



# SYTCHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2024

## **Message from Mrs Brogan**

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to the second half term of the year. It is certainly going to be a busy half term with lots of special days and events, so please look for the 'Dates for your Diary' this month to make sure that you don't miss anything. We had some lovely events at the end of the half term, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to the PTA for the Halloween Disco and to staff for organising our Diwali Day - seeing everyone, including parents, dancing in assembly was a real treat! We were also treated by Spice Fusion who kindly donated Vegetable Somosas for the food tasting during Diwali Day (and even went in during closing hours so they were fresh and warm for the tasting in the afternoon)!

We were extremely proud of the enthusiasm and behaviour of Elm class when they participated in the Cross Country this week - they did a brilliant job and we will be represented at the next round in February!

As always we are very open to anyone who has skills, talents, time and interest to bring to our school. If you would like to get involved in the PTA or have gardening skills that could help us make the most of our grounds, please let us know!

Best Wishes  
Catherine Brogan.

## Here are our October 'Stars of the Week'.



These are the children that teachers have picked out this month for congratulations. They have shown a wide range of characteristics and skills from resilience to kindness, excellent learning behaviours and being great role models. Well done to you all - keep up the hard work! We are looking forward to meeting our November Stars through this month's assemblies.



## 15<sup>th</sup> November – Charity Day

The more keen-eyed amongst you will have spotted that Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November is Children in Need day, and the day that we have allocated for the PTA Hamper donations. With the calendar so full at this time of year, we have decided to make this a non-uniform Charity Day. We are very aware of asking a lot of people at this time of year, so we would request that if you are able to, you make a donation to the Hampers. If you would like also to support Children in Need, we will have collecting tubs in school. For the hampers, each class has been allocated a colour and we request that a small token gift in that colour be donated. The picture has some great examples.

# THANK YOU!



A massive thank you to the parents, grandparents, staff and other members of our community who came to help with **our Big Tidy**. We had a very productive morning and really demonstrated what could be achieved with a few people's hard work!



The Vegetable Garden was transformed!

There were some huge mounds of earth which were painstakingly dug and raked over.



Forest school got a make-over too!



Thank you to all of the children who donated to the **Operation Christmas Child** appeal.



Your kind generosity will hopefully bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas.

**The PTA** continues its fabulous support of the school through providing great activities and raising much-needed funds. Thank you to everyone who helps out – many hands make light work! A particular thanks to the committee who invest a huge amount of time and effort into our school.

## Maths at Home

Fluency in basic maths, such as knowing what numbers add up to 10, and being able to recall times tables makes a massive difference to children's ability to tackle more complex maths. There are lots of ways to support this at home and your teachers will have posted some information about this on your Class Dojo. Please support your child in accessing this. Key Stage 1 use Numbots and KS2 Use TT Rock Stars. There are certificates presented in Celebration Assembly for the children who have engaged the most with these programmes.

You might also want to try this. [1-minute maths app | White Rose Education](#)

## Start of the School Day

Thank you to everyone for making an effort to make sure that our school day can start promptly at 8.45am. **Children should be in the playground ready to enter their classes at**

**8.45am.** Please keep your conversations with teachers in the morning short so that they can get into the classroom to start the day's learning. This helps all of the children to have a settled start to the day. Thank you for your support with this.



## Online Safety

Are you aware of the **smart phone free childhood** movement? Many parents are cautious about allowing their children access to the internet through personal devices, but find themselves caught in the 'everyone else has one' culture. If this is you, you may be interested in finding out more about this movement. Remember that the worries about children's access to the internet are not just to do with what they might be able to access, but also about who might have access to them.

For more information visit [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

## Fun digital therapy for childhood anxiety

Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS have partnered with BFB Labs to offer children and young people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire free access to Lumi Nova from 1 October 2024.

Lumi Nova – Tales of Courage is a therapeutic game that helps children aged 7-12 years self-manage worries and build resilience.

Click on the picture link to go to the website.



