

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

There are very mixed emotions with Qatar hosting the World Cup, but the powerful draw of such historical sporting contests reminds us what a deeply embedded cultural institution football is; the Welsh government has even organised a 'Cymru Football Friday' today! We haven't gone quite that far, but have been pleased to show some of the lunchtime games in the hall to entertain students during the awful weather this week.

There were certainly some very challenging conditions when our six **Cross-Country teams** participated in the latest area competition on Wednesday. Through the rain and mud the students did the school proud with four teams coming first (Year 7 Boys, Junior Boys, Inter Boys and Inter Girls), Year 7 Girls coming second and Junior Girls 3rd. On top of this Joe Whelan won the Year 7 Boys, with Harry Kemp 2nd, Tom Green came second in the Junior Boys, Anna Scarborough won the Inter Girls and Zak Zidary won the Inter Boys. Many congratulations to the whole squad.

This was followed, on Thursday, with the **Kenway Cup Primary Football** competition. Our Year 7 Sports Leaders stayed wonderfully optimistic during a deluge of rain and helped to ensure that 15 matches were completed, with all six of our feeder schools participating. In a very competitive event Broadwindsor finished third, Parrett an Axe were second and this year's champions are Beaminster St Mary's. They will now play the winners of the Bridport Pyramid here, at Beaminster School, on Friday December 2nd.

Despite our very best efforts to return mislaid coats and PE kits to the right student (with nearly thirty returned this week already!) we are being significantly hampered by so many items still not being named. Please would you check over the weekend and ensure that **all items are clearly and indelibly named**. Bus drivers are also doing checks on **bus passes**, so please also remind your child to carry these with them at all times to ensure they can travel.

With December nearly upon us we are looking forward to our **Christmas Concert at 6.30pm on Thursday December 1st**. This is always a lovely evening with a rich array of talent and styles to suit all musical tastes. The BSPTA are very kindly supporting with a bar and snacks, so please do come along and enjoy this wonderful escape!

We then have the **Beaminster Christmas Fair on Friday December 2nd** (poster attached) and I do look forward to seeing many of you in St Mary's Church from 5pm. We really appreciate your efforts in selling christmas **raffle tickets** which make such a big contribution to the BSPTA's fundraising efforts – all tickets stubs, money and unsold tickets should be returned to school as soon as possible. Please also note that the ever-popular **Xmas Bake Off Competition** is taking place next week with all entries required on Thursday morning (details attached). There are prizes to be won, and all entries are then sold off at the Xmas Fair to help raise additional funds.

Our **Reading Week** will have a focus on poetry next week. By starting each lesson with a favourite poem we hope to share the very diverse and exciting range of poetry around us and encourage students to engage more fully. Do speak with your child to see if your favourite poem is shared.

We are pleased to have already had a very high response from parents and carers for our online **Year 9 Parents' Evening**, next Wednesday 30th November, and we look forward to speaking to you. Do remember that you can also make the best use of time by posting any specific questions on the booking site beforehand - you can log back in to the site at any time: <https://beaminsterschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

We have a current **vacancy for a part-time Admin Officer** (15-20 hours per week) primarily supporting SEN administration. Full details are available on the school website [Beaminster School Staff Vacancies](#) and the Dorset Council website. Applications are required by Tuesday 6th December.

I couldn't finish this ParentMail without paying my own, small, tribute to the wonderful **Michael Dower**, who has sadly passed away. Throughout a rich and varied life Michael has left a national legacy through his contributions to The National Parks Service, as Director General of the British Countryside Commission and his role as Professor of European Rural Development, as well as being very active in the community locally, including a spell as a valued Beaminster School Governor. However, I first came across Michael when we had a report of a tall, willowy man walking through our bus park with an axe! Of course, it had all been agreed and pre-planned, as Michael was a brilliant organiser with endless energy, and over several years he completely re-shaped the school woods, planted vast areas of shrubs and trees and always found the time to share his great experience, and enthusiasm, with our students. It was this generosity of spirit and permanent flow of creativity that we will so miss, but his legacy to us is that we remember him every day as we see the trees grow and the students enjoy our beautiful woods and school grounds.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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