

LOTTERY FUNDED



# MINETY NEWS

Minety C of E Primary School's Newsletter  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2019/Iss. 2 Feb  
Tel: 01666 860 257 [admin@minety.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@minety.wilts.sch.uk)

“Sparkle,  
Help,  
Imagine  
Nurture  
Excel”

## UPPER JUNIOR NETBALL COMPETITION

Well done to our netball teams who achieved a very creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Malmesbury Netball Festival. We are very proud that the teams gave their all! There were a huge number of teams so our children performed extremely well. Thank you to Jane Garland who led the teams, Carole Rayner and all parents who supported the teams.

## NATIONAL SATS TESTS 2019

The tests for **Year 6** will take place during the week of **13<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Year 2** tests this year will take place **during the month of May** – please ensure your children are in school during this period and do not have medical appointments or dental appointments or are out of school for any reason.

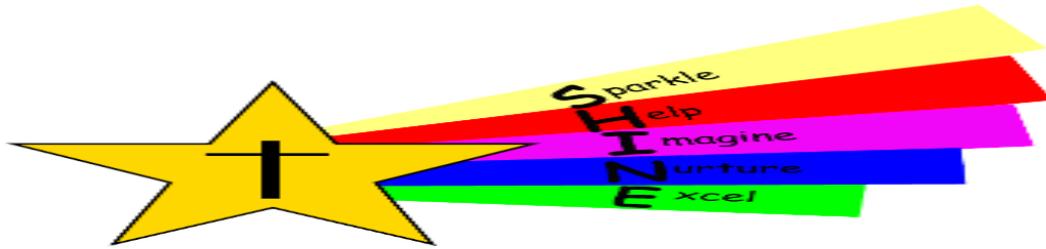
## MALMESBURY MUSEUM ROMAN HOARD VISIT

Yesterday we were very lucky to have a free visit from the Malmesbury Museum to show us an amazing hoard of Roman coins found in Malmesbury by one of their members using a metal detector. They presented information about the life of the Romans in Britain during that period and explained why people would have buried their riches. All our children enjoyed a workshop of various activities, a power point and hands on experience of examining the coins. Thank you to all the volunteers of Malmesbury Museum.

## SNOW, GLORIOUS SNOW!

Fortunately no snow for a fortnight! Famous last words! Just a reminder that even though snow causes a great deal of problems we always endeavour to open if staff can safely travel to school. A closure is also to protect the safety of parents and children who do have to travel on the roads. The procedure is as follows:

At 6.00 a.m. in the morning (or on the previous evening if there is a substantial amount of snow and a large quantity of snow forecast) the decision is made about the quantity of snow and whether it is practical to open. The head informs all radio stations:



- Listen to Radio Wiltshire on 103.5, 104.3 or 104.9FM for regular updates on school closures or look on their website [www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire)
- Listen to GWR or HEART Radio in Wiltshire on 97.2 or 102.2 FM or look on their website [www.heart.co.uk/wilthshire](http://www.heart.co.uk/wilthshire)
- Look on our school website on [www.minety.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.minety.wilts.sch.uk), plus we have a kind member of the PTA who will put a message on the PTA website. and
- Keep an eye on your texts/emails as Parent Mail will keep you informed by this method. Parent Mail is often received more quickly than the other methods of contact.

**PARENT MAIL HAS BEEN THE METHOD THAT HAS GOT INFORMATION TO MOST – SO ON A POSSIBLE SNOW DAY KEEP CHECKING YOUR TEXTS/E MAILS.**

### PTA NEWS

#### **PTA & Ball meetings**

The next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at the Vale of the White Horse and the next Ball meeting will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Everyone is welcome to these meetings so please do come along and show your support. If you are unable to attend any of the meetings then you can catch up with the meeting minutes on the PTA page on the school website.

The Annual Fundraising Ball is due to take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The theme is Midnight Masquerade and this is our biggest fundraising event of the year so please save the date in your diary. Posters will be going up soon and tickets will be on sale in March.

