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 2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

School is now in full swing and it is such a joy to see the children working hard, enjoying their learning and making the most of all the opportunities available to them.

This term, our Christian value is Generosity, which we have been exploring together during Collective Worship. I have been so impressed by the children's understanding of what it means to be generous. They recognise that generosity is not simply about giving things, but also about giving our time, kindness, talents and skills to help others. We see wonderful examples of this every day, whether it is children offering to help around school, showing kindness to a friend or sharing their own skills and talents with others.

Our Year 4 children have been particularly brilliant in taking on additional responsibilities. They have been wonderful Assembly Monitors, carefully lighting the candle at the beginning of Collective Worship and supporting teachers with our assemblies. It has been lovely to see them approaching these responsibilities with such maturity and enthusiasm.

In today's Praise Assembly, we also talked about what makes a good House Captain and the important duties that come with the role. I am really hoping that all of our Year 4 children will consider putting themselves forward. Each and every one of them has their own individual strengths and the potential to be a wonderful leader and role model for our younger children. I am looking forward to hearing why they think they would make a great House Captain!

Thank you, as always, for your support. I hope you enjoy reading about everything that has been happening at Winterbourne Valley.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Headteacher

Whole School News

Clubs



Our clubs are now up and running, and it has been fantastic to see so many children signing up and getting involved! We still have spaces available across our clubs, so it is not too late to join.



Our free clubs include gardening, singing, art, LEGO and multi-skills, and children can be signed up via Arbor.

We also have places available in our paid clubs, including IMA Rising Stars Kickboxing, Forest School and Dodgeball. Please use the links below to sign up for Kickboxing and Forest School. If your child would like a taster before signing up please contact the school office.

Our new Dodgeball Club with Mr Woodward from PH Active got off to a brilliant start on Thursday, with children from After School Club joining in too. It was wonderful to see so many children being active, having fun and enjoying the session together. Dodgeball runs every Thursday from 3.00pm–4.00pm.

We want to make sure that all of our children have the opportunity to take part in our clubs. If your child would like to join one of the paid clubs but the cost may be a barrier, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We would really like every child who wants to take part to have the opportunity to do so.

Kickboxing - https://app.classmanager.com/portal/ima-rising-stars/login

Forest School - https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds/e/ev-sgqap-20260908150000

Reception Open Morning – September 2027 Starters

We will be holding a Reception Open Morning on Friday 16th October, from 9.00am–10.30am, for families with children who will be starting Reception in September 2027.

This is a lovely opportunity for prospective families to visit Winterbourne Valley, meet our staff, see our school in action and find out more about what we can offer their child.

If you know any families who have a child starting school in September 2027, please do help us spread the word and let them know about our Open Morning.

Please see the attached poster for further details.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Festival on Thursday 22nd October at 9.00am in the school hall, and everyone is warmly welcome to join us as we come together to celebrate Harvest.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, and linking beautifully with our Christian value of Generosity, we will be collecting food donations for Weymouth Foodbank.

Their current most-needed items are instant coffee, tea bags, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, tinned soup, pasta sauce, long-life milk, biscuits, baked beans, cereal, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise, salad cream, jam, instant hot chocolate, shampoo and shower gel.

If you would like to make a donation, please bring items into school from Monday 19th October.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support. We look forward to celebrating Harvest together.

Coming Up – PTA Events

The PTA have some exciting events coming up as we head towards the end of half term!

👻 **Halloween Disco – Thursday 15th October, 5.30pm–6.30pm**
Get ready for some spooky fun and dancing! Please see the attached poster for further details and remember to sign your child up using the Google Form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9G81ZBs5VsTZKtnnVSNxZKXFxE7JYxmgGc3_G9gDDoqoA5g/viewform

🎃 **Non-Uniform Day & Bake Sale – Friday 23rd October**
A lovely way to celebrate the end of half term, with the added bonus of some delicious treats!

Playground Equipment Update

A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time on Saturday to help dismantle and remove the old play equipment from our front playground. We had a fantastic group of dads come along to help and, with so many willing hands, they made light work of what was a very big job! We are incredibly grateful for your time and hard work.

The arrival of our new playground equipment is getting closer! We are just waiting for a couple more designs to come through before we make our final decisions. We want to make sure that we choose something that is just right for our children and our school, and we are very excited to see the plans coming together.

Our next job will be to remove the old play equipment from the school field. We will share a date for this soon, so if you would like to come along and lend a hand, you will be very welcome. After the success of our last volunteer day, we know what a difference a few extra pairs of hands can make!

DOMVS Children's Writing Competition – Reminder

A quick reminder for any of our budding authors who would like to enter the DOMVS Children's Writing Competition! Taking part is completely optional, with stories to be written at home and submitted by Friday 16th October.

All stories should begin with:

"The sound was like nothing I had ever heard before…"

Years 2 & 3: up to 300 words
Year 4: approximately 400 words

We can't wait to see where your imaginations take you – happy writing!

Dates for your Diary

Attached are the dates for the Autumn term. Please note the change in date and venue for our Christmas Carol Service.

Strong roots, successful futures!