

News from Stower Provost Primary School for Octavo February 2019

The Spring Term is well-underway now with the children fully into learning about a whole range of subjects. We have been very pleased to welcome Mrs Hancock and Mrs Oliver to the teaching team – they bring a wealth of experience with them and have already made their mark on Hazel Class.

The children have been busy already, enjoying their Forest School lessons, taking part in a local schools' football tournament, receiving High 5 Netball tuition at the secondary school and challenging themselves in the deep swimming pool at St. Mary's School in Shaftesbury to complement their swimming sessions in the school pool in the summer term.

The children are fully engaged in the life of the school, with School Councillors, children chosen by their peers, meeting regularly to share ideas on how to make their school an even better place for them to learn. Discussions range from the hopeful (wanting more after school clubs, longer playtimes and less homework), to the practical (suggestions about what they learn in class and ideas for their half termly house rewards), to the responsible (how they might improve their school environment and what charity they should raise money for).

We take the children's comments seriously, and, where practically, financially and educationally viable, we do what we can to respond to their views. Consequently, we are developing our range of books for the library, increasing our range of computers and tablets for them to use for research, and providing more equipment for them to play with at playtimes.

Along with the new technology, the school is currently undergoing a major electrical upgrade, including the installation of more emergency lights. Driving past at night now, you may spot a ghostly green glow coming from some windows – sadly this is not the Marking Fairies helping the teachers' workload, just part of the new fire exit signs. Work starts soon on the external redecoration which will considerably smarten up the outside of the school, and various other refurbishments inside will make the school an even better place to learn.

As always, we are very keen to hear from anyone who has the time to come into school to support the teaching and learning. If you have any particular skills, perhaps in sports, art or sewing, we would love to hear from you. We would be equally pleased to hear from you if you can spare a regular half hour a week to hear some children read – it makes a real difference!

James Stanford
Headteacher