Please do come along as we need as many volunteers as possible to make this a successful event.

#### **Foreign Currency Collections**

We still have a collection in the school office for any foreign currency that you may have laying around. Please look out any coins and/or notes and bring them into the school and we will convert the money donated into pounds to go towards the Chromebooks for the school.

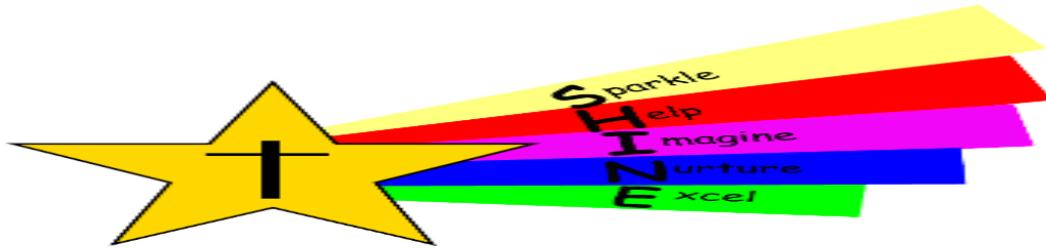
#### **Popcorn Club**

Unfortunately the last Popcorn Club had to be cancelled due to the snow and school closure. We have re-arranged the Popcorn Club for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019. If you couldn't make the last one but would now like your child to come along, please see the registration form attached. Please return your registration forms by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February (if you haven't already done so). After the closing date if you wish your child(ren) to attend then you will need to stay with your child(ren) and pay an extra £1. Payment can be made online.

If you were due to help at the last Popcorn Club but are unable to make this new date please let us know as soon as possible so we can ensure we have enough helpers for the number of children.

#### **Pancake Day**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March we will be selling pancakes by the school hall to celebrate Pancake Day. Please come along to enjoy the pancakes and some of the wonderful toppings that we will have on offer.



We will be asking for pancake donations after the half term (w/c 25<sup>th</sup> February) when we come back. Please remember No Nut items or related products thank you. Please leave your food donations in the school office.

### **Match Funding**

This is something that we would like everyone to look into and have taken the following from the Parentkind website to explain in more detail. Match giving or match funding is a simple way of maximising the fundraising efforts of your individual PTA volunteers. It is an informal albeit corporate arrangement between a company and their employee. Not all companies offer matched funding but those that do will pledge a sum of money relating to the amount their employee has raised for or donated to the charity of their choice. Some organisations will match fund on a £ for £ basis, others will stipulate what they are prepared to give. It is likely that an upper limit will be applied along with certain criteria such as the recipient organisation being a registered charity. Some companies will also pledge time and resources instead of money, so enabling their employees to support a cause during their working week, or offering a tangible service such as the opportunity to print posters, programmes, newsletters and so on.

Please could we ask everyone to investigate with their employers to see whether this is something that they would be willing to consider with one of our forthcoming planned events? It really could make a huge difference.

### **Annual Garden Tidy Up**

This will be taking place on Saturday 23rd March from 10am to 1pm. This is a morning for children, parents, grandparents and siblings to come along and lend a hand giving the school garden areas a spruce up. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to come along to the school on a non-school day and even ride their scooters in school!

No prior gardening required but a willingness to muck in is a must and if you have any gardening tools, gloves etc then please bring them along too. The PTA will be keeping everyone fuelled with free cakes and refreshments throughout the morning.