There is an introductory video here [Introducing Lumi Nova: A therapeutic mobile game for children's worries and anxiety \(youtube.com\)](#)

## Who is Lumi Nova for?

**Lumi Nova is for 7-12 year olds facing difficulties with anxiety, including:**

- **Phobias** e.g. Being afraid of spiders or insects, heights, being near dogs, or the dark.
- **Social anxiety** e.g. Feeling worried about making new friends, going to social events.
- **Separation anxiety** e.g. Unable to sleep alone, worried about being away from parents, going to school.

## A Message From your SENCO...



Our first 'coffee and catch up' of the year was a wonderful success this week. These sessions provide an opportunity to ask me any questions, seek additional advice and chat to other parents. The parental knowledge and tips shared within these sessions are invaluable! We shall meet again informally in the Spring Term.

One of the questions I get asked as SENCO is, "where can I get extra advice and information?" So, I thought this would make a useful and interesting focus for our update this month.

Firstly, your child's class teacher is the expert on your child within school and should always be your first point of reference. The end of the school day is often a good time to speak to the class teacher. An appointment can be made for lengthier conversations and we have parental consultations this half term too. As SENCO I can offer advice, information and further support. Mrs Brogan also has a wealth of knowledge to share. We are a small, yet strong and experienced team. Beyond the school gates is a plethora of information and support:



**autism**  
west midlands

**NHS**  
Herefordshire and  
Worcestershire

## UPCOMING WEBINARS 2024

- October 23rd - Autism and Anxiety
- 6th November - Autism and Communication
- 13th November Autism and Sensory differences
- 20th November Autism and Behaviour
- 27th November Navigating the system
- 4th December Autism and the teenage brain
- 11th December Supporting your autistic teen

For more information or to book a place  
Email - [herefandworcs@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:herefandworcs@autismwestmidlands.org.uk)  
Call/Text - 07749 497808  
Visit EventBrite - Autism West Midlands  
Visit website - [www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

Once registered you can watch Live or access recording later

Free for Herefordshire and Worcestershire parents and

Worcester County Council have produced a Local Offer which provides information about the provision families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. You can find out about resources, services, support, activities and events on their website: [SEND Local Offer | Worcestershire County Council](#)

There is also a new Neurodivergence Zone on the Local Offer website, this has been produced in collaboration with parents, carers and professionals in health services. This is a specific section of the website that has information on children, young people and neurodivergence for families.

[Neurodivergence Zone | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## SENDIASS • Supporting Worcestershire Families



Information, Advice  
and Support Service  
Herefordshire &  
Worcestershire

Do you have a child/young person  
with a Special Educational Need or  
Disability (SEND)?

Do you think your child might have  
Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

**SENDIASS provides FREE, impartial & confidential information,  
advice and support on all matters relating to children and  
young people (0-25) who have or may have SEND**

### We can help you if...

- You have concerns about your child's progress at their education setting
- You would like to know more about the support available for children with SEND and their families
- You would like to know more about Herefordshire's and Worcestershire's SEND policies and procedures
- You need information and guidance on the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process

#### Call:

**01905 768153**

(24hr answerphone service available)

#### Contact us:

Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 4pm

#### Email:

[SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk)



Help and Support for Families and Children (previously known as Early Help) can provide help and support to a child, young person or their family as soon as it is identified they need additional help and support. [Early Help family support | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Worcestershire Local Authority has also developed a Virtual Family Hub, which gives families the opportunities to access help and support from a whole range of different services in different ways. This could be online, via the telephone or face to face. [Virtual Family Hub | Worcestershire County Council](#)

One of the most important documents is the Graduated Response Guidance which is intended to be used as a tool for

schools and settings and those partner agencies working with them and has been created in collaboration with SEND professionals, parents and carers and young people. The guidance has been designed to help ensure children and young people across the County with Special Educational Needs reach their full potential. It sets out Local Authority expectations for the ways in which all schools and settings should meet the needs of children and young people with SEND:

