



# Lyttchett Matravers Primary School and Preschool

Wareham Road, Lyttchett Matravers, Poole, BH16 6DY

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**Headteacher: Matt Vernon**

**Deputy Headteacher: Laura Dominey**

**Assistant Headteacher: Amy Foster**



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

The use of screen time for children, including in schools, has been in the news this week. There is growing evidence of the impact of exposure to screen on the health of children, for example in a documented growing number of children who are short-sighted. Much of this impact comes from children spending extended periods on personal screens, viewed at close proximity.

I would like to reassure you about the use of screen time at our school. Whilst we do use interactive whiteboards as an effective means to model learning to the children, time spent on devices at school is limited. The children will usually use laptops once per week within their computing lessons and they might use a tablet for research in another area of the curriculum.

Additionally, some might use tablets or laptops for interventions – these would be time limited and usually restricted to 15 minutes of time at a maximum. We might also show the children a film as a reward or show an age-appropriate programme as part of a wet play.

All of these activities either involve the children looking at a screen at some distance from their eyes or to take regular eye breaks when using screens at proximity. This should not pose a significant risk, particularly when the majority of their time is spent away from looking at technology.

With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon, Headteacher

| In this week's newsletter...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                        |
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| <b>Upcoming events:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Families Evening 19<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> October</li> <li>➤ Mufti day to support Hamwic Foundation: 23<sup>rd</sup> October</li> <li>➤ PTFA Fireworks Evening: 5<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>➤ Children In Need: 13<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>➤ Anti-bullying week: 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>➤ Healthy Me Week 24<sup>th</sup> May – 28<sup>th</sup> May</li> </ul> | <b>SEND:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND Evening</li> <li>• Local support</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Governorship:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits to school</li> </ul>              |
| <b>Other items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afternoon break time for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6</li> <li>• Applying for a school places for September 2027</li> <li>• Glockenspiels</li> <li>• Care for the local area</li> <li>• Half Term Events: Stars; Purbeck Sports Centre; Dance Workshops</li> <li>• Attendance</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                        |





Families Evenings are being held next week on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October from 15:45 – 18:00 and on 21<sup>st</sup> October from 15:45 – 19:00. If you have not made an appointment, please let us know so that we can arrange one for you!

The school will have a Mufti Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> October to support the Education Trust's charity fundraising:

The PTFA Fireworks Evening will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Gates open from 16:45 with the fireworks being set off at 18:30:



On 13<sup>th</sup> November, we will celebrate Children In Need by allowing the children to wear a spotty item – monetary donations will be collected but are optional.

Anti-bullying week this year is being held during the week of 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November. This will include an odd sock day to allow the children to show their support that bullying will not be tolerated at our school.

### **Healthy Me Week 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027**

At Lytchett Matravers Primary School we believe that it's very important that our pupils get an excellent health education. This is why we have decided to hold another 'Healthy Me' curriculum week. This is becoming a bi-annual event that our pupils and staff look forward to. The aim of the week is to increase awareness of how to be healthy and make healthy lifestyle choices and we will be looking at this for both our physical and mental well-being.

Mrs Gould is in the process of arranging various age-appropriate activities for the children and investigating whether there are people within our school community that could help.

In previous years, we have had a huge variety of people working with our pupils delivering fun sessions on a wide variety of activities. For example: coaches have come in to teach golf, archery, martial arts, football, rugby, volleyball, badminton and yoga. We have also had visits from dentists and nurses teaching dental hygiene, washing hands and basic first aid. AFC Bournemouth has also come in to talk to the children about nutrition and the effects of food on our bodies.

Sessions will usually be delivered to whole classes but, if necessary, classes can be broken into smaller groups. We aim for all the children in a year group to experience the same activities where possible.

If you feel that this might be something that you could help with and offer us some of your time to support, please get in contact with Mrs Gould via the school office email: [office@lmpsdorset.co.uk](mailto:office@lmpsdorset.co.uk)

## **Dress Down Day**

Supporting our pupils is a priority. The Foundation helps provide practical support and opportunities for children who need it most, including annual Christmas Eve Boxes for our under served children.

To help raise funds for this important work, we will be holding a Non-School Uniform Day on 23/10/2026. Pupils are invited to wear their own appropriate clothes and a donation of £1 (or how much you can afford) to support the Foundation.

