



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 17 - 22nd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic year for our school.

There have been so many memorable moments and achievements to celebrate. From receiving a positive Ofsted outcome to enjoying wonderful performances such as our Carol Service, Nativity and our very first whole-school production, *You Are Special*, it has certainly been a year to remember. Our children have also benefited from a wealth of opportunities beyond the classroom, including Forest School, educational visits, sporting events, the Year 4 residential to Hooke Court and our fantastic Art at the Station project, where our pupils' artwork is now proudly displayed for the wider community to enjoy. We ended the year with our special End of Term Service, which was a lovely opportunity for us all to come together to reflect on the year, celebrate everything we have achieved and give thanks for the many wonderful experiences we have shared. These are just a few of the many highlights that have made this year so special.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes Winterbourne Valley First School such a wonderful place to learn and work. To our amazing children, thank you for your enthusiasm, kindness and determination every single day. To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment and care. To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and encouragement throughout the year. I would also like to thank our governors, volunteers and PTA, whose time, generosity and dedication make such a positive difference to our school community.

Together, we have created a school where children feel happy, valued and inspired to achieve their very best and I feel incredibly proud to be part of it.

I wish all of our families a restful and happy summer holiday. I hope you enjoy spending precious time together and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Whole School News

Year 4 Leavers' Service

What a wonderful way to celebrate our Year 4 pupils and their time at Winterbourne Valley.

Our Leavers' Service was a heartfelt occasion, filled with happy memories and aspirations for the future. The children confidently shared their favourite memories of their time at school and spoke so thoughtfully about their ambitions for the years ahead. We were incredibly impressed by the maturity, confidence and enthusiasm they showed.



The service was made even more special by some lovely musical performances, which reflected the talent and teamwork of this wonderful year group.

Year 4, you have all done yourselves proud. We will miss each and every one of you, but we know you are more than ready for the next stage of your journey. We wish you every success and happiness as you move on to middle school and look forward to hearing about all that you achieve in the future.

PTA Family Picnic

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Summer Family Picnic. It was a wonderful afternoon and a fantastic opportunity for families to come together, relax and enjoy spending time with one another as part of our school community.

The raffle, refreshments and Jam Jar Tombola were all a great success and thanks to your incredible generosity we raised even more money towards our new playground equipment. We are incredibly excited to share that we have now almost reached our fundraising target.

Our first phase of the project will be to replace the play equipment in the front playground, giving the children an exciting new area to enjoy. We are currently exploring ideas and designs from a number of playground companies.

Together, we are making a real difference to our school, and we can't wait to share updates on this exciting project in the new academic year.

Looking Ahead...

Why not get involved with our fantastic PTA? We would love to welcome both existing and new members to our **PTA Welcome Meeting on Wednesday 16th September, 3.30pm–4.30pm.**

The meeting is a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers, hear about our fundraising plans for the year ahead and find out how you can get involved. Whether you can volunteer regularly or just help at the occasional event, every contribution makes a real difference.

Children are very welcome to attend, and tea and coffee will be provided.

We look forward to welcoming lots of familiar and new faces as we begin another exciting year of supporting our school together.

National Recognition for Winterbourne Valley



We are delighted to share some fantastic news with our school community.

Following the Summer 2026 The Education Platform (TEP) pupil and employee surveys, Winterbourne Valley First School has received national recognition for both pupil and staff engagement.

We are incredibly proud to have been awarded the **Pupil Enjoyment – Progress Award**, recognising the significant improvement in our pupils' enjoyment of school since Autumn 2025. This award reflects the positive experiences our children have each day and is a wonderful testament to the exciting learning opportunities and caring environment we strive to provide.

We are also thrilled to have received the **Employee Leadership – Top 10% Award**, placing our school amongst the highest-performing schools in England for employee engagement across TEP's national dataset of more than 500 schools. This award recognises the positive culture we have built together as a staff team.

These achievements are something the whole school community can be proud of.



WVFS PTA Sports Challenge

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our PTA Sports Challenge! We were delighted that 21 children took on the challenge, learning new skills, keeping active and raising an incredible £1,525 towards our new playground equipment.

Congratulations to Levison, who was the lucky winner of the raffle and will enjoy the fantastic Weymouth Football Club Mascot Package. We hope you have an amazing experience!

Every child who took part received a certificate in recognition of their fantastic efforts and are also eligible to apply for a Blue Peter Sport Badge.

Visit from the Paramedics



The children were delighted to welcome Millie and Erin, a team of paramedics into school, along with their ambulance, for a fascinating and interactive learning experience.

They enjoyed finding out what life is like as a paramedic and learned about the important role they play in helping people in emergencies. The children also had the opportunity to learn some basic life-saving skills and ask lots of thoughtful questions.

Of course, one of the highlights of the visit was hearing the ambulance siren, which proved to be an absolute favourite with everyone! A huge

thank you to the paramedics for giving up their time to inspire and educate our children.

Prayer Spaces in Schools

We were delighted to welcome Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church Team into school for our Prayer Spaces in Schools afternoon.

The children worked together in mixed-age groups, taking part in a range of engaging and creative activities that encouraged them to pause, reflect and, if they wished, pray. It was wonderful to see the older children supporting the younger pupils, showing kindness, encouragement and respect throughout the afternoon.

The activities provided a calm and thoughtful space for the children to reflect on themselves, others and the world around them. It was a very special experience, and the children embraced it with maturity and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you to Reverend Teresa and the Messy Church Team for giving their time to provide such a meaningful and enjoyable afternoon for our children.

House Champions



Congratulations to all of our children for the fantastic effort they have put into earning House Points throughout the year. House Points are awarded for demonstrating our school values of Kindness, Respect and Courage and it has been wonderful to see so many children consistently showing these qualities both in and out of the classroom.

After a year of hard work and determination, we are delighted to announce that this year's overall House Point winners are Abbas House, with an incredible 2,579 House Points.

Our House Captains, Jendayi and Bertie, proudly accepted and raised the House Trophy during our End of Term Assembly, celebrating this fantastic achievement on behalf of everyone in Abbas House.

Dates for your Diary

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Term dates:	Thursday 3 rd September to Friday 18 th December 2026
Staff Training Days:	Tuesday 1 st September Wednesday 2 nd September
All children return:	Thursday 3 rd September
PTA Welcome Meeting	Wednesday 16 th September - 3.30-4.30pm
Half Term holiday:	Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October 2026
Staff Training Day:	Monday 2 nd November
All children return:	Tuesday 3 rd November
End of Term:	Friday 18 th December
Christmas Holidays:	Monday 21 st December – Friday 1 st January (2027)

A full list of Autumn term dates will be sent at the beginning of the new academic year.

Strong roots, successful futures!