Verwood First School and Nursery

Be the light and hope







LEARNING LINK

Issue 3 6th November 2026

The last week of term was jam packed with exciting activities for our children! KS2 enjoyed their bikeability sessions, some enthusiastic litter pickers collected a bag full of rubbish blown onto our playground in the stormy weather and Oak base enjoyed some delicious home-made Harvest soup (well, most of the children enjoyed it!).





Rev Sam led our Harvest service, and we were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Verwood, Dave Evans from Ringwood Foodbank, our LSC and parent volunteers to share in this special occasion. We had a lovely email this week from Dave, to let us know that we collected 115kg of food! Thank you so much for all your kind donations - these will really provide hope to families in need.

At the end of the week, our Woodland Council had their very first meeting at the Verwood Council Office. They had a very exciting time, learning about how the council works, holding a debate and trying on the mayoral robes! We had a fabulous surprise when Mayor Simon gave us a gift of £250 to spend on an environmental project that the Woodland Council will lead. We will keep Simon informed with regular updates as the year goes on.











initio Learning Trust

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Be the light and hope

This half term our theme is Respect. *('Treat one another as you would like to be treated'. Matthew 7:12)* We are exploring what it means to respect ourselves, each other and our world, knowing that we can all live side by side peacefully, sharing our ideas and thoughts. We don't have to agree with everyone, but we can listen to each other and help everyone to feel valued.

What do you think the word 'respect' means?

If everyone respected each other there wouldn't be wars. We would all live in peace.

Alice (Ash base)

We can help people when they are struggling.

Tilda (Ash base)

Respect means kindness and showing goodness to everyone.

Manu (Maple base)

We need to show love and kindness to all people.

Toby (Willow base)



9th November - Ash base to lead worship on Remembrance 1:10 - 1:40 (Ash parents invited)
10th November - Oak base phonics stay and play 9:00 -10:00 (Oak parents invited)
- Willow base to lead singing worship 1:10 - 1:40 (Willow parents invited)
12th November - Oak base phonics stay and play 9:00 - 10:00 (Oak parents invited)
13th November - Mufti Day (donations for Christmas fair)
27th November - Christmas fair 5:00 - 7:00
1st December - Rocksteady concert 2:30 - 3:00 (please see email from Rocksteady for your child's concert date)
8th December - Rocksteady concert 2:30 - 3:00 (please see email from Rocksteady for your child's concert date)
10th December - Festive bedtime stories (5:00 - 6:30)
14th December - LSC SHINE award presentation 2:15 - 3:00 (parents of children receiving awards will be invited to attend) Please note change of time
15th December - KS1 Christmas service at the church 9:30 (parents invited)
16th December - Oak Christmas service at the church 9:30 (parents invited)
17th December - KS2 Christmas service at the church 9:30 (parents invited)
18th December - School finishes for the Christmas break 3:00/3:05
4th January - INSET day
5th January - School starts
26th January - Maple base to lead singing worship 1:10 - 1:40 (Year 2 parents invited)
2nd February - Maple base to lead singing worship 1:10 - 1:40 (Year 1 parents invited)
2nd - 5th February - Scholastic Book Fair

CHRISTMAS time



If you would like to get a loved one a more bespoke Christmas gift, why not consider a desktop wooden reindeer? Donations (minimum £5 per reindeer) will go back into school funds for gem jar reward activities. Please contact the office if you would like one, but hurry as stocks are limited!

Christmas Fair



Friends of Verwood School (FoVS) are holding our school Christmas fair on Friday 27th November, 5:00-7:00. There are plenty of fun activities and stalls, including some very exciting new activities this year! This event only works successfully if we have enough volunteers to help run the stalls. If you are able to offer your time for a 30 minute slot, we would be very grateful. It would enable other volunteers to join their children and visit the stalls themselves as a family. If you are able to support us, please speak to the office staff or Mrs Nesbitt.





Helping children to understand scooter and bike safety is of utmost importance to us, especially as we worked with bikeability last term to help children stay safe on the roads. Please can you supervise your child if they ride their scooter/bike to school, to make sure they do not weave in and out of other pedestrians on the pavement in the carpark. Tricks, such as spinning the scooter around or doing jumps, are not allowed at the beginning and end of the school day, as there are many people trying to enter and exit the campus. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Our car park is primarily intended for use by staff and visitors to Verwood First School and Emmanuel Middle School. We are willing to keep the gates open and allow parents in to drop off their children in the morning and collect them in the afternoon, however we would like to remind you of the safety points below that should be adhered to by all users of the car park.

