



Motcombe CE VA Primary School

Motcombe CE VA Primary School,
Church Road, Motcombe,
Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9NT
office@motcombe.dorset.sch.uk,
01747 852018

On Tuesday 12th December, the Chair of Governors (Mrs Sarah Clune) and the Vice-Chair of Governors (Mrs Jill Jenkinson) were welcomed to the Motcombe Parish Council meeting. An update was given about recent school news and successes together with action that the school is taking in relation to parking at the school. These are summarised below:

School news

- The school welcomed a new Head/Principal in the Autumn Term – Mr Matthew Barge, who has written recently for The Villager updating the community on school life during this term. He has also met with Mr Allistair Leak, Chair of the Parish Council.
- The school was inspected by OFSTED in November and was rated as **good** both in terms of teaching and learning and safeguarding and the pastoral care of its pupils. The report will be published on the school's website in due course.
- The school is extremely grateful to the many members of the community who give up their time to volunteer and be part of school life, including those running the Walking Bus through the village, Open the Book in school, governors and volunteer readers. There was a celebration assembly at the end of the summer term to thank volunteers which the children led.

Parking

- A new start to the school day has been introduced by Mr Barge which enables parents to drop their children at an earlier time and leave them in the care of the school thus ensuring that everyone is not arriving at school at the same time. This has improved the situation at the start of the school day.
- There is increasing use of the popular 'Early Birds' club at the start of the day which means that up to 30 children are starting the school day at 7.45am.
- Year 6 children living in the village have been given permission to walk to school on their own, subject to their parents agreeing to this. In the summer, Year 5 children will be able to do the same.
- The school pays a volunteer from the village to run the Walking Bus which is staffed by volunteers from the village and parents. There are often 15 or more children using this and the school has publicised timings and the route to encourage more parents to use the walking bus.
- New parents are told that they should park at the village hall car park and a reminder has been sent out to all parents this term encouraging them to use the village hall parking, very generously offered by the Village Hall Committee. The Chair reported that many parents are now parking at the hall and it is often very close to capacity.
- After Christmas there will be a large number of after school activities taking place at school, which has not been the case previously. There will be many clubs running each day after school, with the capacity to take up to 20 children in each club. The After School Club will continue to offer wrap around care to pupils in two sessions – 3.20pm to 4.25pm and 4.25pm to 5.30pm. We anticipate that this will further improve the situation after school as there will be a variety of different pick up times ensuring everyone does not arrive at school at once.
- If anyone has any suggestions you are very welcome to contact the school office.
- The school has previously raised the safety of children walking through the village to school with the Parish Council. The narrow areas of road often mean vehicles drive past with their wing mirror over the pavement. The dipped curbs and speeding are other issues of contention. The community speed watch team are greatly appreciated for the work they do to make the village safer for all.

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Faith and Friendship, Learning and Laughter



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Registered office address: Shaftesbury School, Salisbury Road, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8ER