

# SEPTEMBER 2020

Dates  
for your



## Diary Dates Week Commencing 28th September 2019

- Monday 28th September - **Forest School for Merlin Class**  
- Kestrel & Eagle Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Stay & Play after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 29th September - Whole school sport pm  
- After school Sports Club pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 30th September - Kestrel & Eagle 24 Maths after school club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15  
- After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 1st October - **APPLE DAY**  
- Kestrel & Eagle STEM after school club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Fimo Clay after school club pick-up 4:15
- Friday 2nd October - Year 5/6 Mad Hatters Book club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Lego after school club pick-up 4:15

## Diary Dates Week Commencing 5th October 2020

- Monday 5th October - **Forest School for Kestrel Class**  
- Kestrel & Eagle Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Stay & Play after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 6th October - Whole school sport pm  
- After school Sports Club pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 7th October - Kestrel & Eagle 24 Maths after school club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15  
- After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 8th October - Kestrel & Eagle STEM after school club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Fimo Clay after school club pick-up 4:15
- Friday 9th October - Year 5/6 Mad Hatters Book club pick-up 4:15  
- Merlin Lego after school club pick-up 4:15



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*'An Inspirational setting where all children flourish.'*

## 25th September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The past two weeks have flown by and the children are all now fully into the swing of Term 1. We hope that you are finding the stretched start and finish times for school of benefit and that you feel you are able to keep socially distanced to a level you are comfortable with. Please do let us know if you have any comments or questions around this as we are always seeking to make improvements as we move through the year.

In the last two weeks our Reception children have started their phonics lessons with Mrs Lane and we have been delighted with their enthusiasm! All of Merlin class have begun work on their text 'The High Street' looking closely at the illustrations and putting actions to the story (ask them!) to help with their 'Talk for Writing' skills. In the coming weeks they will be creating their own versions of where Sally went on her shopping trip into town. We already have suggestions from children that she might like to visit 'a charity shop', 'an expensive car shop', 'a dance wear shop', 'a shop filled just with Lego', 'a pet shop' and 'that nice place where the coffee machines make a noise!'. Kestrel class have been busy looking at Roman architecture and how Roman people lived. Their theme display walls are already filling up with good quality examples of their work. The standard of writing across the class has been particularly impressive this week.

Eagle class have started to create mini Roman roads in DT and are about to embark on a class Roman newspaper. This week during drop-ins I've observed some percentage dice games in operation and some really fast '24' calculations. Eagle class children learnt about stereotypes in PSHE this week with Miss Edwards. Miss Edwards has been teaching this unit of work for a number of years in other schools and observes that each year this discussion shows children are much more aware of equality and fairness and are able to quickly address stereotypical opinions. In the past two weeks we have showed round (at a distance) or spoken on the phone to even more potential families with children wanting to join our school. This we are always pleased to do of course, but the admissions team tell us they now have us on 'speed dial' as they have had so many appeals for places of late. We would love to have space to take everyone who wants a place but as we are now 70 children on roll plus Little Lambs we are pretty much at capacity.

Next week we will send out details of how we plan to run parents' evenings this term. We have been talking about this as a staff team during the last week. Our preference is to offer two kinds of meeting for you to choose from. One would be to have a 'face to face' but distanced conversation at drop off or pick up time, outside if the weather is agreeable, so that you can also look at your child's books at the same time. The other is to offer a pre booked time for a telephone call to talk about your child's start to the term. We are aware that we may not be able to offer 'face to face' sessions later in the year so it seemed sensible to offer this now while we can.

A booking form will be sent out to you next week and you will be able to identify your preference. We are happy with either. Mrs Powell will then process the requests and let you know your day and time.

Apple Day is a Sheepscombe tradition around this time. For those of you new to the school we used to spend the morning in our mixed age 'family groups' to which each child belongs and earns 'family points' for (these are named Dartmoor, Herdwick, Ryeland and Cotswold), carrying out a range of apple themed activities, culminating in a Harvest Festival in the afternoon. This year things will look a little different as we cannot mix groups nor use the church at this time. However, children will still participate in variety of activities but staff leading each of the 4 activities will move between groups instead. Teaching assistants will remain in their usual classes as far as possible so that children always have familiar adults with them. We will send home photographs of the day to you.

The Cheltenham Literature Festival is also always a big part of our calendar and again this year we will be changing how we access this due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place. We will be accessing the online virtual events from the Festival through our new interactive boards and carrying out workshops within the classroom. Class teachers are in the process of selecting the workshops their classes will access. We will be asking for a voluntary contribution of £2 per child, which will cover all of the events we book over the week. This will go directly to the Cheltenham Literature Festival to support them at this time.

Forest School has now begun for all classes. If you would like to be a parent helper each week or just for one week, then please let Mrs Powell know.

