



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 11 - 16th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed welcoming all the children back after the Easter break. It has been wonderful to see them return refreshed, positive and ready to learn. In our Praise Assembly this morning, we spoke about the importance of setting goals and targets for the term ahead, encouraging everyone to be the very best they can be.

This week I had the pleasure of sending out our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place at the end of January. After what has felt like a long wait, we are delighted that the report recognises the many strengths of our school and there is so much to celebrate.

The report reflects the dedication and care of our whole school community and celebrates the positive, nurturing ethos we see every day. Our Christian values of Respect, Kindness and Courage are clearly evident throughout the report, and we are especially proud that our pupils are described as happy, well-supported, well behaved and eager to learn.

As always, we remain committed to continual improvement. The report highlights some areas for further development, priorities we had already identified, and we are actively strengthening these through ongoing improvements to handwriting and assessment.

Thanks again for all your support and we now look forward to a busy and exciting summer term ahead!

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Whole School News

Hooke Court



It was fantastic to see our Year 4 children fully embracing the adventure of Hooke Court at the end of last term. From designing and launching rockets to the challenge of 'bridging the moat', they threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork. They rose to every challenge and represented the school so brilliantly.

We are incredibly proud of them all. Staying away from home for two nights is no small achievement and they did so with confidence, independence and great spirit and quite impressively, they even managed to get some sleep!

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Pearce, Mrs Macswiney and Mrs Tyler for their care, support and dedication in making the trip such a memorable and special experience for the children.



Bugfest Science Visit



We were delighted to welcome Bugfest into school, bringing with him an array of fascinating and slightly creepy creatures. The children from Pre-school to Year 3 were captivated by the opportunity to learn about a variety of minibeasts, including a tarantula, giant centipedes, scorpions and stick insects.



There was a wonderful mix of excitement, curiosity and bravery as the children learned more about these unusual creatures and overcame their fears. A special mention must go to Mrs Pearce, who showed exceptional courage by holding the tarantula!

Easter Service

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for our Easter Service, led by Reverend Teresa. It was wonderful to come together as a school community. The children did an exceptional job, contributing thoughtfully through a beautiful combination of artwork, drama, narration and singing. They spoke and performed with confidence, making the service both meaningful and memorable. It was a truly lovely way to mark the end of the term.

Reporting Absence

Good attendance is vital to children's progress, confidence and overall enjoyment of school and we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child attends regularly whenever possible.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ensure that you report their absence on each day that they are off. This process has now been made easier with our new phone system, which allows you to report an absence quickly, as well as through the Arbor App.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain high levels of attendance for all pupils.

Clubs

We are delighted to be continuing our range of after-school clubs this term. 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 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.

Lunchtime Clubs will begin in earnest during the week commencing Monday 27th April. A full list of clubs will be sent home next week, and we would be grateful if you could take some time to discuss the options with your child so they can decide which clubs they would like to attend. Please then complete the Google Form to confirm their choices.

We are keen to encourage a sense of commitment, so once children have signed up for a club, we expect them to attend regularly each week.

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 were absolutely 'eggcited' for our PTA Easter Music Bingo at Martinstown Village Hall, and it was wonderful to see so many of you there on the day. The event was a great success, adding to the total fund of the playground equipment and it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all involved.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who kindly donated Easter eggs and raffle prizes. Your generosity helped create some fantastic prizes and added to the excitement of the event. There were plenty of lucky winners, lots of chocolate enjoyed and a brilliant community atmosphere throughout.

Some upcoming events this term include the PTA children's and Baby clothes Jumble Sale (details to follow, PTA bake sale on Friday 12th June and the Family Fun Picnic, which will be held at school on Wednesday 15th July, 4pm to 6pm.

Thank you for your continued support. Every contribution really helps make these events special!

Dates for your Diary

Please find attached our 'fridge friendly' list of Summer term dates. More details to follow.

Strong roots, successful futures!