



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 16 - 3rd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a couple of weeks it has been!

Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all of our children for their incredible performances in *You Are Special*. Our very first whole-school end-of-year production was a tremendous success and it was wonderful to see every child, from Preschool through to Year 4, take to the stage with such confidence, enthusiasm and joy. Every single one of them was an absolute star and we could not be prouder of what they achieved. Thank you also to our staff for all of their hard work behind the scenes and to our families and PTA for your help and encouragement.

I would also like to thank you all for your understanding and support during the recent heatwave. The children coped incredibly well with the extreme temperatures and were fantastic throughout. Although we made a number of adaptations to the school day to keep everyone as comfortable as possible, we ultimately made the decision to close for half a day, putting the health and safety of our children and staff first. We really appreciate your cooperation and flexibility.

With the possibility of another heatwave next week, we are already making plans to ensure everyone stays safe. As a result, we have decided to move our Sports Day on Thursday 9th July to the morning, from 9.00am until 11.00am, when temperatures are expected to be cooler. Further details will be sent out shortly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we approach the end of another fantastic school year. There are still lots of exciting events to look forward to and we can't wait to share them with you.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Whole School News

You Are Special – Our Whole School Production



What a truly memorable occasion our very first whole-school production, *You Are Special*, was! Based on the much-loved story by Max Lucado, the musical shared a heartwarming message about kindness, friendship, belonging and recognising that every person is unique and special.

Every child from Preschool to Year 4 took to the stage with confidence, enthusiasm and smiles, making the performances a huge success. We were incredibly proud of every single child, who worked so hard during rehearsals and gave their all on the day.

Thanks to Duncan for filming the production. We know many families are looking forward to watching it again and we are pleased to let you know that the recording will be available to enjoy very soon.

We also need to say a thank you to all parents who gave so generously and for helping us to raise **£174.96** for the MND Association. Your generosity is overwhelming.

Transfer Day

Transfer Day will take place on **Tuesday 7th July**. This is always an exciting milestone as the children prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

Our Year 4 pupils will spend the day at their new middle schools, giving them the opportunity to experience life in their new setting, meet staff and classmates and become familiar with their new surroundings ahead of September.

Children in Preschool to Year 3 will also enjoy a transition morning, spending time in their new classrooms and meeting the teachers who will be working with them next year. Our staffing for September will be:

- **Blossom Class (Preschool):** Mrs Beasley and Mrs Sanders
- **Cherry Class (Reception):** Mrs Rogers and Mrs Sanders
- **Beech Class (Year 1/2):** Mrs Joslin and Ms Reeves
- **Silver Birch Class (Year 3/4):** Ms Pearce, Mrs MacSwiney and Mrs Tyler

We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Reception families to our **New Reception Parents' Evening**, which will take place from **6.00pm–7.00pm** on the same day. Further information on Reception Transfer day will be shared today.

Wessex Music Instrumental Roadshow

Last week we were delighted to welcome Hannah Trevorrow and a team of talented musicians from Wessex Music for an exciting Instrumental Roadshow.

The children were introduced to a range of instruments, including the oboe, trombone and double bass and learned about the different sounds each instrument can produce. The musicians treated us to a variety of performances, with the James Bond theme proving to be a particular highlight and a firm favourite with the children!



The roadshow was a fantastic opportunity to inspire our young musicians and encourage them to consider learning a musical instrument in the future. A huge thank you to Hannah and the Wessex Music team for such an engaging and enjoyable assembly.

PTA Family Picnic – Wednesday 15th July

All families are warmly invited to join us for our **Summer Family Picnic** on **Wednesday 15th July from 4.00pm–6.00pm**. We hope it will be a wonderful opportunity to relax with your children, meet other families and enjoy spending time together as part of our school community. We are especially looking forward to welcoming our new families who will be joining us in September.

Please bring your own picnic, and refreshments will also be available to purchase. Alongside the picnic, there will be a raffle and a selection of free-to-play games and activities, all helping to raise funds for our new playground equipment. If you are able to, please bring some cash to support these fundraising activities.

We are also asking for donations for our **Jam Jar Tombola**. Simply fill a clean jam jar with small prizes such as sweets, stickers, colouring pencils, mini toys or other fun treats. Filled jam jars can be handed into the school office by **Friday 10th July**.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing lots of families there for what promises to be a fun and relaxed afternoon together. Please see the accompanying poster for further details.

WVFS PTA Sports Challenge

We are now half way through the PTA sports challenge event - we hope you've been enjoying learning new skills or being more active so far! For every £5 raised a raffle ticket will be awarded with prizes to be won - the first prize being a mascot package with Weymouth Football club! All children will receive a certificate and will also be eligible to apply for a Blue Peter badge too.

Sponsorship forms have been sent out and friends/ family can donate via cash or through our crowdfunding page

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/winterbourne-valley-first-school-play-equipment>

All money raised contributes towards new playground equipment which the children will help to choose too! Please can sponsorship forms and money be collected or donated by close of play on the 8th July with the raffle tickets being drawn at Sports Day.

Many thanks for getting involved and supporting this challenge.

Prayer Spaces in Schools

Due to the recent heatwave, our Prayer Spaces in Schools afternoon had to be postponed. We are pleased to let you know that the session has now been rescheduled for **Tuesday 14th July**.

Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church Team will be visiting the school to lead a range of engaging and creative activities, providing children with the opportunity to pause, reflect and, if they wish, pray. The activities have been carefully planned to encourage children to think about themselves, others and the world around them in a calm, supportive and inclusive environment.

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

We are very grateful to Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church Team for giving their time to provide this special experience for our children.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th July - Transfer Day

Tuesday 7th July, 6pm - 7pm - New Reception Parents Evening

Thursday 9th July, 9am - 11am - Sports Day

Wednesday 15th July - School reports sent home

Wednesday 15th July, 4pm - 6pm - PTA Family Picnic

Friday 17th July, 9am - Year 4 Leavers Service

Tuesday 21st July, 9am - End of term service - St Mary's Church

Wednesday 22nd July - Last day of term

Strong roots, successful futures!



A few photos from 'You Are Special' 2nd July 2026