P.T.O

The FOSS team have done an amazing job setting up a bike riding fundraiser for the school. We would LOVE every child to join in whatever way you can. It can be done entirely in your own time, in your own area, at your own pace. Details have been sent home and I have had a sneak preview of the T-Shirts that will also be for sale. Whether you can cycle a long way or a short distance every kilometre counts and with a big team effort we can help the FOSS team raise funds that get spent directly back on your children. Please help us with this event!

This week the assembly from assemblies.org was 'Pause for thought' and next week's is about 'Rosh Hashanah'. Iain Green's photography day last week was an amazing success. The children were really enthralled with this and took some wonderful photographs during their sessions. More news on this in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, do take some time to look at the examples on display along the path leading through the playground. Iain sent us an email afterwards and below is an extract from it:

*I just wanted to say what a lovely day it was with the children - they were fantastic, so enthusiastic, polite, focussed and observant - as you can see from their wonderful photos. Please can you pass on that the bee colonies we found were Ivy bees. The children were really excited to discover them and I promised to let them know what they were. The bees are only active from September to November to take advantage of the ivy flowering season.*

On the strength of this successful day, Iain has just given us an opportunity to be part of a fully funded project with him over this academic year, meaning he will return twice more in two different seasons to develop the children's photography skills further. We are really excited about this!

If you have any questions or concerns please do contact your child's class teacher, they will be happy to help. The staff team have been really appreciative of the kind comments many of you have sent in already - and I'm delighted to be known as a great toast maker in breakfast club.

I hope you all have a super weekend,

Kind regards  
Vicky Barron  
Head teacher

## FOSS News

**Team 1000km 2020**  
Small but mighty!

**CYCLING CHALLENGE**  
1 OCT - 31 OCT 2020 SHEEPSCOMBE SCHOOL RIDES 1000KM

SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE ROUTES WITH YOUR CLASS AND FRIENDS AT SCHOOL	CYCLE ANYWHERE IN OXFORD AND COUNT YOUR KILOMETRES	COLLECT SPONSORSHIP FOR YOUR EFFORTS ON THE ONLINE OR PAPER SPONSOR FORM
UPDATE YOUR DISTANCES EACH WEEK ON YOUR CLASS NOTICEBOARDS SO WE CAN TRACK OUR TEAM PROGRESS!	GET A FREE TEAM T-SHIRT BADGE TO WEAR TO SCHOOL. JUST ASK YOUR PARENTS TO SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOU WEARING YOUR SHIRT TO WOODY'S BUS MEM FOR THE TEAM 1000KM PHOTO	IF YOUR MUM AND DAD (OR KEVIN WITH YOU) AND HAVE A SMARTPHONE ASK THEM TO DOWNLOAD STRAVA A FREE APP IT WILL MAP YOUR RIDE & MEASURE YOUR DISTANCE!
DON'T KNOW SOMETHING? ASK ONE OF THE CYCLING CHAMPIONS: WOODY, RICE, CALVIN OR MR RINGER AND THEY WILL FIND OUT!	GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT CYCLING AND YOUR RIDE? WRITE A BLOG FOR TEAM 1000KM BLOG ASK A CYCLING CHAMPION HOW TO CONTRIBUTE!	BE SAFE WEAR A HELMET AND RIDE WITH FAMILY

YOUR SPONSORS CAN FOLLOW OUR TEAM'S PROGRESS ON THE NEW FOSS WEBSITE FROM OCT 1: [WWW.FRIENDSOFSHEEPSCOMBE.SCHOOLPRESS.COM](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFSHEEPSCOMBE.SCHOOLPRESS.COM)

### Join Sheepscombe's 1000km kids cycling challenge!

We are running a children's cycling challenge from the 1st - 31st October. Interested children from any school year can sign up to one of five cycling distance targets to ride over the month period: 5km, 10km, 25km, 50km and 100km. The aim is that together team 1000km kids will collectively ride 1000km over the month which just so happens to be the length of Great Britain. Sheepscombe school is small but mighty!

Each child will aim to ride their chosen target distance individually (with a family member) or covid permitting in pairs with another 1000km kids team member and as a school we hope to reach 1000km by 31st October. We will share weekly updates about our individual rides on our team blog page and keep a running total of the teams distance. Each cyclist will ask family, friends and neighbours to sponsor them on the 1000km kids team fundraising page which will be set up on Go Fund Me.

Everyone in the team will get a certificate for participating as every kilometre will count! We will have school cycling champions and these people will be announced next week.

If your child would like to take part contact Sarah (Woody and Eli's mum) by the end of next week on sarahjanewarder@googlemail.com and let her know the name of your child, year group and number of kilometres they would like to ride in October. She will then send you a fundraising page, information about the 1000km kids challenge to share with your potential sponsors, and further details about how we can share routes and information.

We are hoping to make a team t-shirt too, more information about this to follow next week.

All sponsorship money raised will be given to FOSS and go towards school music lessons for the next year. Let's get cycling.

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