



Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School

Winterbourne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9LW

Email: office@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

Web: www.winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

Telephone: 01305 889297



Head Teacher Mrs E Sleightholme

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this first half term, I would like to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to all the children, staff, parents and governors for making me feel so welcome and for helping to make my first half term at Winterbourne Valley First School so special. It has been a joy to get to know the school community and to see, every day, what a happy and caring place this is.

There has been so much to celebrate this half term. Our wonderful Harvest Festival was a real highlight, the children performed so beautifully and it was lovely to see so many families joining us to share in the occasion. The striking tree sculpture in our entrance, created with visiting artist Darrell Wakelam and all the children, has brought such colour and creativity to our school.

We also raised money for the Young Minds charity by wearing yellow and holding a very successful cake sale - thank you to everyone who contributed. And of course, who could forget the Halloween disco! The children's scary costumes and infectious excitement made it a night to remember.

Every day, I am delighted to see children from all year groups playing happily together and engaging so enthusiastically in their learning. The atmosphere around school is one of curiosity, kindness and joy, a true reflection of the wonderful community that makes Winterbourne Valley such a special place to be.

PE Partnership

We are delighted to announce that we have partnered with PH ActiveEd, who will be providing high-quality PE lessons for all our children on Thursdays for the rest of this academic year.

Vicky Hall, a fully qualified PE specialist, will be leading the sessions and sharing her enthusiasm for sport and physical activity with the whole school. Next half term:

- Cherries and Blossom will be learning and developing basic physical skills.
- Beech and Silver Birch will be enjoying sessions in Tag Rugby.
- There will also be a lunchtime Multi-Skills Club for children in Reception to Year 2.
- For our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils, an after-school Netball Club will run from 3:00pm to 4:00pm at a cost of £8 per session.



More details about the Netball Club will be shared after half term.

We are very excited about this new partnership and the opportunities it brings to further enhance our PE and sports provision at Winterbourne Valley.

Dance Show Down Programme

We welcomed Natalie, a dance teacher from Premier Education, into school on Monday to begin teaching dance sessions with Beech and Silver Birch. These sessions will continue next half term as the children prepare for an exciting performance as part of the Dance Show Down at Herrison Hall, Charlton Down Village Hall, on Monday 16th December at 5:30pm.

If you haven't already, please return the permission slip to confirm if your child would like to take part in the Showdown Performance. It promises to be a wonderful event celebrating the children's hard work, teamwork and creativity.

House News

We are delighted to announce the winner of our Name That House competition! Congratulations to Martha in Silver Birch, whose creative entries were selected as our new house names. Our houses will now be known as:

- **House 1 – Steepleton**
- **House 2 – Abbas**
- **House 3 – St Martin**

Martha's ideas were inspired by local place names, linking our school even more closely to the community around us. We know these new house names will become an important part of Winterbourne Valley's history. Well done Martha!

Christmas Event

Our Parent Volunteer Group are busily organising an exciting festive event on Saturday 22nd November 2025: Activities will include:

🎄 11:30am – 1:00pm: *Gingerbread House Decorating for Families*

Join us for a fun, creative morning where families can come together to design and decorate their own gingerbread houses.

🎄 2:00pm – 5:00pm: *Winterbourne Valley Wreath Making for Adults*

An afternoon of festive crafting for grown-ups — come along, get creative, and make a beautiful wreath to take home in time for the festive season.



More details to follow but please save the date and we hope to see lots of you there enjoying the start of our Christmas celebrations!

Parents' Consultation Meetings

Parents of children in Reception to Year 4 are invited to attend our consultation meetings on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps with their class teacher.

Parents will receive an email shortly with details on how to book an appointment time. We look forward to meeting with you all.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to another exciting term ahead.

Kind regards,
Emma Sleightholme
Headteacher