- A speed limit of **10 miles per hour** applies when driving around the car park.
- Please park within marked bays only.
- No parking is allowed on the zebra crossings or double yellow lines.
- Only blue badge holders are permitted to park in the disabled bays. These badges should be clearly visible on the dashboard/window.
- Double parking in front of other parked cars, is **not** permitted.
- Please refrain from mounting the pavement when parking along the side of school - this is extremely dangerous and puts our children and parents at risk.
- Before and after school, please supervise your child when they cross roads and do not allow them to cycle or scoot around the carpark.
- Please **do not** move cones that have been placed in specific areas - these have been placed there to enable parking for coaches for school trips. Some cones have a ‘reserved for staff members’ sign on them - some members of staff need to leave site for meetings/courses and require easy access to a parking space when they return later in the day.

Thank you for your continued support and patience to enable our school campus to be safer for all people as they travel to and from school.

Reminder



Toys and Jewellery

A number of children are continuing to bring toys, fidget toys and jewellery into school. Please can you explain to your child that this is not allowed. This is because accidents and injuries can be caused, or your child might get upset if their jewellery/toys get lost or broken.

Any jewellery or toys found in school will be confiscated and kept in the Head Teacher's office, where you can collect them at the end of the day. There is a 10 day time frame in order to collect your child's belongings.

If your child comes to school wearing hoop earrings, they will not be allowed out to play or do PE if they are unable to take the earrings out themselves. Hoop earrings can get caught when playing and can cause your child significant injury.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Who should I contact?

Issues that may be affecting your child or general enquiries

Friendship issues	Medical issues or updates	Significant challenges with learning	Mental Health	Safeguarding concerns in school
Day to day class organisation and learning	Clubs, trips and in-school events	Referals and progress of specialist assessments	Pastoral situations and support available	Contact Mrs Nesbitt via the school office
Low-level wellbeing or behaviour concerns	School meals and uniform queries	Contact the SEND team	Contact Mrs Poole via the school office	Safeguarding concerns in SCOOSC
Contact Class Teacher via the school office	Contact the school office	Contact the relevant person through: office@verwoodfirstschool.org SEND@verwoodfirstschool.org scooscverwood@gmail.com		Contact Elissa

Health visiting

NHS Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

PARENTLINE 0-5

Confidential TEXT messaging service for Parents of children aged 0-5 to seek advice and support from a member of the Health Visiting team.

We can help with:

infant feeding · child development · toileting · sleep · behaviour · parenting · weaning · child health

Message us for confidential advice on:

07312 277162

(Monday - Friday 9-5 excluding Weekends and B/H)

ChatHealth



ParentLine 5-19

A confidential text messaging service for parents and carers of children aged 5-19.

Message a member of the School Nursing team for confidential advice on: 07312 263131

We can help with:

- development
- behaviour
- healthy eating
- weight management
- emotional health and wellbeing
- exam stress
- school refusal and more.

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our Shoe box collection. We were able to give 30 Christmas boxes to Wessex Rotary today. How fantastic that we are able to be the light and hope in so many ways, sharing kindness and love with children living in different countries!



Some of our amazing superstars were in high spirits coming back from the School Panathlon event yesterday. They took part in a range of inclusive sporting events, such as basketball, darts and a variation of curling. Working together as a team, they successfully built on their previous experience and skills to win the tournament! Well done Team VFSN - we are really proud of you!





Well done to our children who have received a certificate in our Praise worships. We are all so proud of you!

Head Teacher award: Amelia K, Theodora C, Ferne D, Arthur W, Kit B, James C, Molly T, Ella N

Church School Values award: Lexie G, Gracie B, Roman S, Teddy S, Elsie S, Lexie G, Ayluna C, Manu G, Kobie S

Lunchtime award (for great manners and reducing food waste)**:** Maple

The Cleaner's Award for the tidiest room: Maple VB



Young Leaders

Team Eco
Lily L, Evie G, Evelyn W, Isla E, Solvi M, Matilda D, Lenny T, Sakura T, Mimi L, Edward S, Gracie B, Mila L, Alicia S

Collective Worship Leaders
Archie W, Lincoln R, Oscar O, Poppy Y, Luca C-B, Astrid M, Amber D, Ryder W, Evvy C, Arlow H

Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

Is your child due to leave their current school in July 2027 and transfer to the next school in September 2027?



Secondary applications - Closing date 31 October 2026

- Primary - Secondary School
- Middle - Upper School

Primary applications - Closing date 15 January 2027

- Starting School
- Infant - Junior School
- First - Middle School

Dorset residents apply online at:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place
or call 01305 221060

Scan here