### **Lucky Numbers**

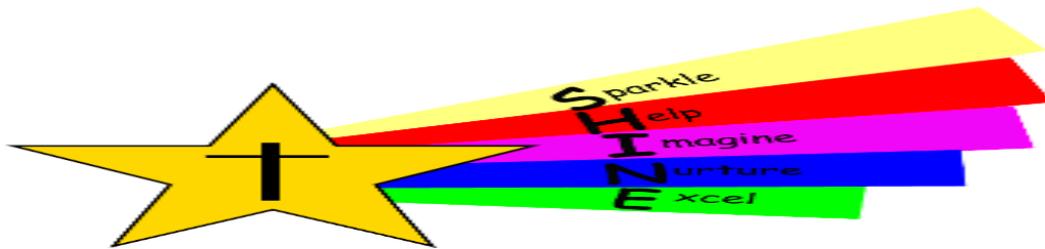
Congratulations to the lucky winners for the January draw. They were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Isla Van Eady
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ava Cusworth
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Billy Pinkney

The lucky numbers draw for January will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. You can join the lucky numbers draw at any point during the school year whether you are a parent, grandparent, child, brother, sister etc. The cost is £1 per month per number. For further information please speak to one of the PTA Committee.

### **Dates for your diaries**

- Ball meeting 26<sup>th</sup> February 8pm at Alice Cusworth's house
- Popcorn Club 1<sup>st</sup> March 5.30pm-7pm at the school
- Pancake Sale 5<sup>th</sup> March after school
- PTA meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 8pm at the Vale of the White Horse



Garden Tidy Up 23<sup>rd</sup> March 10am to 1pm  
 Easter Fair 5<sup>th</sup> April  
 Annual Ball 27<sup>th</sup> April

MOTOR-NEURONE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION NON-UNIFORM DAY

Today we raised money for the Motor Neurone Association in memory of Veronica Finnie who worked at Minety School 8 years ago as a class teacher and returned in various posts of peripatetic and support teacher on a part-time support basis working with individuals and groups of children. Veronica died last November at the age of 52 leaving a loving family of husband and three grown-up children. All of them have so appreciated your support and donations for a very worthwhile charity. One positive was that when we talked with the children about a non-uniform day – they were so delighted at the fun of wearing their own clothes and I am sure Veronica would have truly appreciated that by a day of fun we could raise money for a charity so close to her heart.

TEACHER TRAINING DAYS FOR 2019-20

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019  
 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019  
 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

PARENT ASSEMBLY DATES SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS 2019

Class 3 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 9.00 a.m. start  
 Class 1 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – 9.00 a.m. start  
 Class 4 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – 9.00 a.m. start  
 Class 5 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 9.00 a.m. start – Parent Show Case in Class 5

All parents, friends and family are welcome to these assemblies.

PARENT ASSEMBLIES - Class 6 and Class 2

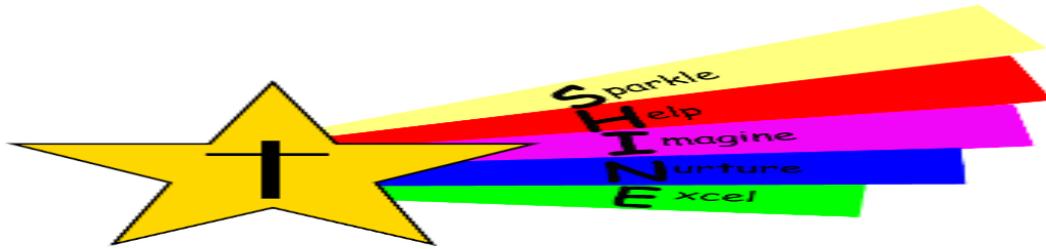
Class 6 presented an amazing assembly last Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Class 6 presented 'Poles Apart', exploring the journeys of Scott and Amundsen, the tragic fate of the Titanic and explaining why Polar Bears have never met Penguins. The children performed brilliantly, speaking with confidence and displaying a sound understanding of what they have learnt this term. The quality of writing was truly impressive. Thank you to Mrs Griffin, Mr John and Mrs Dudding for an exceptional assembly.

Class 1 again presented an amazing assembly today – the rockets looked stunning, the children had adapted their models so brilliantly and the final results were striking. They were so very excited for them to be flying home! The children also spoke with clarity and expression and showed so much learning. There were masses of learning: science, facts, a talk write story, wonderful story boards, writing ladders, instruction writing and striking pictures. The children also sang extremely well despite a technical hitch. Well done Year 1 and thanks to Mrs Roberts, Mrs Landon and the Year 1 team for another exceptional assembly.

