



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

School newsletter No 8 - 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and wonderful half term we have had at Winterbourne Valley! The weeks have absolutely flown by and I am so proud of all that our children have achieved.

In the middle of the half term, we welcomed Ofsted into our school. The children were fantastic ambassadors throughout the inspection, polite, enthusiastic and eager to share their learning. We were incredibly proud of the way they spoke so confidently about their experiences and demonstrated the caring, nurturing and ambitious community that we strive to be. The staff team also worked exceptionally hard to showcase all that makes our school so special.

As a well-deserved treat for their brilliant behaviour and positive attitudes during the inspection, the children enjoyed a non-uniform day today. It was lovely to see them expressing themselves and celebrating the end of a busy and successful few weeks. They looked wonderful and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity.

We are now looking forward to receiving the final Ofsted report after half term and will, of course, share this with you as soon as it becomes available.

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week and we have taken time across the school to focus on wellbeing. The children have participated in the NSPCC "Speak Out, Stay Safe" programme, reinforcing the important message that they should always talk to a trusted adult if they are worried about anything. Today, we also came together for a special assembly to mark Children's Mental Health Week. The focus of the assembly was '*Belonging*' and the powerful, positive impact that feeling connected and valued can have on our mental health and wellbeing. The children reflected thoughtfully on how we can ensure everyone in our school community feels seen, heard and included.

As we head into the half term break, I would like to thank you for all your support. We hope you all have a restful and happy break and we look forward to welcoming

everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightolme

Whole School News

NSPCC Number Day



We had a fantastic time celebrating NSPCC Number Day at Winterbourne Valley First School! The children came to school dressed in an item of clothing or an accessory featuring a number, and it was wonderful to see such a creative range of outfits on display. From numbered sports shirts to hats, badges and handmade designs, the children really embraced the theme.



Throughout the day, classes took part in a variety of fun and engaging maths activities, all designed to celebrate numbers and develop their love of mathematics. There was a real buzz of excitement as the children solved problems, played number games and challenged themselves with different mathematical tasks.



Most importantly, we were proud to be raising money for the NSPCC and supporting the vital work they do to keep children safe. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a total of £44.60.

Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed, your support is greatly appreciated!

Speak Out Stay Safe

This week, our pupils took part in our "Speak Out, Stay Safe" assemblies, an important initiative from the NSPCC that helps children learn how to keep themselves safe and who to turn to if they ever feel worried or unsafe.

Following the assemblies, Year 2 enjoyed a special workshop led by two wonderful NSPCC volunteers, Jane and Sharon. The session was interactive and engaging, giving the children the opportunity to explore scenarios in a safe, supportive environment and learn practical ways to speak out if something doesn't feel right.





We were also delighted that Buddy, the NSPCC's friendly mascot, came along to join in the fun! The children loved meeting him and were excited to share what they had learned with their friends and families.

It was a valuable and memorable experience that reinforced the important message: it's always okay to speak out if something worries you.

Arbor App

This week we have rolled out the Arbor app for parents. We hope this will help to improve communication between home and school and make accessing key information much easier.

From next half term, we will begin introducing additional features, including making payments and booking Extended School provision. Our aim is for the app to be fully functional by the end of the academic year.

Please let us know if you experience any difficulties using the app. We are very happy to help.

Attendance Matters

At Winterbourne Valley, we know that regular attendance is key to your child's learning, progress and wellbeing. Being in school every day helps children keep up with lessons, make friends and develop confidence.



Attendance of 96% or above is considered good and pupils with attendance below 90% are classified as "persistently absent", which can make it much harder to achieve their potential. Even a few days missed here and there can add up. Missing just 2 days a month means your child misses around 10% of the school year!

We encourage all families to prioritise school attendance, arriving on time every day and to let us know promptly if your child is unwell. You can also view your child's current attendance at any time using the Arbor App. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact us. We are here to offer support and work with you to help your child attend school confidently and consistently.

PTA Update

The PTA have made a small change to their upcoming events.

Unfortunately, the Easter Quiz planned for Saturday 21st March has been cancelled. Instead, we are delighted to announce a Family Fun Easter Bingo afternoon!

 Sunday 22nd March
 2:00–4:00pm

 Martinstown Village Hall

Please save the date, it promises to be a fantastic family event and a lovely way to celebrate together.

The PTA are always keen to welcome new faces and fresh ideas. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the PTA via their email.

volunteers@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

The PTA are currently raising funds towards new playground climbing equipment for the children, and we are incredibly grateful for their hard work and support. We hope to see many of you at the Easter Bingo! 🐣

Dates for your Diary

An updated Dates for Your Diary list will be shared with the newsletter. In the meantime, please find below some key dates and important details for the weeks ahead.

Monday 23rd February – Staff Training Day

Tuesday 24th February - Children return to school

Friday 27th February, 8.45am - Coffee and cake with Mrs Sleightholme. Join us for our assembly

Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th March, 3.30pm to 6.00pm - Parents' meetings

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day and Bedtime Stories (5pm to 6pm)

Friday 13th March, 9am - Mothering Day Service at St Mary's Church

Coffee and Cake with Mrs Sleightholme

We warmly invite you to join us for Coffee and Cake with Mrs Sleightholme on Friday 27th February at 8:45am.

Come along to our assembly to see how we celebrate our children's achievements and successes across the school. It is always a lovely opportunity to recognise the children's hard work and share these special moments together.

After the assembly, please stay for coffee and cake. We look forward to welcoming you!

World Book Day

We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March.

This year, we would like to give the children a choice: they may come dressed as a favourite book character or they can be creative and dress up as their favourite adjective! Whether that's *sparkly*, *brave*, *gloomy*, *mysterious* or *cheerful*, we would love to see the children's imagination shine through.

Importantly, we want this to be a celebration of reading and creativity. There is absolutely no expectation to spend money. Simple, homemade and imaginative ideas are very welcome and we encourage families to make use of items you already have at home.

In addition, we are delighted to be hosting a special Bedtime Stories session from 5:00–6:00pm. Children are invited to come back to school in their pyjamas to enjoy stories together, along with a cup of hot chocolate. Further details will follow shortly.

The children have brought home a Scholastic Book Club catalogue along with their World Book Day token. Our new Scholastic Book Club is now live and you can browse the latest books and place orders online at:

<https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-XPDN41RR>

For every £1 spent on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards, which helps us to purchase additional books for school.

Please place your order online by 28th February 2026.

We can't wait to celebrate a shared love of reading together! 📖

🎵 **Wessex Singing Schools Festival**

We are delighted that our Silver Birch children will be taking part in the Wessex Singing Schools Festival alongside other first and primary schools from the local area on 16th March 2026.

The performance will begin at 6:30pm and will last approximately one hour. It promises to be a wonderful evening of music and celebration.

This year, tickets must be pre-booked in advance. You can reserve your tickets using the link below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FXXK>

We very much hope you will be able to join us to support the children at this special event.

Happy Half Term Everyone! See you all on Tuesday 24th February.

Strong roots, successful futures!