PARLEY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2026

FRIDAY, 9TH OCTOBER

Southern Education Trust

SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are supporting the Wessex Rotary Christmas Shoebox Scheme again this year which supports disadvantaged and misplaced children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine via Poland. Boxes can be made for boys or girls in the following age brackets:

1-3 years | 4-7 years | 8-11 years | 12-15 years

If your child would like to fill and donate a shoebox for a child, please collect a shoe box from the school office. The final date to submit a shoebox is Friday 16th October. Thank you very much for your support.

DIARY DATES

Fri 16th Oct - Shoebox Appeal boxes due

Tues 20th Oct - Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm

Wed 21st Oct - Parent Consultations 4.00-7.00pm

Thurs 22nd Oct - Avon Tyrrell Information Evening 6.00-7.00pm

PEARDROPS - AUTUMN 2

The booking window for Peardrops Autumn 2 is now open in Arbor. You can now book Breakfast and After School Club sessions from Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December inclusive, with the exception of After School Club on Friday 18th December as the club does not run on the last day of term.

FRASER PORTRAITS

The ordering deadline date for school photographs and receive free delivery to school is Friday 16th October. Orders can be placed after this date but will incur a delivery charge.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent Consultations will take place on Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October. You will be able to book an appointment for your child(ren) in Arbor from Monday 12th October.

EMAILING

When emailing the school office, please can we politely remind families to ensure you include your child's name and class in the subject line. Thank you very much.

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

It has been a very productive week, although the time seems to be flying by and it certainly feels incredibly busy at the moment. As we move further into the Autumn Term, it has been great to see the school full of energy, enthusiasm and learning. Classrooms are buzzing with activity, children have settled well into routines and there is a real sense of purpose across the school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is such an important part of what makes Parley such a special place, and we truly value the positive relationships we have with our families.

One area I continue to spend a great deal of time reflecting upon is communication. We know how important it is that parents and carers feel informed, connected and able to access key information easily. As part of the wider review of our communication strategy, I have taken the decision to pause the use of MarvellousMe. Unfortunately, it has been replaced by another product at very short notice. However, this also provides us with an opportunity to consider how we can streamline communication and ensure that the systems we use are effective, accessible and fit for purpose. We are exploring a range of options and I will keep you updated as our thinking develops. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we review how we communicate and share information with families.

This week I was intrigued by some face to face training delivered by Microsoft entitled "AI Ate My Homework". It was certainly an enlightneing experience and one that left me reflecting on the opportunities and challenges that Artificial Intelligence presents. AI is advancing at an extraordinary pace and it is becoming increasingly clear that it will play a significant role in many aspects of our lives. Like any new technology, there is both exciting posibilites and important considerations. My own view is that we need to approach AI with caution and careful thought, whilst also recognising the potential benefits it can bring. Ignoring it is not really an option; instead, we need to ensure we understand it and use it wisely.

One of the key questions for me is how we teach children about AI in a balanced and age-appropriate way. As educators, we have a responsibility to help children understand both the positives and negatives. They need to know how technology can support creativity, learning and problem-solving, but they also need to understand that AI can sometimes be inaccurate, misleading or used

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Whole School - 96.6%
Year R - 96.6%
Year 1 - 98.2%
Year 2 - 97.9%
Year 3 - 98.3%
Year 4 - 96.6%

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

inappropriately. Helping children become critical thinkers who question information, evaluate sources and stay safe online has never been more important. These conversations will become increasingly relevant as technology continues to evolve and shape the world around them.

At Parley, we will consider developments carefully and thoughtfully. Should we use Artificial Intelligence for any school purpose, we will only use Microsoft CoPilot, ensuring that any use of AI aligns with our expectations around safeguarding, security and data protection.

POPS met for their Annual General Meeting last Friday and yet again, I am incredibly grateful that our amazing parents have volunteered to take POPS forward again this Year. We have a new committee this year and with that comes new ideas which is great. Just as a one off, you will receive a hard copy of the POPS Newsletter. There is a reason for this. We are using technology to have QR codes so it is easier to scan those rather than having the electronic copy. It is also a hard copy prompt that you may want to put on your fridge (other places are available I am sure!). We will also have a noticeboard as you walk into school that will be dedicated to POPS so you can watch when you can.

MHST info for parents:
https://linktr.ee/MHSTNorthandEast
This is where you will find our webinars, and a really handy video for parents explaining our service and how to access it. We are moving to a better webinar access system in the next few weeks and you will get an email about that when this is live as we are placing all of the MHST webinars in one quick access place. These links here will all still remain live anyway, so please do use these as you would like

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a great weekend.

John Bagwell
Headteacher

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Whole School - 97.9%
Year R - 97.3%
Year 1 - 98.8%
Year 2 - 98.7%
Year 3 - 98.1%
Year 4 - 96.6%

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST MARKS CHURCH - BREAKFAST @ NINE

An informal breakfast in St. Mark's Hall at West Parley, from 9.00am on the second Sunday of each month. It includes a Bible story, prayer and worship song to finish. People of all ages most welcome.