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2019-20

The new term dates for the Academic Year 2019-20 were sent out last week.

As in the previous three years our dates have been linked as closely as possible to the holiday dates of



Malmesbury Secondary as the majority of our families have siblings there. This is to assist with the booking of holidays and to assist in child care costs. There are copies outside of the office should you want a hard copy.

For Children:

Autumn Term 1 Begins on Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Autumn Term 1 Finishes on Friday 18th October 2019

October Half Term for Children 2 weeks - Week of 21<sup>st</sup> October, Week of 28<sup>th</sup> October and returning on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Autumn Term 2 Begins on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Autumn Term 2 Finishes on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Christmas Holidays for children 2 weeks beginning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December and returning on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Spring Term 1 Begins on Monday 6th January 2020

Spring Term 1 Finishes on Friday 14th February 2020

Spring Half-Term for children 1 week - Week of 17th February and returning on Monday 24th February

Spring Term 2 Begins on Monday 24th February 2020

Spring Term 2 Finishes on Friday 3rd April 2020

Easter Holidays for Children 2 weeks beginning on Monday 6th April 2020 and returning on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Summer Term 1 Begins on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Summer Term 1 Finishes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Summer Half-Term for children 1 week - Week of 25th May and returning on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Summer Term 2 Begins on Monday 1st June 2020

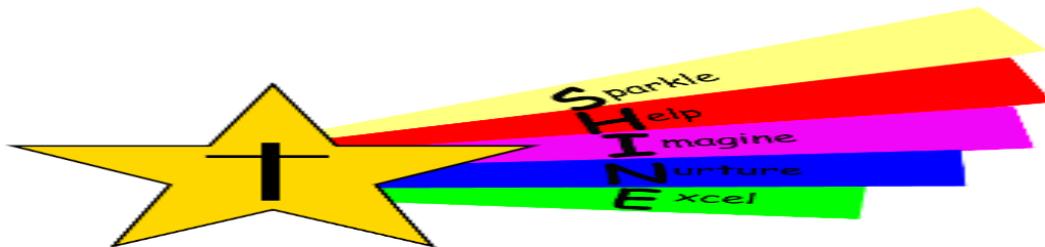
Summer Term 2 Finishes on Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Training Day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### STAFF NEWS

Two pieces of positive news for two members of our valued staff team.

Mr John has secured the Head Teacher role at Crudwell CE Primary School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. We will miss him but are very happy that after 9 years with Minety School he has fulfilled his ambition and potential to become a Head Teacher. We all would like to congratulate Mr John on his success. The advertisement for a Years 5 and 6 Teacher will be advertised from Tuesday of next week and we will keep you updated of the recruitment process as soon as we can.



Mrs Pilcher has retired and after 20 years involvement and now no longer works at Minety School. She has contributed so much to Minety over this period in a volunteer, PTA chair, MDSA and senior TA role. Due to her long service and huge life change she wanted no fuss, announcement or assembly, but today we enjoyed a lovely goodbye lunch together and look forward so very much to her coming back in to see us all. This she has promised to do! Mrs Pilcher has given so very much in terms of care, excellent teaching support and concern for all our children and has been a brilliant staff team member – children and adults will all miss her so very much. Although it is hard to replace Mrs Pilcher, we are lucky enough to have Mrs Woodhouse and Mrs Miller taking on the role in Classes 5 and 3.

