

Dates for
the Diary:



2022

Diary Dates Week Commencing 19th September

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| Mon 19th September | - BANK HOLIDAY |
| Tues 20th September | - Sports Afterschool Club
- Drama Afterschool Club |
| Wed 21st September | - Stencil & Spirograph Afterschool Club
- Photography Afterschool Club
- Ali Heath Sewing Club 2 last session for group 2 |
| Thurs 22nd September | - 9:00 am Running Club
- FOREST SCHOOL EAGLE & KESTREL CLASSES
- Lego Afterschool Club |
| Fri 23rd September | - FLU VACCINATIONS
- Mad Hatters Reading Afterschool Club
- Board Games Afterschool Club |

Diary Dates Week Commencing 26th September

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| Mon 26th September | - Crafty Afterschool Club
- Ali Heath Sewing Club 1 |
| Tues 27th September | - Sports Afterschool Club
- Drama Afterschool Club |
| Wed 28th September | - APPLE DAY
- Stencil & Spirograph Afterschool Club
- Photography Afterschool Club
- Ali Heath Sewing Club 2 last session for group 2 |
| Thurs 29th September | - 9:00 am Running Club
- FOREST SCHOOL MERLIN CLASS
- Lego Afterschool Club
- PARENTS EVENING 15:30-18:00 |
| Fri 30th September | - Mad Hatters Reading Afterschool Club
- Board Games Afterschool Club |



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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year! What a wonderful start to the term it has been. The weather has been mostly kind and the sound of children at work and play has once again filled the Sheepscombe valley. I have been so impressed at how well each class has settled back in to school and even more amazed by our youngest children in Nursery and Reception who have just taken everything in their stride! Our new staff Mrs Curzon (Class teacher on a Monday, Tuesday in Kestrel Class), Miss Bannister (Full time TA in Merlin year 1 and 2) and Mrs Breare (Class teacher on a Monday in Merlin year 1 and 2) already feel like they have been with us forever and we are glad to have them on our team.

You will of course know that I am also currently the Interim Executive Head at Miserden School while their Head teacher is absent. This means I am currently working in both schools on both days. Across the week this translates into a mixture of mornings and afternoons but I am always contactable at both schools. All of our staff at Sheepscombe are leaders in their own right and we have a wealth of leadership expertise in the team. As full time teacher Mr Crocker is the Senior lead who is on site all week and there is a similar full time member of staff at Miserden also on site all week. Please do contact myself or Mrs Powell in the first instance if there is anything you need.

Parents' evenings take place soon so do watch out for the sign up sheets that Mrs Powell will put out for you. The dates for these are Thursday 29th September and Thursday 6th October.

A couple of additional housekeeping things have come to our attention this week. Firstly please can we ask that you arrive on time to collect children at 3.15 p.m. if they are not staying for club, many thanks.

Secondly, we are altering our rules on Birthday and other foods to share being brought into school. Please could you keep birthday food and treats for your child's party or for after school at the village hall or offsite, where you will know that parents are present. Such items are now not allowed to be shared on the school playground at the end of the day, or in class (though this has long been a rule). The reason for this rule change is due to the fact that we have several allergies in school. PARENTS and only parents (or carers/relatives collecting your children) must take responsibility for this - having food items shared when off the school premises with parents leaves less margin for error and keeps children safer.

Forest School started this week with Merlin Year 1 and 2's and the children had a lovely, if tiring time - the walk up to Elsworth is a long one for our youngest pupils and they all were amazing. Also, thank you to Mr Gardner for all his hard work in the summer holidays completing the Forest School Leader training and for creating a comprehensive Forest School manual for the year ahead.

After school clubs have been really popular this week and it is lovely to see how many children like to stay after school to join in with their friends.

PE has also started really well this term. We have very lucky with the weather which allowed us to go to the cricket pitch this week. We will continue to do this for as long as we can. This week we also saw the start of our photography sessions with Catherine Harder. Each week throughout this year Catherine will be teaching photography to classes of children alongside their teachers as they learn more about the art and technicalities of photography and the inner workings of the cameras themselves. This is a super opportunity for our children to begin to create their own seasonal portfolios and ties together brilliantly our art, outdoors and computing curriculum. We hope that you enjoy the photographs from week 1 in this newsletter. This term she will work with Eagle class but the plan is for her to work with all classes this year.

Today you will receive the theme webs for each class for the term ahead. The whole school theme is called 'How the land lies' and children across the school will be learning more about at the world around them and about historically and geographically important areas of the world. In term 2 there will be a big focus on environmental sustainability and as part of our responsibilities for the future of the planet. More news will follow.

Next week we welcome our first visitor to the school, poet and author Mr Phil Bowen. **Mr Bowen is a poet, performer, biographer and playwright** who has worked in over 500 schools in more than thirty counties as a poet-in-education. He will lead a workshop in each class focusing on woodland and landscape poetry. On 24th September he is performing at the Cheltenham Poetry Festival. We are very excited to be working with him. He had heard from Hawkwood College that we were a very creative school and got in touch to offer to work with us as he was in Gloucestershire for the Poetry Festival.

Garage Band started this week, funded by you all as part of the FOSS team who every year commit to pay for whole class music tuition. This year we will also be working once again with the Voice Collectives project and we are also adding Samba band in later in the year to develop our offer further. We are immensely grateful for the support with music lessons.

Over the past 2 weeks we have been delighted to see many of you at our Celebration assemblies next week however there will be no assembly due to the timings of the poetry workshops for children; this will enable all classes to make the most of the time available.

We wish you all a peaceful and reflective extended weekend ahead. Although a sombre occasion where we know many tears will be shed, we hope that you are able to give heartfelt thanks as we all celebrate the life of our Queen Elizabeth II.

Kind regards,
 Vicky Dangerfield



Photography lessons with Catherine Harder

