



# VERWOOD C E FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY

## NEWSLETTER

Spring Term

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have spent the week reflecting on the question **'What does it mean to belong at Verwood First School and Nursery?'** Following a worship yesterday all classes enjoyed opportunities to explore this question more deeply with the teachers and peers. It is a real joy to share some of their responses here:

*"Friends, circle time and stories." Nursery*

*"Our smiling teachers." Oak Base*

*"Always being ready to learn, Learning is great fun." Sycamore Base*

*"It's like belonging to a family." - Beech Base*

*"Because we are a church school it feels like we are a little community." Willow Base*

*"I love meeting new people and making friends. Everyone in my class is my friend." Ash Base*

A huge thank you to parents and carers who we have met in person and those who have already responded to our brief questionnaire linked to our theme of belonging. If you have not yet had time to share your thoughts, please click on this link [here](#). We really appreciate your time to feed back your views.

We were thrilled to welcome Mr Christopher and Mr Graves, headteacher of Hillside First School, to join myself and the senior leaders in school on Wednesday for a learning walk. They were so impressed with how the children showed they were ready to learn, engaged and thinking about the lessons and how consistently respectful they were. As always the children made us so proud and spoke so passionately about their experiences in school.

It has been absolutely brilliant to see so many children enjoying the book fair this week. Thank you to everyone who has visited and bought a book. The school receives a proportion of the sales and we look forward to sharing this amount with you, which will be spent on more books for school.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Kind regards

**Katharine Anstey**  
**Executive Headteacher**

# Children Celebrated in Praise Worship

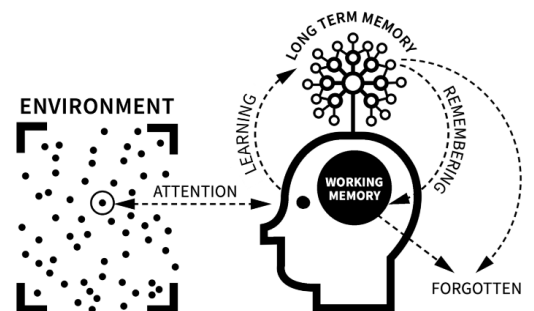
	Nursery	Oak Base	Sycamore Base	Beech Base	Willow Base	Ash Base
Headteacher's Award	Robyn C	Sebastian D Remi Jayne D		Rufus B Fred NL	Charlotte R Mathew D	Sophie R Max H
Fruit of the spirit Award	Eddie J	Mathew S Batu B		Ralph H Isla E	Eva S Ellie W	Jack D Brooke S

## Staff Training Day - 19th February

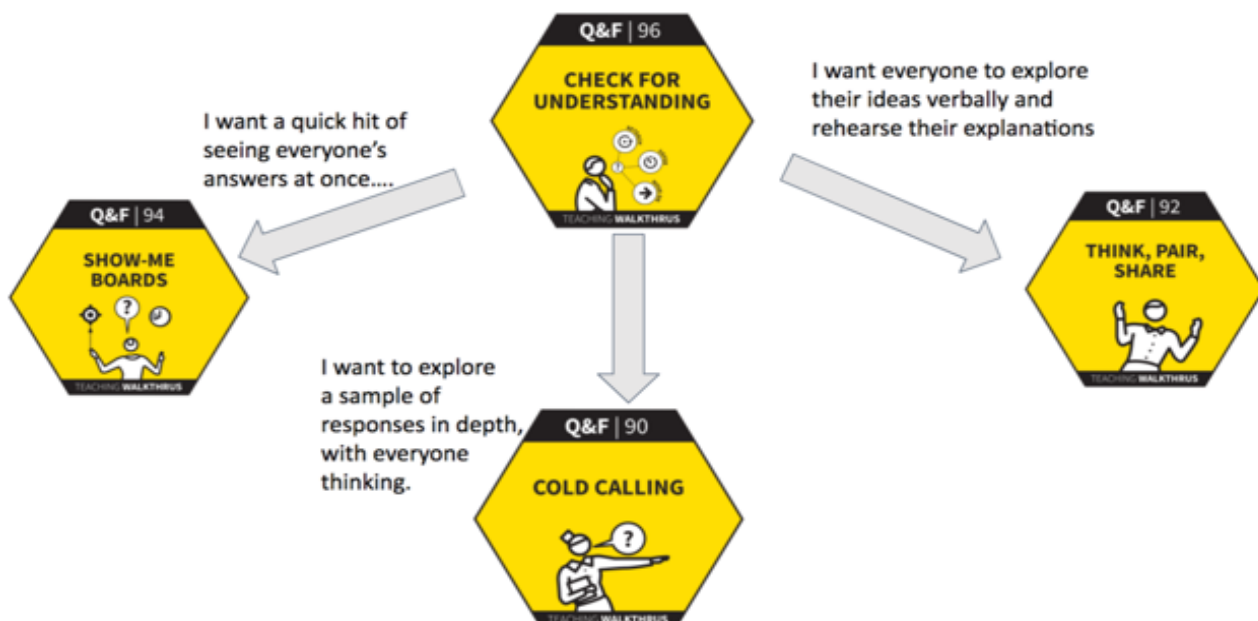
Teaching staff enjoyed an engaging training day on Monday, focused on the theme of *checking for understanding* through embedding and honing our core questioning techniques. These include, 'Think Pair Share' and 'Cold Calling' and using mini (show me) whiteboards for pupils to show their understanding.



With evidence-based research at the heart of all our professional training, we discussed the 'learning model' and the limitations of working memory and challenges of ensuring pupils can embed new learning into their long-term memory. Skilled questioning techniques are the bedrock of effective responsive teaching - supporting children to think, make meaning and address common misconceptions across the curriculum. Knowing more is remembering more and our goal is always for pupils to develop vast bodies of connected knowledge over time.



TEACHING WALKTHRUS



## 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	93.9%
Sycamore Base	94.75%
Beech Base	94.36%
Willow Base	93.88%
Ash Base	94.31%

## 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

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)

Tues 26th March - 2.00pm - Parents/Carers able to ask questions about the planned changes from Sep 24

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 (not looking at books on these dates - just the assembly event):

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

Year 2 : **Weds 26th June (Mrs Doe) and Thurs 27th June (Mrs Palmer/ Brason)**

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

Year 4: **Wed 20th March (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

### JULY

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

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

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