



VERWOOD C E FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

Spring Term
Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are approaching the end of January and those small signs of spring are beginning to appear. After a long month, the increasingly lighter mornings and evenings are very welcome to us all.

This week we received a review from leaders representing the Church of England Education office, which enabled us to reflect on what it means for Verwood First School and Nursery to be a Church school. Our last church school inspection was in May 2019 and was awarded a judgement of 'excellent'. In the next year we anticipate that the school will be inspected again by the Church of England. As with all things, the inspection framework has changed and we feel this is a good time for us to review what it means to be a Church School.

I would like to invite parents/carers into the school hall on **Thursday 22 February 2pm-3pm** to participate in a meeting to review what it means for you to be part of a church school. It would be an opportunity to share views, opinions and reflections on how we provide a place where our children, families, staff and community can flourish and thrive. We would love as many people to attend as possible (tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided!) to enable us to gather as much information as possible about the school. If you are unable to attend, we will be sending out, after half term, a google form where you can share your views.

Willow base visited the Etches Collection Museum in Kimmeridge this week to continue their topic on fossils and rocks. The children loved the opportunity to see and handle artefacts from the past and were asking superb questions to learn more. They took part in a range of workshops. The staff were incredibly impressed with the children's behaviour and how they represented the school and a big thank you to parents who helped on the trip.

This week we realised that the date set for our **potted sports** in May clashes with Year 6 SATS tests. This is an important week for the Yr 6's at Emmanuel Middle School and I am told potted sports is not a quiet event! Therefore to support the middle school we have agreed to move the date forward a week. Please make a note that the new date is **Wednesday 22nd May**. Thank you for your understanding.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Katharine Anstey
Executive Headteacher

Children Celebrated in Praise Worship

	Nursery	Oak Base	Sycamore Base	Beech Base	Willow Base	Ash Base
Headteacher's Award	Ivy W	Mila L Jimmy S	Jacob G Ava H	Jacob D Joe D	Everlyn S	Felicity S Junior W
Fruit of the spirit Award	Charlie L	Lenny T Lilly W	Theo W Harvey M	Oliver B Annie G	Jaxon P	Mason L Lily K

Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance in school and being on time every day . Good attendance in school is a top priority and our expectation is that pupils attend school every day for every session.

This week's attendance

Oak Base	94.21%
Sycamore Base	94.82%
Beech Base	94.88%
Willow Base	94.02%
Ash Base	94.44%

Child Absence

Parents/Carers must please ensure the school office is notified via ParentMail through the absence section alternatively via email to office@verwoodfirstschool.org or by calling 01202 822 652 by 8.45am on the first day of the absence detailing the child's name, class and nature of absence. If the absence is prolonged, there is an expectation that the parent will notify the school by 8.45am at the latest on each day of absence.

Please can you ensure that individual teachers or other staff members are not contacted in relation to a child absence as this can cause unnecessary delays. Thank you for your understanding.

Pick Up

Please ensure that all child pickup changes are notified to the **school office** by phone or email using the details mentioned above. Children can not be handed over to another adult without parental permission. Office hours are 8am-3.30pm. Many thanks for your support.

Car Park - Authorised vehicles only

This is a polite reminder that only those people who are authorised to come into the site car park, drive in to drop off or collect children. All other cars should be parked legally and safely. Please be vigilant of children and families. Once pedestrians start crossing a road they have the right of way and vehicles should stop. Thank you for ensuring that everyone's safety is prioritised.

Friends of Verwood First

★★ Summer Sizzler News ★★

We want to make this year's Summer Sizzler on the 5th July 2024 the best yet to raise much needed funds for the children, but we need lots of volunteers to make it happen. We had around 70 people helping to run the last sizzler over the evening to give you an idea of what a task it is! If we can't get enough help, we won't be able to run the event so if you can step up and commit, we would be hugely grateful.

We would also be keen to hear from any parents with businesses/sports teams who would like to sponsor part of the event or run a games stall for the evening in return for advertising.

If so, please get in touch via email: friends_of_vfs@hotmail.com

Book Lovers Beware of the School Book Fair!

From Tuesday 20th February we are having a Scholastic Book Fair where children are able to choose from a range of books to buy. This will be held in the hall after school each day for a week (starting as soon as the teachers have been able to see their class out). This will be a cashless bookfair. You will need to pay by scanning a QR code on your phone and pay by using the prompts provided.

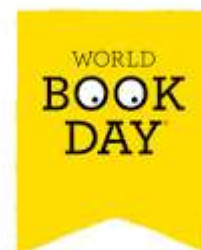


Scan the QR code to pay for your books online
or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay

In preparation for the Scholastic book fair we are having a competition where children can win vouchers to spend at the book fair! We would like children to design their own poster advertising our school book fair. All you need to include are the details of when and where the fair is and make it as eye-catching as possible. (School Hall at 3:15 everyday from 20th – 26th February) Three lucky winners will be chosen and receive a voucher that they can use at the fair. We hope to see you there!

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day this year on Thursday 7th March and this year we are asking staff and children to dress up as their favourite character from a book. Children will have time to talk in their bases about their favourite characters / books and why they like them. During this day children will have the opportunity to hear some of the adults favourite stories.



£1 National Book tokens will be given out the week beginning 4th March.
Thank you for your support.

Oak Base

Oak Base is requesting if anyone has any spare tights / socks / underwear for age 5-6 they wish to donate this would be very appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Dates for your Diary

Please see our website for calendar dates by clicking [here](#), a reminder that you can subscribe to this on your device, dates are then added to your own calendar, which will automatically update when new dates are added. Please click on the subscribe button and follow the instructions. Dates are listed below for your convenience.

