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Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have settled very well into their learning and I have been very impressed with the work they have done so far. It is lovely to see so many of them coming along to the netball, Rugby and Art clubs, and the on-site After School Club is going very well – thank you for your support.

Crisp Packet Recycling Venture – news from the organiser!

Rocco is thrilled to be carrying on with the crisp packet recycling scheme this term, having collected nearly 3000 packets weighing in at just over 8kg since the scheme began, it has proved to be a huge success and we thank you all for your support. We will continue to have a collection box outside the front door and another in the school hall for empty packets to be put in. The scheme can accept all brands of crisp packets, including grab bags, sharing bags and multi pack bags. However because the scheme is sponsored by Walkers it is limited to crisp packets only so we are unable to accept popcorn bags, mini cheddars, cake or biscuit wrappers etc at present.

Well done, Rocco, and thank you for all the work counting the bags.

On a related note, Mrs Lucas, our chair of governors, has offered to run an Eco-Club. This will be after school, most likely on Mondays, beginning after half term. They will be considering other recycling/upcycling schemes, so if you have any ideas or information, please let me know and I will pass it on to Mrs Lucas. More information about the club will be sent home nearer the time.

Continuing the theme, I am delighted to let you know that next week we will be hosting a display of Upcycled Fabric Panels, created in India, and brought to us by Jenny Morisetti, Shaftesbury's Sustainability Champion. The children will be viewing the display and talking to Jenny during the afternoon, and she will be in the hall at 3:00pm to give parents and carers the chance to see this remarkable collection. There are also some items (postcards, miniature dolls etc) for sale to support the sustainability cause. All are welcome.

The Carnival Club starts again on Monday for two weeks before entering in the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Carnivals. The costumes look wonderful and everyone is hoping we'll hold onto our winners' trophy from last year!

The fledgling choir has been busy practising songs for the Angel Festival at St Andrew's Church in Todber. Artwork and writing from the school will be displayed from Monday 23rd September, with the Festival ending with a special service in the church at 6:00pm on Sunday 29th September. The choir will need to be at the church, in full uniform please, at 5:45pm ready to process. All families are welcome to attend, and after the service, which should last about 45 minutes, refreshments will be available.

PE kit in school

Please make sure your children have their Stower Provost blue PE kit in school every day. The teachers have timetabled the sessions, but they will always try to find opportunities for more of these lessons. A number of children this week have had to miss out because they didn't have their named kit in school.

Reading Initiative

Our reading resources have now been comprehensively reorganised, with many new books purchased to spark the children's interest. Thank you to the PTFA for their contribution towards this significant whole-school investment. With each class timetabled to use the library at least once a week, we are hoping that books will become an even more prominent part of life at school and at home. A key part of your child's reading journey is ensuring they have fully understood the book, so our request is for you to hear a few pages and then ask a range of questions about what has been read.

Suggested questions for all children:

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character was....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?

Ideas for asking questions of older readers can be found at

<https://eddieplayfair.com/2015/07/15/20-questions-to-ask-about-a-book-youve-read/>

With best wishes

James Stanford