Thank you for your continued support.



Donate here today !



Hamwic Foundation

To support the Foundation, please get in touch by emailing [donations@hamwic.org](mailto:donations@hamwic.org) or calling us on 023 8078 6833. We are also on Just Giving - please visit [www.justgiving.com/hamwic-edu-trust](http://www.justgiving.com/hamwic-edu-trust)



### **SEND Evening**

Our third evening to provide information, support and guidance for all things SEND will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. There is no need to book to attend and we look forward to seeing as many families as possible at the event!

### **Support for families with children with SEND**

The Wareham Family Hub is offering several sessions over the autumn period to support families with children who have SEND needs →



# SEND SUPPORT

Face to face support for families with children who have SEND needs – diagnosed or undiagnosed

## what's on?

26th Oct - SEN Sensory Play session 2pm-3.30pm - Wareham Family Hub  
Booking essential. For families with children aged 1-8years, older siblings welcome.

4th Nov - Lunch for parents/carers with SEND children - 12.15pm at The United Reform Church Wareham - Booking essential

18th Nov - Parent Support Group at Wareham Family Hub 9.30am-11am  
No need to book!

16th Dec - Parent Support Group at Wareham Family Hub 9.30am-11am - No need to book!

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - SEN Sensory Session Play 9.30am-11am - Wareham Family Hub - Booking essential, For families with children aged 1-8years, older siblings welcome.

Wareham Family Hub PYCF is located behind Purbeck School on Worgret Road, Wareham, BH20 4PH



**Wareham Family Hub**  
PYCF  
01929 552 934  
office@pycf.org.uk  
pycf.co.uk  
BH20 4PH

This week, governors have completed visits to school with a focus on how the school promotes attendance and on safeguarding. These visits serve to both support and challenge leaders about our provision and are always positive and productive experiences.

The next visits timetabled will focus on the school's curriculum and listening to pupil voice in relation to safeguarding.

### **Afternoon Break Time For Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

During the last governors' meeting, the afternoon breaktime that is currently in place from Years 1-6 was discussed. Ongoing consideration about this late break time has demonstrated that it is a time when more accidents occur as children are more tired towards the end of the day. It is also evidenced that children can be unsettled after this play time and that valuable curriculum time is taken where children line up and organise themselves to recommence their lessons.

Whilst governors and the leadership team recognised the benefits of this playtime for Years 1 and 2, we will now pilot a removal of the afternoon break time for Years 3-6. This does not mean that the children will not get a break: teachers will provide movement / reflection / calming activities between the afternoon lessons to support the children to have some time to relax and settle ahead of their final lesson.

### **Care For The Local Area And Its Inhabitants**

We ask that everyone dropping off and picking up from school do so with complete respect for our neighbours. Please turn off your engines (unless you drive electric!) to avoid those with breathing difficulties from being affected and make sure that all litter finds its way to a bin. Parking should be conducted legally and without directly affecting local inhabitants.

### **Dorset Schools Admissions**

For families with children in Year 6, please remember that **31<sup>st</sup> October** is the closing date for applying to secondary school. Children do not receive automatic places at any secondary school and all children must apply.

The closing date for applying for a primary school place for any child who will be 4 years old in September 2027 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2027. We offer tours every Tuesday morning for any potential parents – please book at the office. We will also be holding our Reception Open Events on 14<sup>th</sup> October at both 9:30 and 18:00 – no booking required!

**Dorset residents apply online at:**  
**[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place)**  
**or call 01305 221060**



**Scan here**



### **Glockenspiels**

Thank you so much to the PTFA for donating our new glockenspiels. The children have loved performing with them together and have been creating some lovely music!



### **Half Term Events**

There are many events going on over the half term break:

- Black British Ballet are running two ballet events from Wimborne library – we have attached flyers with additional information.
- Purbeck Sports Centre will be running a wide range of events over the half term – again, we have attached further information to this newsletter.
- Stars Holiday Club will be running in school – places can be booked now!



## Attendance

Congratulations to Buzzard and Nightingale classes for having the highest attendance over the past 2 weeks! Well done everyone for keeping the overall attendance at just over 96%. 😊

