Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School
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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 3 - 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of our first half term! The weeks seem to have flown by and it has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines. They are working hard, growing in confidence and making the most of all the opportunities school has to offer.

I have been particularly proud of our Year 4 children, who did a brilliant job putting themselves forward for the role of House Captain. They spoke with such confidence and enthusiasm about why they would make good leaders and how they could support others across the school. It has been lovely to see them showing such courage and maturity. Voting will take place next week and I look forward to announcing our new House Captains!

There has also been great excitement about the plans for our new front playground equipment. The children have been looking at the different designs in assembly and they will have the opportunity to discuss their favourites in class and share their thoughts about what they would most like to see in their playground. It is important to us that the children have a voice in this exciting development and I can't wait to hear their ideas!

As this is our final newsletter before the half-term break, I would like to thank you all for your support throughout these first few weeks of the school year. I hope you and your families have a wonderful half term, with time to relax, recharge and enjoy being together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term.

Kind regards,

Emma Sleightholme

Headteacher

Whole School News

Beech Class Visit to Corfe Castle



Beech Class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Corfe Castle, where they were taken on a fascinating tour by their very knowledgeable guide, Liz. She shared lots of interesting facts and stories about the history of the castle, bringing its past to life for the children.

Liz was particularly impressed by how well-behaved and attentive the children were throughout their visit, which was lovely to hear.

Well done, Beech Class! You were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Blossom and Cherry Class Visit to Wessex Wild Farm



Blossom and Cherry Classes enjoyed a wonderful trip to Wessex Wild Farm in Tincleton. The children had a fantastic day exploring the farm, enjoying the great outdoors and discovering all that the farm had to offer.

One of the highlights of the visit was a teddy bear hunt in the woods, which the children thoroughly enjoyed!

The children were brilliantly behaved throughout the visit and were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Well done, Blossom and Cherry Classes! We are very proud of you all!

SCARF Visit

We were delighted to welcome Emma-Louise and Harold the Giraffe from SCARF into school this week. They visited all of our classrooms, helping the children explore a range of important topics, from looking after themselves and staying healthy to understanding their feelings and emotions.

The children really enjoyed the interactive sessions, which encouraged them to think about their own wellbeing and how to care for themselves and others.

A big thank you to Emma-Louise and Harold for such an enjoyable and valuable visit!

Parents' Evenings

Our Parents' Evenings will take place after half term. Please note that there has been a slight change to the dates, which are now as follows:

- Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November – Parents' Evenings

- Wednesday 18th November – SEN Parents' Evening (invitation only)

Bookings will open on Tuesday 3rd November.

We look forward to welcoming you into school to discuss your child's progress and celebrate their achievements so far this term.

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 the Community Share Food Larder. Please bring your donations into school from Monday 19th October.

New School Sign-In System

We have introduced a new sign-in system at school to help us keep accurate records of everyone arriving and leaving during the school day.

If your child arrives late to school or needs to leave during the day for an appointment, such as a medical or dental appointment, parents and carers will now be asked to sign their child in or out using the new system.

This will help us ensure that we know exactly which children are on site at any given time, keeping everyone safe.

Thank you for your cooperation as we introduce this new system.

PTFA Events

🎃 Halloween Disco



Our Halloween Disco was a roaring success! The children looked absolutely fantastic in their spooky costumes, and there were some brilliant dance moves on display! It was wonderful to see everyone having so much fun and enjoying themselves.

A huge thank you to our fantastic PTFA for organising such a wonderful event and making it such a special evening for the children.

Non-Uniform Day & Bake Sale – Friday 23rd October

We are looking forward to celebrating the last day of this half term with a Non-Uniform Day and Bake Sale, organised by our wonderful PTFA!

Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes for a suggested donation of £1 and our Bake Sale will take place at 3.00pm, with cakes available for £1 each.

All money raised will go towards our ongoing fundraising for the new playground equipment.

We would be very grateful for any donations of homemade or shop-bought cakes and treats. Please bring these to the school office on the morning of Friday 23rd October, ensuring that all ingredients and allergens are clearly labelled.

Thank you for your support. What a lovely way to finish the half term!

Dates for your Diary

Attached are the remaining dates for the Autumn term. Please note the change in date for our parents' evening.

Strong roots, successful futures!