



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 10 - 20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move through this busy and special time in the term, approaching Easter, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the recent highlights in school.

French Theatre Trip

Some of our Form 4 children recently enjoyed a wonderful French Theatre trip to Sunninghill Prep School. It was a fantastic experience, bringing their language learning to life and giving them the opportunity to hear and engage with French in a fun and meaningful way. The children were a real credit to the school. Their behaviour was excellent throughout and they represented us superbly. Experiences such as this greatly enhance the French learning they are doing in school with Mrs Brown, helping to build both confidence and enthusiasm for the language.



Wessex Singing Schools Festival



We were absolutely delighted by the Wessex Singing Schools festival. It was a truly uplifting evening and I felt incredibly proud of our Silver Birch children, particularly when they sang their song 'A Million Dreams' from The Greatest Showman. Their enthusiasm, confidence and musicality shone through, making it such a memorable occasion for all who attended. This morning in our Praise assembly we were very lucky to be treated to a repeat performance of 'Explorer and the Bear' from the new Paddington Musical. Well done Silver Birch!

Mother's day service

Our Mother's Day Service, led by Reverend Teresa, was a warm and heartfelt celebration and it was lovely to welcome families to St Mary's Church to share in such a special event. The children sang their songs and read their lines with such care and thoughtfulness, resulting in some very emotional mummies.

Red Nose Day

Today has also been filled with laughter and generosity as the children have celebrated Red Nose Day. From dressing in red to taking part in 'something funny for money', the effort made by everyone has been fantastic. It has been wonderful to see the children having fun while supporting such an important cause. We have raised £56.00!

Finally, I would like to share that we have now received our draft Ofsted report. Its publication is imminent and we will, of course, keep you fully informed as soon as it is released.

As this is our final newsletter before the Easter holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in helping to make Winterbourne Valley such a special place for our children to learn and grow.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Whole School News

Hooke Court

Excitement is certainly building for our Year 4 children as they prepare for their two-night residential at Hooke Court, leaving on Monday. A true rite of passage, this experience offers a wonderful opportunity for children to step outside their comfort zones, embrace new challenges and create lasting memories through a range of fun and engaging activities.

On arrival Monday morning, Year 4 children should take their bags straight to the school hall, please, in readiness for their departure at 11am.

During their trip, we will share regular updates so you can follow all the exciting experiences they are enjoying.

Clubs

We are delighted to be continuing our range of after-school clubs following the Easter holidays. These will include:

- **Kickboxing** – Mondays, 12:45-1:15pm To book, please visit: <https://app.classmanager.com/portal/ima-rising-stars/login>
- **Forest School** – Tuesdays, 3:00–4:00pm To book, please visit: <https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds/e/ev-sckjd-20260414150000>

- **Miniballers** – Tuesdays, 3:00–4:00pm
<https://mb-mini-ballers.classforkids.io/info/72>
- ***NEW* Athletics Club** – Thursdays, 3:00–4:00pm - Booking via the Arbor Parent Portal

All clubs are open to children in Years 1 to 4.

We are particularly keen to encourage more children to join Miniballers in the Summer term to ensure the club can continue. The club is open to both boys and girls from Years 1 to 4. If your child is interested, please do get in touch.

We are committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to take part in these activities. If you have any concerns about costs, please don't hesitate to come and speak to me in confidence. We are always happy to help and discuss options.

Bugfest Science Visit - Wednesday 25th March

REMINDER - Please complete the google form for the Bugfest visit - all the details you need are found via the link below.

<https://forms.gle/x2MwfVAPBb2Wjpt69>

Easter Service

We warmly invite you to join us for our Easter Service, led by Rev Teresa, which will take place in the school hall from 8:45am to 9:15am on Friday 27th March. All parents are very welcome to attend.

This will be a lovely way to come together as a school community and a fitting end to the term.

Please note that the planned Celebration of Work, originally scheduled in the diary, will now take place in the Summer term.

PTA Update

We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work our PTA put into fundraising for our new playground equipment. Their support makes such a difference for the children.

We are absolutely 'eggcited' for our PTA Easter Music Bingo this Sunday at Martinstown Village Hall and are really looking forward to welcoming many of you! A huge thank you for all the generous donations of Easter eggs, which will make fantastic prizes. It promises to be a fun-filled family afternoon for all

Another date for your diary is the PTA Jumble Sale on Sunday 17th May – please do keep this date free and there will be more details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support – every contribution really helps make these events special!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 23rd March to Wednesday 25th March - Year 4 Hooke Court

Monday 23rd March - Foundation Base trip to Dorchester Library

Wednesday 25th March - BugFest Science Visit - Year 1, 2 & 3

Friday 27th March - Easter Service 8.45am in the School Hall

Monday 13th April - INSET Day

Tuesday 14th April - Children return to school for the Summer Term!

Strong roots, successful futures!