

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers

Our half-termly **Reading Week** had a wonderful array of 25 poems across the week, covering the whole gamut of emotions. Amidst the rich and varied selection, I was particularly struck by the power of Maya Angelou's 'Caged Bird', and also Robert Frost's 'The Road not Taken' about, perhaps, regretting those things that we didn't do! Thanks, again, to our Senior Prefect Team for selecting these thought-provoking pieces.

National Tree Week was the perfect opportunity to focus our attention on the vital role trees play in our lives, and the myriad ways in which they are enmeshed in our culture. Thanks to the Woodland Trust, support from Co-op and community volunteer Daniel Biggs, Mrs Rychnovsky and 15 students set about planting the first of over 300 saplings that will be put around Beaminster School, the Memorial Playing Fields and other areas of the town. My thanks to everyone involved.

Over the course of this week Mrs Carlile, supported by the wonderful team from **Beaminster Museum**, have provided all of our Year 7 with a unique opportunity to step back in time and dive into the rich local history of World War 1. The educational trip was organised as part of the school's English curriculum, where they have read the novel 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Murpurgo. The visit offered the students a hands-on experience, complemented by engaging and informative presentations led by knowledgeable volunteers, which allowed the students to ask questions, participate in discussions, and contemplate the significance of the war's impact on the local community, including a comprehensive insight into the lives of the soldiers and civilians who were directly affected by the war.

On Monday, 14 runners took part in the final race of the **South West Schools Cross Country Championship** at Budmouth. The Year 7 girls literally got off the bus and into their race, with all coming in the top 20, and 3rd overall. Lily Fooks was consistent with her top 10 results over the 3 races and was runner up. Tristan Hunt was placed in the top 10 for Year 7 boys and the team was 4th overall.

Joe Whelan went into his race (Junior Boys) with 2 out of 2 wins and was dominant once more, winning by a country mile and therefore becoming the champion. The Junior Girls was a hard fought race and had its own sister battle with Ana just beating her sister Bea Bibby coming in 9th and 10th. The Junior Girls team were also 3rd overall. Congratulations to all the teams for a very successful Autumn series.

The long-established **Primary Kenway Cup** served up another afternoon of fantastic football from our six feeder schools, with over sixty children taking part. Our Sports Leaders refereed the games with enthusiasm and education in mind to ensure the contests were competitive and fair. The winners were Sticklands, with Parrett and Axe second and Broadwindsor third. Congratulations to Patrick White from Sticklands who won player of the tournament with some silky skills and pinpoint finishing.

There was a palpable sigh of relief as Year 11 reached the end of their **trial examinations** on Thursday. The students responded very well to this demanding fortnight and have shown great maturity in their approach. The same can be said of the many students who had their **flu vaccinations** today, with hundreds being inoculated across the day.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service have asked us to share the following safety information to help keep yourself, your family, friends and neighbours and others safe:

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Driving in adverse conditions](#)

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Winter driving checklist](#)

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Storms and power cuts](#)

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Staying warm safely](#)

The recent **storms, cold weather and flooding** should also remind us to stay away from flooded or swollen rivers and the coast in storm conditions; keep dogs on leads around water; keep children away from water and ice, and if somebody (or an animal) is in trouble in the water never go in the water to rescue them yourself, call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service (if inland) and coastguard (if at the coast). Also, consider downloading the **what3words** app on your mobile phone to help give an accurate location should you need the emergency services when out and about.

Today, we said a sad farewell to **Mrs Van Niekerk**, who has worked in a number of different roles over the past 10 years with us, particularly in supporting many of our children with their medical needs. So, we wish her well as she enters the world of the NHS and thank her for all her work, as well as the legacy of Christmas decorations that she is well known for!

Looking ahead, GCSE and A Level students have a **Drama Workshop** on Monday with a production of Metamorphosis, Year 7 and 8 have a presentation from **BAe Systems** about science and technology careers on Tuesday, and we look forward to meeting **Year 13 parents and carers** at Colfox on Wednesday at the consultation evening.

This week's **cyber safety information** sheet about sharing photos online is attached.

On Thursday, Year 7 and 8 will be walking down to Beaminster for their afternoon **Christmas Carol Service** at the church, whilst Year 10 and 11 have a production of **A Christmas Carol** in the Hall. It is then an opportunity for all families to join us for the ever-popular **Community Christmas Carol Service at 7pm** in the lovely Beaminster St Mary's Church – please see the attached for further details. If that is not enough Christmas for you, **Christmas Jumper Day** is on Friday 6th December – more details to follow.

Finally, the lucky winners of the BSPTA's Bake Off competition are Olivia Peters, Harry Curtis and Dylan Moss. I look forward to seeing many of you for the **Christmas Lights**, tonight in Beaminster, from 5.30pm, and as always, the **BSPTA** will be selling raffle tickets and have a very generous tombola for you to win. We will be in the Town Hall from 5.30pm, so please do come along and support, and don't forget the **BSPTA's Bingo night is on Friday 6th December**.

Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Hales

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