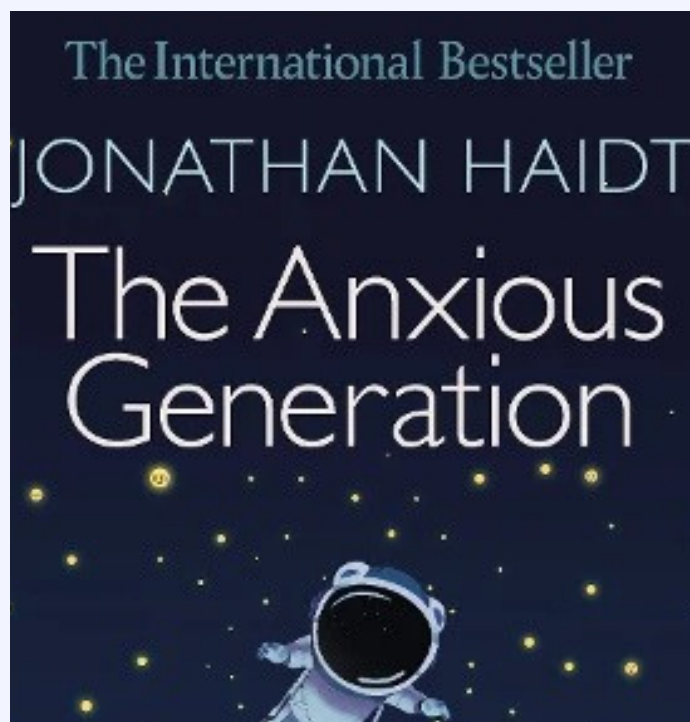
To continue to focus on small steps in planning the teaching of writing and linking increased oracy into the curriculum. To develop Kinetic letters further and ensure all new staff are trained.



Summer reading

I have started reading a book 'The Anxious Generation' by laced with interesting data and graphs it makes an interesting case. I know this is something that many of you are interested in, so to add to the pile of summer reading, I suggest this!

I look forward to be abing able to finish it!



Highlights and Achievements



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Congratulating Achievements!

Congratulations to Mrs Woolnough who was nominated for the Unsung Hero Award

Well done to Pamphill and Witchampton for treceiving the Gold School Games Award

FF Foundation Sports & Play Summer Holiday Sports & Play Camps

Tax-free Childcare & Childcare Vouchers Accepted



Our Team

Enhanced DBS Checked, Staff on the Update Service, Qualified in Sports & Childcare, First Aid Trained & Safeguarding Children Trained. We are always putting the children's welfare first!

Dates

Mon 7th July until Tue 2nd September
Dates vary depending on which venue you are booking.

Venues

Stourfield Junior School
BCS Preparatory School
The Epiphany School
Castle Court School

Activities

Our engaging programs have 3 areas of play: Sport (football, Gymnastics) Play (board games, lego, outdoor exploration) and Craft (art, masks & biscuit decorating). We have activities for every child's interests.

Time

09.00 - 15.00 with early drop off available from 8.00 & late pick-up until 17.30.

Ages

3 - 13 years old 3 year olds only able to book on at BCS & pre-book onto Castle Court School.

**From
£27.50
Per Day**

**Tax-Free &
Childcare
Vouchers**

**Ofsted
Registered
Provider**

Bookings & Contact

Click : www.foundation-play.com or scan the QR code to the right.

E: dorset@foundation-sports.com

IG: @fsportsandplay | FB: Foundation

Sports & Play Dorset

Phone: 01202 007785

*See website for further details



SCAN ME





Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

SUPPORT OVER THE SUMMER: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

"Our aim is to enrich children's lives through enjoyment, engagement, and enthusiasm. Our motto is everyone active, all the time"

Schedule Example - Check in with us to see specific daily venue activities

08:45 - 09:15: Arrival Time – Sign-ins and warm-up with free play. Children can enjoy a variety of activities, including toys, sports equipment, and creative crafts to start the day.

09:15 - 09:30: Group Circle Time – All children will gather round for circle time as we introduce the exciting activities planned for the day ahead.

09:30 - 11:00: Sports Carousel & Creative Workshop – There will be a carousel of sports activities, allowing your child to freely explore a variety of games. Indoors, they'll dive into painting, drawing, and hands-on crafting projects, while outside we'll set up easels for nature-inspired outdoor painting.

11:00 - 11:15: Snack Break – Refuel with snacks to keep energy levels high for the next batch of activities.

11:15 - 12:15: Team Games & Crafts – Your child will participate in age-group matches such as football, dodgeball, and cricket, with alternative sports activities like gymnastics and dance also available. Meanwhile, there will be indoor biscuit decorating and a summer-themed crafting station—like making nature wands, sun catchers, or leaf rubbings.

12:15 - 12:45: Lunch Break – Those who have paid for hot lunches will enjoy a warm meal with their friends.

12:45 - 13:15: Outdoor Play-time – We will continue the fun with outdoor play in the playground and outside gyms.

13:15 - 14:45: Sports Tournament & Skill Games – Your child will spend the afternoon engaging in exciting Nerf battles, gymnastics, or showcasing their talents in a fun and interactive group talent show. We'll then head into a forest exploration adventure!

15:00: End-of-Day Wrap-Up – All children will gather together for our closing ceremony where children will receive certificates and enjoy music, ending the day on a high note as parents arrive for collection.

Childcare Vouchers & Tax-free Childcare

Ofsted RegNumber: 2652421

Please use your child's first initial & surname as a reference when paying with vouchers.



Dorset
Council



Pamphill



First School

Pamphill



First School



BOOK NOW THROUGH LINK



PAMPHILL AFTERSCHOOL

BASKETBALL

YEARS 1-4

FRIDAYS

SEPTEMBER 12TH-OCT 24TH

3:15PM-4:15PM

Price per session is £5.50 for a total of £38.50
paid through the link.

Book September 12th and get added to other dates
(please add child as main name)

MUSIC PLAY & EXPLORE

A fun and interactive musical play workshop for adults to enjoy with their little ones.



Expect to get hands on and make music with a whole host of instruments led by Primo Music teacher and musician Charlotte Gibbs

Suitable for children aged 0 – 7yrs.



HINTON MARTELL VILLAGE HALL

Thurs 7th August, 11:00am-12:00pm or 1.30-2.30pm

£5 per child online www.artsreach.co.uk

or tel: Sue Dawson 07476 020522

Artsreach