



Headteacher Mrs E Sleightholme



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly special start to my time here at Winterbourne Valley First School. I have absolutely loved this term and have felt so genuinely welcomed by everyone in our community. It has been a real privilege to begin getting to know our wonderful staff, our amazing children and all of our families.



Our school values of respect, kindness and courage have been evident in daily school life, throughout the term. The achievement and progress of all our children has been clear to see and I am immensely proud of everything they have accomplished.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, governors and volunteers for their hard work, care and commitment and our families for their continued support and partnership. Together, you make Winterbourne Valley such a nurturing and wonderful place to learn.

Visit to St Martin's Church

We were delighted to visit St Martin's Church for the Christmas Experience. The children were captivated as they listened to the Christmas story and explored the true meaning of Christmas through engaging, hands-on activities. It was a meaningful and memorable experience that encouraged thoughtful reflection and deepened the children's understanding of the Christmas story. Our sincere thanks go to Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church team for creating and leading such a warm, inspiring and well-organised experience.

Higgledy Piggledy Nativity

Our Higgledy Piggledy Nativity was a great success, with children from Pre-School through to Year 2 taking part. This traditional nativity play was brought to life through confident, enthusiastic performances, with the children singing beautifully, speaking clearly and performing with real enjoyment. The performances were great fun and full of festive spirit, delighting everyone who attended.



Silver Birch Carol Service

We enjoyed the most beautiful Carol Service at St Martin's Church, where Silver Birch class were outstanding. Their singing was confident and heartfelt, enhanced by solo performances that showcased the children's individual talents in piano, recorder and singing. All of the children delivered their lines clearly and confidently, leading the entire service by themselves. It was a very special and memorable celebration of Christmas.

Dance Showdown

The Dance Showdown at Charlton Village Hall was another highlight of the term. Children from Beech Class and Silver Birch Class performed alongside



pupils from Dorchester Middle School and Frome Valley First School in front of a huge audience. The performance was the culmination of a series of dance lessons led by Natalie Bilke from Premier Education and every child showed creativity, confidence and courage. All the children received certificates, and

Rosie and Bertie were awarded medals in recognition of their outstanding contribution. We could not have been prouder and would like to thank Natalie and Premier Education for their inspiring work and support.

Christmas Lunch

Our festive Christmas lunch was a lovely occasion enjoyed by all. Thank you to the parent volunteers who generously gave their time to help make the day so special for the children. The pigs in blankets were a real hit! So popular in fact, there were none left for Mrs Sleightholme!



PTA

A huge thank you to our fantastic PTA for all their hard work and dedication this term. They have raised a significant amount of money through the



Christmas wreath and gingerbread house workshops, the Christmas film night and a brilliant raffle with many fantastic prizes.

One of the highlights was the Grinch sneaking into school to surprise all of our children with presents! Thanks to the PTA's connections in very high places, this unforgettable moment was full of laughter, excitement and plenty of cheeky Grinchy mischief.

Looking Ahead to Next Term

We are excited about the opportunities ahead in the new year:

- Netball Club will continue on Thursdays.
- On Tuesdays, we will be offering Miniballers Football Club.
- We are also pleased to welcome Claire, who will be working with our children on Forest School sessions on Tuesdays.

More details to follow in the New Year.

Important Reminder

Please remember that school will reopen on **Monday 5th January**. Please find attached, the term dates for the remainder of the 2025–2026 academic year.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. May it be a time of rest, joy and togetherness and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme
Headteacher

