

Powerstock Primary School

Learning together to be the best that we can be ~ for every child, life in all its fullness.
I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

January Newsletter

Note from Mr Harris

Dear Parents, Carers and Powerstock School Family,

What a wonderful (very long!) month January has been. Thank you for being so welcoming and for your patience whilst I learn all the nuances of this unique school.

I have had the pleasure of watching some fantastic teaching and learning happening each and every day. The children are working incredibly hard and making excellent progress. We have implemented our new History and Geography Schemes of Learning and I am amazed at all the sticky knowledge the pupils are remembering.

Since the start of term, the Staff Team have been working hard to develop and refine the school priorities on the School Development Plan. Please can I ask that you read them as it will give you a deeper understanding of the direction the school is heading. A more detailed version is available on our school website.

Please can I ask that you also take note of the changes to the required uniform on PE and Forest School Days (details below). This approach has worked incredibly well in schools across our collaboration and enables the pupils to enjoy much more teaching and learning time in these subjects. Thank you in advance for your support with this change.

I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly discuss general school transport arrangements. I am aware that the current arrangement (for swimming, for example) is not ideal. Please be assured that, whilst I am unable to make any changes in the short-term, it is something I am looking closely into as a matter of priority.

One final change for after half-term to make you aware of is that **Celebration Worships will move to 3pm on Fridays**. In doing this, I hope that more parents are able to attend and it brings the week to a close for the school community on a bright, positive note.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has attended our Seedlings and Conkers groups on Fridays. They are incredibly important for our small school community to continue to grow, thrive and flourish and I always look forward to coming over and saying hello. I am eternally grateful to Lizzie Rutherford, and supporting governors, for setting up and running these groups voluntarily.

I look forward to seeing you at Parents Evening . If you have any questions, please email at nharris@powerstock.dorset.sch.uk. Best wishes,

Nick Harris
Headteacher

Email: Office@powerstock.dorset.sch.uk Tel: 01308 485380

Burton



The children in Burton had a fantastic time turning smelly, old socks into amazing creatures! I think you'll agree they're quite wonderful!





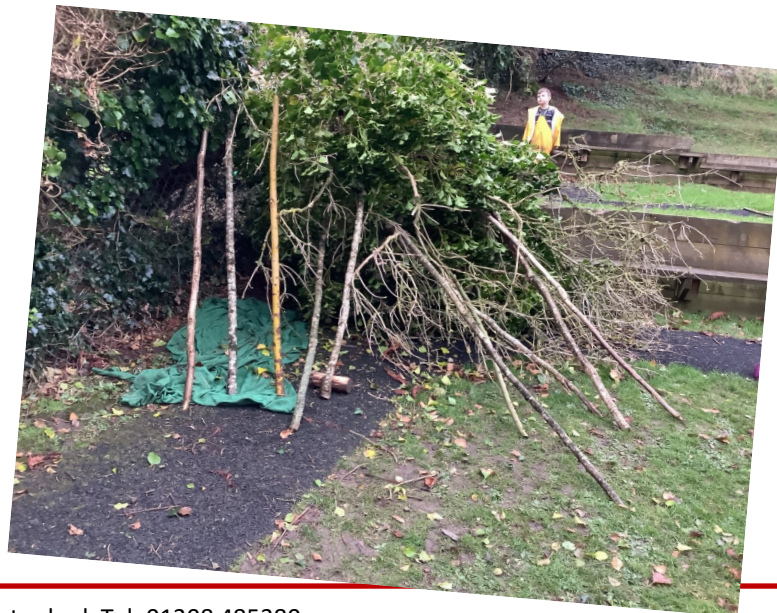
Cross Country

Years 3-6 took part in an interschool cross country competition at Beaminster Secondary, with Mrs Van Zyl and Mr Harris. Year 3/4 boys came second overall with Theo Kelton coming in third!! All of the children were amazing and we're extremely proud.



Forest School

Forest school continues to be popular, with Mrs Batten and Mrs Oxenbury leading the way.



Dates for your Diary

Parents Evening	5-6th February
Football vs. Salway Ash (Y3-6)	8th February
Half Term	12-16th February
Seedlings	9th Feb, 1st March, 15th March
Conkers Group	23rd Feb, 8th March, 22nd March
Last Day of Term	28th March

Change to uniform for PE and Forest School Days

During the pandemic, most schools asked pupils to come to school in their PE kit on PE days to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. As a result of this, it became clear how much extra time pupils had for PE as there wasn't the need for them to get changed. The majority of schools, certainly in the WDSC, have continued with this approach post-pandemic. Therefore, after half-term, please can all pupils come to school in their PE kits on the days they do PE (even if they are swimming). I am also going to extend this to Forest School days so that we can maximise our outdoor teaching and learning opportunities. For Forest School, please can the children wear trainers and bring their wellies in a plastic bag.

Class	PE	Forest School
<i>Burton</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Thursday (groups and dates TBC)</i>
<i>Cogden</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday (28 Feb, 6 Mar, 27 Mar)</i>
<i>Seatown</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday (21 Feb, 13 Mar, 20 Mar)</i>

Powerstock CE VA Primary School

School Development Plan February 2024 – July 2024

‘Learning together to be the best that we can be.’

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Key Priorities

- To develop leadership (inc. governors and parents), at all levels, in order to ensure a sustained and strategic approach to school improvement and to continue to develop and maintain a balanced curriculum.
- To ensure that pupils have high attendance and come to school on time so that there is a demonstrable improvement in the attendance of all groups of learners inc. those with SEND and those eligible for pupil premium.
- To begin the process of sustainable improvement in reading, writing and maths through effective subject leadership, curriculum planning and professional development.
- To refine the targeted, strategic approach to supporting pupils (and the families of pupils) with SEND.