

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

At this time of year there are always lots of tips to beat the January blues, so I would wholeheartedly recommend a few of our own!

Firstly, helping others always lifts the spirit, so the change of pace and a non-uniform day for the **'Blue Monday' Prout Bridge** fundraising appeal across West Dorset schools was a welcome opportunity. With over £1,000 raised, this will help Prout Bridge to continue to offer their fabulous services to our community.

Secondly, do make some time to drop into Sou' Sou' West Gallery in Symondsburry to see our **Spring Art Exhibition** which runs until Sunday 25th January. The wonderful work on display covers a range of media, from across the year groups, and we are delighted with the art that our young people have made (poster attached).

Thirdly, with less than a week to go, students are working hard with final rehearsals on Sunday and Monday before the dress performance of **'Chariots of Fire'** on Tuesday afternoon in front of Year 7, Beaminster St Mary's Primary and Mountjoy pupils. There are only a few tickets still available on ParentMail for the performances on either Thursday January 29th or Friday January 30th, adults £6, student/child £4, so do book quickly! The cast and crew have been magnificent throughout and we wish them all well next week.

Additionally, the benefits of getting outside with friends, despite the weather, was encapsulated by our **Year 7 Girls Football team** in their County Cup Match against Lytchett Minster. Despite peppering the goal throughout, and the Lytchett players frequently looking on in awe, our girls just could not get the ball in the net and were 2–0 down at half-time. However, Naomi Knight orchestrated a more clinical approach to see Beaminster quickly equalise, and Poppy Wrixon kept the opposition forwards at bay. As shot after shot at the Lytchett goal was saved extra-time looked certain, but in the final kick of the match a volley from a Lytchett corner went in to give them a 3–2 win. However, a KFC refuel and some enthusiastic singing all the way home soon lifted all of our team's spirits!

It is always reassuring to see the positive discussions and strong attendance at school events. This continued with the **Year 12 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday, which saw families from Beaminster and Sir John Colfox come together to review progress at this important time of year. We look forward to seeing **Year 7 parents and carers** for their first face to face subject consultation evening next Wednesday. Appointments are booked online and please do use the note section if there is something specific that you wish to discuss (and remember to bring your list of appointments with you!) Do let us know should you have any issues.

We have **ongoing issues with parents dropping off and collecting students and using the bus park and/or staff car parks, including Fleet Street, at peak times**. This is a polite reminder that in order to keep everyone safe this is **not permitted from 8.25am-8.45am and 3.20pm-3.45pm**. Details of alternative drop-off/collection points are shown on the attached, which is also available on the school website. Please do help us keep everyone safe by complying with these arrangements, thank you.

Our **'Flying Start'** students have now completed all their preparations and, working with mentors from Leonardo Helicopters, began building their gliders on Thursday. Mr Crossland has been very impressed by their commitment to undertake most of this work after school, and the innovative designs are developing into some promising gliders. Thanks to Mrs Gibbs, we also have a group of Year 7 students joining a number of schools and heading off to Leonardo's on Tuesday for an engineering activity and tour of their facilities.

I hope you will all have seen the ParentMail sent out on Monday about important **changes to medication** held in school, a copy of the letter can be found on the school website. This is a reminder to collect any non-prescription medicines as soon as possible, and by Friday 13th February at the latest please, or it will be disposed of.

I wish you all a restful weekend.
Mr Hales