



## 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 15 - 19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now well into the swing of our final half term and there is a wonderful atmosphere around the school. The children have settled quickly into their learning and are working incredibly hard. There is also a real buzz in the air as preparations for our whole school production, *You Are Special*, gather pace. Rehearsals are well underway and the sound of singing is filling the school as the children enthusiastically learn their songs and lines. We cannot wait to share the performance with you.

Last week, we held a very successful Pre-School Open Morning. It was lovely to welcome both existing families and families who were visiting us for the first time. Thank you to all of the parents who supported us in making the event so special. The morning was such a success that we are already planning to hold another Open Morning during the Autumn Term.

As the weather forecast suggests that next week will be particularly warm, please ensure that your child comes to school with sun cream already applied. Children should also bring a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream so that it can be reapplied during the day if needed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all enjoy the sunshine and have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

# Whole School News

## Great Big Green Week



We had a fantastic week taking part in Great Big Green Week, with children across the school engaging in a range of eco-focused activities. The week provided a wonderful opportunity to help the children develop their understanding of the importance of being responsible environmental citizens and the positive impact that small actions can have on the world around us.

The week was rounded off with an Eco Dress-Up Day, and we were delighted to see such a creative array of costumes. The children clearly put a great deal of thought and imagination into their outfits, making it a fun and memorable day for everyone.



A special thank you goes to our Gardening Club, who sold some of the produce they have grown this year and to the PTA, who organised a cake sale at the end of the day. Together, they helped raise valuable funds towards improving our own school environment.

## Art at the Station

On Wednesday, our Year 3 and 4 pupils recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the railway station to see their artwork proudly displayed on the station shelter. The children created beautiful pieces of artwork inspired by landmarks around Dorchester, and it was wonderful for them to see their hard work showcased for the wider community to enjoy.



We were joined by pupils from Prince of Wales School and St Mary's, Puddletown, whose artwork is also featured as part of the project. The children were beautifully behaved throughout the visit and were a real credit to our school.

We are incredibly proud of the high standard of artwork produced by our pupils. We have also recently learned that their artwork will be displayed on a shelter on the opposite platform as well, meaning that everyone passing through the station will be able to enjoy their creations for years to come.

A huge thank you to Mrs Joslin for making this happen and Charlotte Beare for making this wonderful opportunity possible and for helping to celebrate the creativity and talent of our children and the very generous Art Society for supplying the transport.

### **Prayer Spaces in Schools**

On Wednesday afternoon, Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church Team will be visiting the school to lead a Prayer Spaces session for the children.

Prayer Spaces in Schools provides children with an opportunity to pause, reflect and if they wish, pray through a range of engaging and creative activities. The team has planned some lovely activities that will encourage children to think about themselves, others and the world around them in a calm and supportive environment.

If you would like to find out more about Prayer Spaces in Schools, please visit the website: <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/>

We are very grateful to Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church Team for supporting this special experience for our children.

### **Transfer Day**

Our Year 4 pupils have already had some lovely opportunities to spend time with their new teachers from St Osmund's and DMS. We hope these visits have helped them to begin feeling excited and confident about their move to middle school in September.

Transfer Day will take place on **Tuesday 7th July**. On this day, our Year 4 children will spend the day at their new schools, giving them a chance to experience life as a middle school pupil and become familiar with their new surroundings.

Our existing pupils will also have the opportunity to move up to their new classes for the morning, where they will meet their new teachers and spend some time in their new classrooms ahead of September.

We will also be holding a **New Reception Parents' Evening** on the same day to welcome families who will be joining our school community.

Further details about Transfer Day will be shared with parents shortly.

### **WVFS Sports Challenge – Ready, Set, Go!**

Today marks the start of our WVFS Sports Challenge and we are excited to hear all about the different activities that the children will be undertaking over the coming days.

The challenge is a fantastic opportunity for children to get active, challenge themselves and have fun, whilst raising money for our new playground equipment. We are looking

forward to seeing the creativity, enthusiasm and determination shown by our pupils as they take part.

A letter has been sent home today with full details of the challenge, including information about how children can get involved and collect sponsorship. Thank you in advance for your support in helping us raise funds to enhance our outdoor play environment for all of our children.

### **PTA Update – Family Fun Picnic**

Our fundraising efforts continue to go from strength to strength and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated and supported the various events and initiatives. Your generosity and commitment are helping us move closer to our goal of providing new playground equipment for our children.

Don't forget to join us for the PTA Family Fun Picnic on Wednesday 15th July, 4:00pm–6:00pm.

Families are invited to bring their own picnic and enjoy an afternoon together on the school grounds. Refreshments will be available, and there will be some fun activities for everyone to enjoy, including a game of rounders and a Jam Jar Tombola.

We are looking forward to welcoming families for what promises to be a lovely community event and a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the school year together.

### **Polite Reminder – Parking**

To help keep our children, families and staff safe, we would like to remind parents that the school car park is for staff use only.

We kindly ask that parents park at Manor Farm and walk their children across to school. This helps to reduce traffic around the school car park and ensures that it remains a safe environment for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us maintain the safety of our school community.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Wednesday 24th June** - Prayer Spaces for School afternoon

**Friday 26th June - 1.15 - 2.00** -Wessex Music Instrumental Roadshow

**Friday 26th June - Wednesday 1st July** - Creative Arts Week

**Thursday 2nd July 9am and 5pm** - Whole School Production

**Friday 3rd July** - Fire Safety Sessions Year 1-Year 4

**Strong roots, successful futures!**