



## **Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School**

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Head Teacher Mrs E Sleightholme

### **Our Mission**

Where we are all nurtured in our learning and personal development according to the beliefs of the Christian faith.

### **Our Values**

Respect • Courage • Kindness

### **Notes from Mrs Sleightholme**

We are well and truly back into full swing this term, and it has been a very exciting week across the school. The children have embraced lots of new experiences with great enthusiasm, including Forest School sessions and kickboxing, which have already proven to be firm favourites.

To help keep parents informed about all that is happening, we are trialling a more regular newsletter, which will now be sent out fortnightly. We hope this will give you a clearer picture of school life and upcoming events.

We are also delighted to share that our School Council is now up and running, and we held our very first meeting today. It was wonderful to hear the children's ideas and see them taking an active role in shaping our school community.

Thank you, as always for all your continued support.

### **Whole School News**

Forest School was an absolute success this week, despite the challenging weather conditions. The children showed great resilience and enthusiasm, lighting a campfire to keep warm, toasting marshmallows, and even beginning to rebuild our Forest School area. Mrs Harding, our Forest School instructor, was incredibly impressed with the children's positive attitudes

and teamwork and I think we can all agree she deserves a medal for staying out in the rain all day with such good spirits!

There are still places available for the Forest Yogi Minds after-school club. If your child would like to attend, please book using the link provided. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

<https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds/e/ev-sxhpi-20260113150000>



On Monday, children in Beech and Silver Birch enjoyed a kickboxing taster session with Amanda Farran from IMA Rising Stars. The session was energetic, engaging and very well received by the children. Mrs Farran will be running a lunchtime kickboxing club on Mondays for children in Year 1 to Year 4. If you would like to book your child a place, please see the attached letter.



We also have spaces still available for our Miniballers football club, which takes place after school on Tuesday, for children in Year 1 to Year 4. If your child would like to join, places can be booked using the link provided.

<https://mb-mini-ballers.classforkids.io/info/58>

If your child would like to attend Year 3 and 4 Netball club on Thursday after school please contact the school office.

### **Guitar Lessons in School**

We are pleased to offer guitar lessons in school with our visiting peripatetic guitar teacher Simon Mathewson. These lessons are suitable for beginners aged 7–9 and are a great opportunity for children to start their musical journey.

Lessons are taught individually and last 20 minutes, taking place every fortnight at a cost of £13 per lesson. Children will learn basic chords and

gradually work towards playing songs they enjoy. Small-sized guitars are provided for use during lessons.

Lessons will begin on 6th February.

For further information or to register interest, please contact Simon at [srjmat@gmail.com](mailto:srjmat@gmail.com)

### **Attendance**

Thank you for your continued support with attendance. Please can I gently remind you that no holidays taken during the term time will be authorised. Please continue to use the NHS guidance if you are unsure if your child should attend school or not and remember that they shouldn't miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend with a mild cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea or vomiting. Thank you.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### **Dates for Your Diary**

We have attached a fridge friendly list of key dates for the Spring term. Please do check this section of the newsletter as a reminder of important dates for the fortnight ahead.

### **Clubs Information**

We are very lucky to be able to offer a wide range of clubs this term, giving the children plenty of opportunities to explore new interests and develop their skills. Our lunchtime clubs, run by teachers are open to all children. While pupils are welcome to try different activities, we do encourage them to stick with a club once they have chosen, so they can fully enjoy and benefit from the experience. Please take some time to chat with your child about which clubs they would like to attend:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Staff Lead</b>	<b>Year Groups</b>
Monday	Lunchtime	Gardening Club	Mrs Joslin	Reception – Year 4
Monday	Lunchtime	IMA Rising Stars Kickboxing	Mrs Farran	Year 1 – Year 4
Tuesday	Lunchtime	ICT and LEGO Club	Mrs Pearce	Reception – Year 4
Tuesday	After School	Forest Yogi Minds	Mrs Harding	Year 1 – Year 4
Tuesday	After School	Miniballers	Miniballers Coaches	Year 1 – Year 4
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Art Club	Mrs Rogers	Reception – Year 4
Thursday	Lunchtime	Singing Club	Mrs Joslin	Reception – Year 4
Thursday	Lunchtime	Multi-Skills	Miss Hall	Year 1 – Year 2
Thursday	After School	Netball Club	Miss Hall	Year 3 – Year 4
Friday	Lunchtime	Board Games Club	Mrs MacSwiney	Reception – Year 4

## **PTA**

Thank you, as always, to our PTA for all their hard work and continued support. The current focus of their fundraising is to provide new playground climbing equipment to replace the existing equipment.

Please also make a note in your diaries for the PTA Quiz Night taking place on Saturday 21st March, from 6.30pm until late, at Martinstown Village Hall. More details will follow, but please keep the date free.

The PTA's next meeting will be at 7pm at The Brewers Arms, Martinstown, and everyone is very welcome to attend.

# **Strong roots, successful futures!**