

Amesbury CE Primary PE Newsletter

A big welcome to all new parents and pupils who are reading the PE newsletter for the first time! Every term I try to give an update on everything that has been going on from the term, including lessons and topics, festivals and competitions.

School Games Sportsmark and PE and school sport

Back in July, we were informed that I was successful in gaining the Silver School Games Sportsmark for our school – a superb achievement for a first time application! We were only a couple of points off the gold so I will be striving to achieve that for this year. The sportsmark focuses on the amount of PE and sport offered to pupils in school.



Schools used to have to provide two hours of PE and school sport per week for every pupil. Since the summer, things have changed slightly and we are being advised to follow a '30:30' guideline. There is now an aim for every primary school to deliver 30 active minutes to every child throughout the school day and influencing 30 minutes of activity at home. I am more than aware that increasing provision for any subject can be very challenging given the tight scheduling of a school day. It will be part of my job to come up with plans to put in place, and help with accessing ideas, for the delivery of the

30 active minutes. I will be measuring the impact of the 30 active minutes in school, as well as communicating with parents and carers to influence the 30 active minutes at home.

It is commonplace to see in the news that inactivity and mental health issues are increasing and there is a growing need to develop resilience and employability skills. I look at PE as the bedrock to a good education which equips young people with vital skills to support their wellbeing, get them ready to learn, and help prepare them for success in life.

Please talk with your child(ren) about achieving 30 minutes of activity a day at home – this could be walking the dog, walking to and from school, practicing skills they need for PE lessons, or fun games and activities as a family!

Each class will receive a termly newsletter with specific information for classes and year groups. There is a section on each for PE, where I will let you know what is being taught next term and things that pupils may need or can be involved in.

Sports festivals and tournaments

Pupils, especially in KS2, are becoming very aware of how my PE lessons are based around a competition calendar. I not only arrange and organise cluster festivals and competitions with our cluster primary schools (Amesbury Archer, Christ the King, Woodford Valley, Shrewton and Newton Tony), but I also try to enter as many School Games competitions which lead on to district, county and regional competitions. I work hard to give a variety of sports to compete in, and to cover as many age groups as physically possible.

This term has seen the start of term focused around football. It has been covered in lessons and as an after school club, and it has been great to see a record number of our pupils involved in competitions!

On Thursday 18th October, at Amesbury Primary School, I hosted our Stonehenge cluster Year 5 & 6 football tournament. We had 12 teams entered and held an A and B league competition. It was lovely to see all our six schools enter and so many supporters coming to enjoy the great weather and superb footie skills!



We entered our A team into the A league and the team consisted of captain Alfie J, Callum E, Ollie P, Jay L, Oscar C-D, Aaron S, Danny W and Stanley M. They faced five fast and furious matches against some really strong opposition. Overall they came third and it was a great chance to work together as a team before we go the School Games tournament after half term.



The B team was entered into the B league and consisted of captain Jacob C, Scott B, Toby L, Harvey M, Tyler E, Adam K, Kieran A and Archie S. The B league also had six teams, so each team had five matches. The B team displayed consistency and solid teamwork throughout and were overall winners of their league!



The C team consisted of captain Logan E, Jacob K, John K, Cameron T, Riley W, Ciaran A-W and James R-Q. This team overcame their nerves and settled quickly as a team and proved so strong that they ended on the same points as the B team and only lost through goal difference! They were a team that showed a real resilience and strength as one force working together.

We also entered a Year 5 & 6 girls team. They also have a school games competition after half term so it was a great chance to settle in as a team and gain confidence through match experience. The team consisted of captain Lily C, Grace R, Freya L, Rachael J, Lilly McH, Evie H, Jasmine P-M, Lola S and Chloe H. Despite coming last in the B league, they did prove to be equal against the Amesbury Archer girls team that also took part.



On Monday 22nd October, I hosted the Year 3 & 4 football tournament at Amesbury Primary after school. Yet again, the sun was shining down on us and we had five schools entered, with a total of eight teams and an amazing number of spectators and supporters! Again, we had an A league and B league and each team having three matches.