FEB

Thurs 8th Feb, 2.30-3pm - Celebration of children's learning - parents invited into classrooms

Mon 12-Fri 15th HALF TERM

Mon 19th Feb - INSET

Tuesday 20th - All children return to school

Mon 26th Feb & Thurs 29th Feb, 3.30-6pm - Parents' Evenings (face to face)

MARCH

Thurs 7th March - World Book Day

Fri 8th March - Author visit, Paul Stickland

Tues 12th March, 6.30-8.30pm - EMS musical production (40 KS2 pupils involved)

Weds 27th March, 9.30-10.30am - Easter Service for Years 2, 3 & 4 at the Church - Easter parade @ 2.30pm for Nursery/ EYFS & Year 1

Thurs 28th March - INSET

Easter holidays 29th Mar-12th April

Mon 15th April- Children return to school

Class Assemblies (no looking at books for parents on these dates - just the assembly event):

Year 1: Thurs 11th (Mr Dear) and Fri 12th July (Miss Brown)

Year 3: Thurs 14th (Mrs Steel/ Putt) and Fri 15th March (Mr Clarke)

Year 4: Thurs 21st (Mrs Read) and Fri 22nd March (Mrs Weir/Wilson)

MAY

Fri 3rd May, morning - Class Photos

Tues 7th/Weds 8th May - Year 4 Residential to Osmington Bay (one night)

Weds 22nd May, 9-12pm - Potted Sports Day

Fri 24th May, 2.30-3pm - Celebration of children's learning - parents invited into classrooms

May half term -Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

JUNE

Weds 12th June, pm - KS2 sports Day

Fri 21st June - INSET (no children in school on this day)

Fri 28th June - Transfer Day

Fri 5th July - Year 4 leavers' visit to Wimborne Minster

JULY

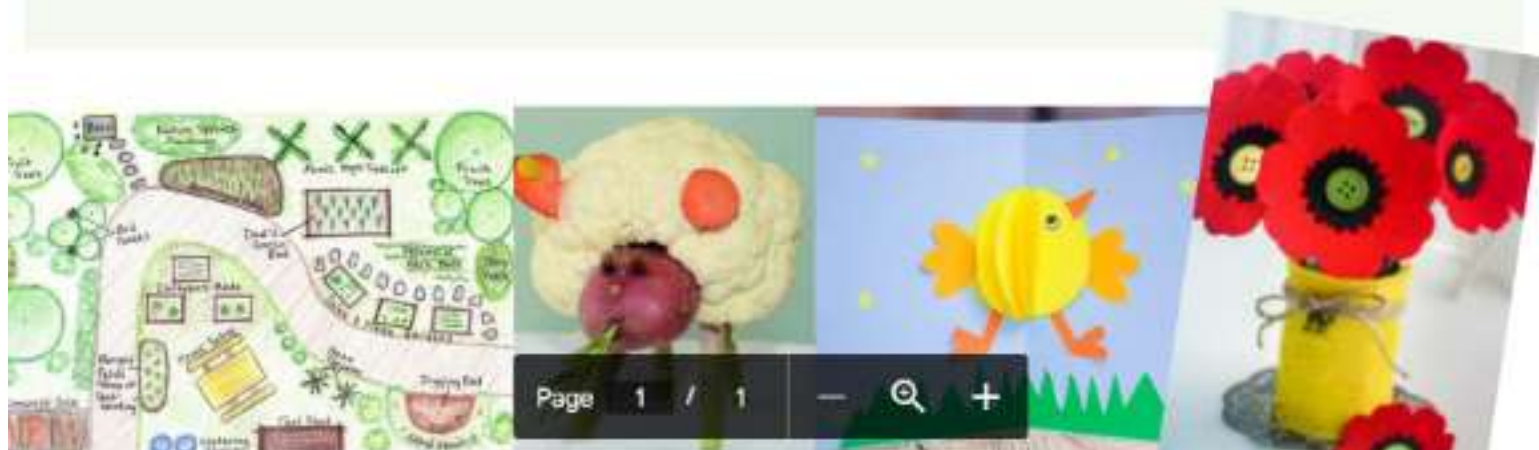
Summer Sizzler - 5th July - 5.00pm to 7.30pm

Tues 23rd July, 9.30am - Last Day of Term & Year 4 Leavers

Free Children's Competition

The Verwood Spring Horticultural Show is on **Saturday 16 March**. We are looking for children to enter the Junior Category with the chance of winning a £20 Smyths voucher and a trophy! You can enter any, or all, of the below competition categories ;

- **Design a Wildlife Garden** – an A4 labelled plan
- Make a **decorated paper crown** for Spring
- Make a vase of **homemade flowers**
- Make an **Easter card**
- Make a **fruit and veg animal, bird or dinosaur**



FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMP



Mini Tennis for children 4-8 years old
Tennis for children 9-14 years old

THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

2.30 – 5.30pm

At Potterne Park, Potterne Way, Verwood

What's on offer

A fantastically fun session of tennis including:-

- Great coaching from LTA qualified and accredited instructor
- Fun games, competitions and prizes
- Rackets provided if you don't have one



What to wear/bring

- Sports kit, trainers/tennis shoes, a coat if wet
- Snacks and drinks



PRICE
£16.50

To book a place, please visit the Dorset Tennis Academy website using the following link or google 'Dorset Tennis Academy Holiday Camps':-

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/DorsetTennisAcademy/Coaching/Camps>

For more information, please contact Neil Darragh, DTA Manager/Head Coach on ndarraghtennis@gmail.com or 07788 973259