

News from Stour Provost Primary School

The beginning of September marks the start of the new school year, a time when the children and staff make their New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions are often around developing new friendships (children), keeping up with the marking (staff), or improving handwriting (children and staff...).

As a whole school, we are also planning how we can embed the improvements made last year as well as deciding what new areas we will be focussing on. The children have made great progress with their written work, one of last year's priorities, so this year we will once again have reading as a focus, developing the children's comprehension of the texts they read. More direct teaching of higher order reading skills, (for example, 'Why do you think the author chose those words for this description?' and 'What would you feel if you were in this character's situation?'), and plenty of opportunities to read aloud in class will help with their fluency and expression, while a series of reading challenges will give the children an extra incentive to increase the amount of reading they do, making even better use of our excellent school library.

Another area we are keen to develop still further is our wonderful outdoor environment. With the Forest School lessons continuing in our woodland area, where the children learn how to whittle sticks, follow trails and practise their culinary skills in the mud kitchen, they will get the chance to be outside more whatever the weather. Also we are looking forward to installing an all-weather track around the field which will enable the children to have a dry walk or jog as we take part in the increasingly popular 'Daily Mile'.

Our dedicated PTFA will be redesigning the children's garden ready for their Dig for Victory project, and I'm sure the children will enjoy the lottery that is vegetable growing as they learn about germinating, weeding and, hopefully, harvesting. Our outdoor classroom has received a sprucing up, and the plans for improving the front of the school continue, giving the children every opportunity to continue their learning outside.

With our renewed emphasis on reading and the outdoors, we'd be delighted to welcome helpers to come and hear the children read, or work with them in the grounds. If you are interested, please get in touch via the school office – we'd love to hear from you.

September, of course, is also Carnival Season. It is great that there will once again be a Stower Provost Primary School entry in the afternoon procession in Shaftesbury Carnival, and last term and during the holiday, a number of children and parents were working hard to prepare for this. Do cheer us on if you're there on 29th September.

James Stanford