

# PUDDLETOWN VC CE FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



November  
2024

Snow day we all made snow men on the big field.

## November 2024

An unusual sight but we did indeed have a snow day in November!

Staff left their houses at about 7.30am from Bridport, Weymouth, Dorchester and Purbeck to a gentle sleety drizzle but by the time 8am came around we were in the midst of a full blown blizzard. It is so difficult to predict how impactful snow will be and it is very localised. I had very different reports coming in from all our locations, however stuck on the A35 waiting for snow ploughs to clear the road it soon became clear that the school would have to close. It is never a decision we take lightly and we have to weigh up, staffing levels, site safety and road conditions. The timing of this deluge made it particularly difficult as many people like us, had set off in relatively mild conditions. The staff that had managed to make it into school did a fantastic job at sending out a prompt message and we hope that your children managed to enjoy the snow at home. The next day Ice and freezing conditions again made the day tricky but with the help of staff and parents we managed to scrape and grit the paths to make the site safe for entry. Thank you so much to all of you that helped us and thank you for your understanding and support during these events. We managed to get the children out onto the field for a short burst to allow a mass snowman making event which was wonderful to see. For many children it was the first time they had ever seen proper snow and it really was a magical school event.

We commemorated remembrance day with a whole school assembly. We observed two minutes of silence while we lit candles of remembrance and read out the names of people

## REMINDERS



Please ensure your child's belongings and clothing are labelled. We have an increasing amount of lost property that we can't return. The box is in the office foyer if your child has lost something that isn't labelled.

from our community that gave their lives in service. All the children sat beautifully in that poignant quiet, and had a moment of reflection.

Looking to the past and planning a positive future, some children from the school have been working with our Parish Council to help plant a new hedgeline over at the Rec. We met with our community and learned the names of the trees and worked together young and old to create something to benefit everyone in the years to come. All children regularly work with Trees for Dorset throughout their time at Puddletown to plant and nurture trees as well as learning about their life cycles. Planting a tree is an activity that we think everyone should have experience of.

We like to be constantly improving and refining our curriculum and teaching and this year we have engaged with national literacy and maths to ensure the quality of education we provide here is up to date with the latest academic research to ensure our children make the best progress they can. Our maths project is looking at automatic fluency in key stage one. This means children develop a really good sense of number and can recall number facts early on which makes it easier later when they are trying to work out more complex calculations. Learning times tables in key stage 2 is also part of this. Our phonics results have always been excellent, however we can always do more, so we are working with the DFE English hub to further improve outcomes for those children who find phonics tricky to start with and need more support. Learning is everything and here at Puddletown that means that the adults as well as the children, invest in their learning.

We have had a couple of new families join us in year 2 and year 4 and we would like to extend a warm welcome to them and look forward to embracing them into our school community.

With 3 weeks to go the school has now embraced Christmas! We have advent reflection morning happening today followed by our pantomime 'Treasure island' and don't forget Carols around the village on Thursday evening. We look forward to singing with you and your families, meeting our community and raising some money for the Weldmar trust.

Hope to see you there.

Mrs Anna Seal

Head of school



year 4 weaving project



parish council planting

Thank you for your considerate parking and use of the rec carpark. It is appreciated by our village neighbours.

All dates and school events are on our school website calendar.