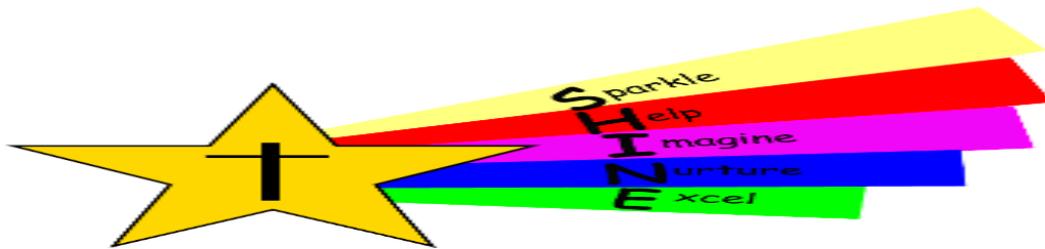
#### INFORMATION REFERENCE FEEDBACK IN THE PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE IN RELATION TO CLUBS

- The vast majority of music teachers will not teach Reception aged children piano, guitar or drums as they are too young to concentrate on the skills that are necessary to learn an instrument. This is true of our current guitar, drums and piano teachers.
- Swimming club would be hard to organise due the lack of a swimming pool close to the school which would make it very costly, especially as none of our teachers are qualified swimming teachers so there would also be an additional cost for tuition.
- Craft and art clubs are run by some of our talented teachers during various terms and will be run again.
- Athletics and cookery clubs have been run free of charge in the past; there is a good chance these clubs will be repeated but teachers like to vary the clubs they provide.
- Ref. Thursday night clubs. Infant clubs are the hardest to find outside coaches for and as Thursday night is the Staff Meeting night – staff are unavailable to run a club.
- We will pass the information on that a child would like a topic club – our teachers all run a club so it would mean another commitment from the teachers – but this is an option for the future.
- We will seek an opportunity for Coding e.g. Scratch, Volleyball, Fencing, Problem-solving, Marital Arts, Gymnastics and allotment club, If any parent feels they could help with one of these clubs please let us know.
- Creative Arts, Crafts, Choir, Philosophy and Mindfulness – all these clubs are highly interesting and have been run at some point before but we need to find an outside provider or a teacher who would be prepared to run one of these. Again if any parent has expertise in these areas please let me know as we could help you run one.
- Archery is due to start next term – the specialist coaches need enough children interested in this opportunity hence for a short period there may be no archery club running until enough children are interested again to run a viable club.
- A Drama Club has been run by Miranda Shirnia – at present due to other commitments this is not possible but individual and group lessons are available please contact the office for more details if lessons should interest you.

#### REMINDERS

Can all parents be very watchful of children at the end of the day?

- Children should not use scooters or bikes on the playground; this is due to the fact that when



children are moving at speed accidents can happen, particularly to pre-school children and toddlers who may be waiting for older children.

- Children need to be supervised at all points on the playground and on the all-weather pitch. Accidents happen when an adult is not supervising children. When children leave their class or class teacher to be with their parents or adult carer – it is the responsibility of the adults collecting the children to supervise the children.

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 - CHRISTINGLE – NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!**



This special and sweet service took place at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February in Minety School Hall. There was the best attendance rate that we have ever had and many of the older children read passages and parts brilliantly. All the children took part enthusiastically and we were all so proud of all them as the singing, readings and prayers made us really think about what Christingle means. Thank you to Rachel Swatton who led the service and to Brian Senior and Ben John who provided such vibrant songs. Extra thanks to Lorna Best, Gina Hanson and Karen Senior who helped the children make their Christingles.

**WORLD BOOK DAY- THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**



This year we are participating in World Book Day by celebrating Roald Dahl's books – on the day, we are dressing up as any Roald Dahl character – do remember that many characters in the books are children e.g. Matilda, James from James and the Giant Peach or George from George's Marvellous medicine, so the children can come as low key as they would like to and have lots of fun checking out Roald Dahl characters. If you need any advice on this please talk with your child's class teacher or look on the Roald Dahl website at <https://www.roalddahl.com> as they can help give you some references to help with those costumes. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we will also enjoy a "Big Bookie Breakfast" at 8.30 a.m. in the morning – we will ask for a small contribution for breakfast and children will enjoy stories as they eat a "Bookie Brekkie." Further details will follow about the activities that will take place throughout the day.

We have had a very busy half-term! All of the children deserve a break as do parents! I hope you gain a chance for some rest and relaxation. We look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Sally Greaves