[The SEND Graduated Response | Worcestershire County Council](#)

SENDIASS are a SEND Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire. SENDIASS have a dedicated team of advisors offering legally-based and easily accessible information and advice about special educational needs and disabilities. They support parents, carers, children and young people with SEND and the service is impartial and confidential. There are a number of training workshops and online information sessions available throughout the year, including some this term:

[SENDIASS workshops for parent and carers | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Mrs Oliver

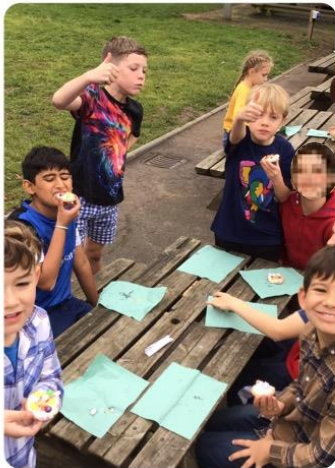
## Talk About Learning....

Learning can be practical right from Reception to Year 6 – here are some great examples of us getting really 'hands on'!





**Happy Diwali  
We had a wonderful  
whole school Diwali  
Day.**





**The PTA will be looking for volunteers – please support them as many hands make light work!**

**If you have contact with a local business who could donate a raffle prize, please let the PTA know: [SytchPTA@outlook.com](mailto:SytchPTA@outlook.com)**

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thursday 28th November 2024

At Sytchampton Primary School, DY13 9SX

Free Entry 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Christmas Market Stalls, Choir, Tombola,  
Games, Raffle, Mulled Wine, Luxury Hot  
Chocolate & Baileys, Cakes & Warm Mince Pies

**If you would like to have a stall at the Fayre, please let the PTA know: [SytchPTA@outlook.com](mailto:SytchPTA@outlook.com)**



## Term dates 2024 - 2025

### Please Remember that Term Time Holidays are not permitted

- Taking children on holiday or out of school during term time is against the law.
- The school is not allowed to authorise absence during term time
- Taking unauthorised holidays could result in a penalty notice from the Local Authority.

### The agreed term dates are here for your information

	Holidays - School closes to pupils on	School re-opens to pupils on
<b>Autumn Term</b>		Wednesday 4th September 2024
<b>Autumn mid term</b>	Friday 25th October 2024	Monday 4th November 2024
<b>Christmas</b>	Friday 20th December 2024	<b>Tuesday 7th January 2025</b>
<b>Spring mid-term</b>	Friday 14th February 2025	Monday 24th February 2025
<b>Easter</b>	Friday 11th April 2025	Monday 28th April 2025
<b>Summer mid-term</b>	Friday 23rd May 2025	<b>Tuesday 3rd June 2025</b>
<b>End of summer term</b>	Friday 18th July 2025	

<b>Christmas Day</b>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>Boxing Day</b>	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>New Year's Day</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Easter Monday</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025
<b>May Day</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Wrap Around Care

We have some spaces in our WAC club which runs before and after school.

Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am until 8.45am in the hall and children are given a breakfast of toast, cereal and fruit. Milk or juice is available.

After school, children can stay until 4.15pm or stay and have tea, being collected by 5.30pm Monday-Thursday and 5.00pm Friday.

Please ask in the school office for more information or see our [website](#).

Session	Cost
Breakfast Club	£4.50
3.15 to 4.15pm	£5.00
3.15 to 5.30pm (Mon to Thu)	£10.50
3.15 to 5.00pm (Fri)	£9.50

## Lunches and milk

Please remember to order lunches online by Wednesday for the following week.

Children have free milk up to the age of 5. If you want your child to continue to receive milk after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, there is a small charge for this. Please speak to the school office.

## Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd socks day – children wear odd socks to school
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Charity Day (PTA and Children in Need) – Non-Uniform Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Celebration Assembly with Parents 2.30pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Concert (2.30)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School Opens to Pupils