Our A team consisted of captain Alex F, Simon M, Zac W, Jack W, Lily S, Ollie C and Benjamin D. They had a superb tournament; great teamwork, brilliant skills, positive attitudes and top results! As an unbeaten team, they came away as the A league winners – an awesome result, well done!!!



The B team consisted of captain Reuben K, Finnigan N-E, Alex S, Penny H, Nathaniel H, Maddie P and Daisy H. They also displayed great teamwork and determination. They came second, missing out on first by one point!



What was really interesting to note was that, while I run the tournaments and enter more than one team, it means leaving my teams on their own for the majority of the event. It was lovely to not only observe for myself, but to hear from parents how they also noticed the maturity, resilience and teamwork of all our pupils involved. Unlike all the other teams, who were guided and shouted at by their coach/teacher (trust me, I can do my fair share of shouting and guiding when I have the time!!), our teams sorted themselves and had to dig deep inside themselves to find the confidence within and the strength to go for it. They all make me so proud and to see so many involved and so happy is a delight for me.....well done to all of you!!!

As mentioned, next term will see the School Games tournaments taking place as well as various other sports and competitions.

The following dates may be useful for some diaries:

- School Games level 2 Years 5 & 6 Boys football tournament – Tuesday 13th November 10am-2.30pm @ Avon Valley College
- School Games level 2 Years 5 & 6 mixed netball tournament – Tuesday 20th November 3-5pm @ Avon Valley College
- School Games level 2 Years 5 & 6 Girls football tournament – Monday 26th November 11am-2.30pm @ Avon Valley College
- SEN Kurling Years 3-6 – Friday 30th November 1.30-2.30pm @ Christ the King
- Stonehenge cluster Years 5 & 6 mixed netball tournament – Thursday 6th Dec 1-3pm @ Ames Pri
- School Games level 2 Years 5 & 6 mixed swimming gala – Friday 7th December (am) @ Avon Valley College



Other news.....

While the Year 6 residential was taking place, those that remained had their adventurous activities as well! We managed to create indoor caving in the New Hall. Building and exploring tunnels and caves – all without the damp and creepy crawlies!!



The Year 6 crazy cavers in action!!!

I am proud of



This term I have been impressed with so many pupils during PE, at playtimes and in clubs and teams. I do feel that there are a few who deserve a special mention and a 'well done' for the amazing progress they have made over the last weeks. Not only just amazing progress but, for some, a change in attitude towards the sport we have been covering – increased self-esteem, confidence, determination and smiles!!

Year 2

Barbury – Freddie M and Poppy S
Stourhead – Ella-Rose C, Travis-Lee R and Sienna B

Year 3

Sarum – Zack S and Grace A

Year 4

Longleat – Benjamin D and Layla S
Wardour – Maddie P and Finnigan N-E

Year 5

Figsbury – Scott B and Lucy R
Woodhenge – Maisie J and Corban B

Year 6

Avebury – Tjay McC and Cerys O
Stonehenge – Milly S and Oscar C-D



A special mention must also go out to some amazing Year 5 & 6 pupils who were my sports leaders at the Year 3 & 4 football tournament. A huge thanks to Alfie J and Ollie P for refereeing at a top level on each of the pitches. They were supported by Thomas and Lewis A, who came over voluntarily from Stonehenge School. Thank you to Oscar C-D and Callum E for coaching a team each, your help and guidance was brilliant! Plus a thank you to Harvey M, Ciaran A-W and Jasmine P-M for giving up your time to help make everything run smoothly!



And finally.....



If there are any parents/carers or family members who come and spectate at any of our festivals and tournaments and take any fantastic photos, please share them with me so they can go in the newsletter!

Any PE kit that your child(ren) has outgrown, please feel free to donate to our spare kit supplies for PE lessons. Hand in to a class teacher, the office, or myself and it will be gratefully received!



Wishing you all an enjoyable half term break. Stay happy and stay active!!

