



Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School

Winterbourne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9LW

Email: office@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

Web: www.winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk

Telephone: 01305 889297

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 14 - 5th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break. The beautiful weather over the holiday certainly gave us a real taste of summer, although I'm not quite sure what has happened to it since we returned!

As we begin the final half term of the academic year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. This term is always a busy and exciting one, filled with opportunities for reflection, celebration and preparation for the year ahead.

For our Year 4 pupils, this is a particularly significant time as they begin preparing for their move to Middle School. There are lots of transition activities taking place over the coming weeks, helping the children to feel confident and excited about the next stage of their educational journey. We are committed to making this a special and memorable time for them as they embrace these new opportunities and challenges.

I am also delighted to share that Mrs MacSwiney has been appointed as our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). Mrs MacSwiney brings a wealth of experience, commitment and care to this important position, and I know she will be excellent in supporting our pupils and families. Throughout this half term, we will be working closely together to ensure a thorough handover and a smooth transition into the new academic year. Please join me in congratulating Mrs MacSwiney on her appointment. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

There is certainly plenty to look forward to across the school. Rehearsals are already well underway for our whole-school production and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, talent and teamwork on display. We can't wait to share the finished performance with you later this term.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a happy, productive and successful final half term together.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Whole School News

House Competition

Our House Competition Morning was a fantastic way to round off the half term and brought together children from Preschool through to Year 4 for a morning of teamwork, creativity and fun.

This year's activities had a nature theme, with each House taking part in three exciting challenges: biscuit decorating, building a habitat using construction materials and a treasure hunt. The children approached each activity with great enthusiasm and worked brilliantly together to earn valuable house points for their teams.

A special mention must go to our House Captains and Deputy House Captains, Phoebe G, Calvin, Ellie, Jendayi, Phoebe T and Ben, who did an excellent job organising, encouraging and supporting their teams throughout the morning. It was wonderful to see the older children helping and guiding the younger pupils, demonstrating kindness, leadership and teamwork.

With the sun shining and smiles all around, it was a fantastic end to a successful half term and a wonderful celebration of our school community.

iRock Music Assembly



This morning, the children enjoyed an exciting visit from Charlie at iRock, who came to share what it is like to be part of a rock band.

The children had a fantastic time learning about the different instruments, joining in enthusiastically and even having the opportunity to try some of them for themselves. It was wonderful to see so many budding musicians embracing the experience with such confidence and enthusiasm.

Information leaflets will be coming home today, providing further details about iRock and the opportunities available. If there is sufficient interest, we hope to launch school rock bands in the Autumn Term, giving children the chance to develop their musical skills, perform with others and experience the excitement of being part of a band.

An Incredible Achievement!

Before half term, we were delighted to welcome Eve and Ben's dad, Steve, into school to share details of his ambitious ultra-marathon challenge, walking an incredible 100 miles.

The children were fascinated to hear about the determination, resilience and preparation required to take on such an extraordinary event. Steve explained the physical demands of the challenge, including the amount of food and energy needed to complete the walk, the equivalent of an astonishing 30 school dinners!

We are thrilled to share that Steve has now successfully completed his 100-mile challenge, an incredible achievement that demonstrates remarkable perseverance and commitment. We are extremely grateful that he chose to use this challenge to raise funds for new playground equipment for our children. His generosity and support for our school community are greatly appreciated.



A huge congratulations to Steve from everyone at Winterbourne Valley. If you would still like to support this wonderful fundraising effort, donations can be made via the Crowdfunder page:

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/winterbourne-valley-first-school-play-equipment?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Thank you, Steve, for inspiring our children and helping to make a difference to our school.

Celebrating Success Beyond School



We are incredibly proud of Lizzie and Phoebe, who enjoyed great success at football tournaments held in Bridport over the half-term break. The girls were part of Maiden Newton U9's that won one tournament and finished as runners-up in another – a fantastic achievement. Their dedication, teamwork and sporting spirit are wonderful to see, and we are delighted to celebrate their success.

We know that many of our pupils achieve amazing things outside of school, whether in sport, music, dance, drama, scouting, martial arts or other activities. We would love to hear about these accomplishments and celebrate them with the school community.

If your child has recently received a medal, trophy, certificate or special award, please encourage them to bring it into school. We would be delighted for them to share their achievements during our Praise Assembly so that we can recognise and celebrate their hard work and success together.

Preschool Open Morning – Friday 12 June

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective families to our Preschool Open Morning on Friday 12 June.

This is a wonderful opportunity for families to visit our Preschool, meet our dedicated staff and experience the warm, nurturing environment that makes our school so special.

A poster with further details is attached. We would be very grateful if you could share this with friends, family members or anyone who may be interested in joining our Preschool community. Your support in spreading the word will help make the event a great success.

The Great Big Green Week

Next week, we will be taking part in **The Great Big Green Week**, with a range of activities designed to help raise awareness of our environmental responsibilities and encourage the children to think about how they can make a positive difference to the world around them.

We will finish the week with an **Eco Dress-Up Day**. Please do not feel that you need to spend money on costumes. We would love the children to be creative and use items they already have at home. They might choose to wear an animal onesie, come dressed as an eco warrior or use recycled materials to design and make their own costume. We are excited to see their imaginative ideas!

At the end of the day, the PTA will be holding a cake sale, while members of our Gardening and Eco Club will be selling some of the vegetables they have grown, along with homemade elderflower cordial. We hope you will be able to support these wonderful initiatives and celebrate the children's efforts to promote sustainability and environmental awareness.

Winterbourne Valley Sponsored Sports Challenge

The PTA are excited to launch the **Winterbourne Valley Sponsored Sports Challenge**, which will run from **19th June to 8th July**. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to get active, challenge themselves and help raise money for new outdoor play equipment for the school.

The challenge is simple! Each child chooses their own personal sporting or physical activity goal and works towards it over the 20 days leading up to Sports Day. Whether they are learning a new skill, improving an existing one or simply getting more active, every effort counts.

Some challenge ideas include:

- Walking a mile a day
- Learning to ride a bike
- Mastering 10 keepie-uppies
- Learning a new sport
- Completing 50 unbroken skips

Of course, children are welcome to come up with their own challenge too!

As they work towards their goal, children can ask family and friends to sponsor them. Every donation, no matter how small, will help us move closer to our goal of providing new outdoor play equipment that all of our children can enjoy.

We are also delighted to share that Palmers will match donations made through our Crowdfunder page, helping every contribution go even further.

There is an exciting prize on offer too! For every £5 raised, children will receive one raffle ticket and be entered into a draw to win a fantastic mascot package kindly donated by Weymouth FC.

Please see the attached poster for full details. Sponsor forms will be sent home with the children next week.

PTA Update

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for their continued hard work and support. The crowdfunder has so far raised £4280.00 As well as The Sponsored Sports Challenge there are some other exciting PTA events to add to your diaries:

- PTA Bake Sale – Friday 12th June (poster attached)
- PTA Family Fun Picnic – Wednesday 15th July, 4:00pm–6:00pm

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our school community and look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Dates for your Diary

Please see attached Summer term 'fridge friendly' dates for your diary.

And Finally...

We are always keen to support our local community and businesses, so we were pleased to hear that the Post Office in Martinstown has recently extended its opening hours.

The Post Office is now open until 5.00pm, Monday to Saturday, making it even more convenient for local residents to access its services.

Our village businesses play an important role in the community and whenever possible, it is wonderful to support them. We are fortunate to have such valuable local services on our doorstep.

Strong roots, successful futures!