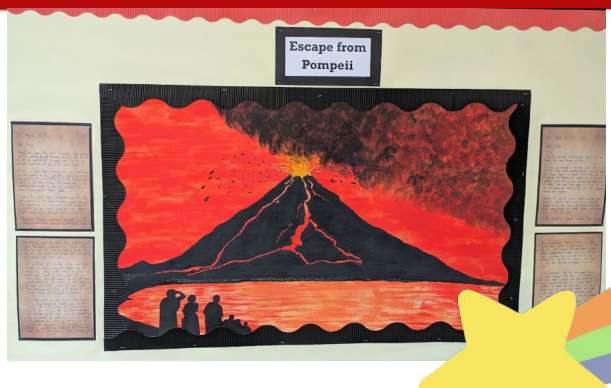
Verwood First School and Nursery

Be the light and hope





LEARNING LINK

Issue 2 2nd October 2026

It has been so exciting to see the learning taking place across the school this month. Our youngest children have been learning about awe and wonder in the world around them, looking for frogs in the Oak base pond and finding interesting objects on the Acorns walk. Meanwhile our older children have become historians to learn about the Stone Age and Ancient Rome.

Our ballots have been taking place for the Woodland Council this week - the children presented fabulous manifestos to share how they would work collaboratively and improve the school. Please see the Celebrations page later in the newsletter to find out who is joining the council this year.

We had lots of excitement yesterday afternoon, when members of Vocalise came to record our part for their charity single, to raise funds for Amelia's Rainbow. All the children joined in with the singing, and we had some very enthusiastic dancers amongst the children who participated in the video recording!



Annie Nesbitt
Headteacher

initio Learning Trust

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Be the light and hope

This week our theme has been Service. *(Serve one another humbly in love. Galatians 5:13)* We have been exploring what it means to serve others, how it makes them feel and how we respond to the knowledge that our actions have a positive impact.



We have used pictures and music to deepen our understanding of our responsibility in the school and local community and beyond. The children have written their thoughts below:

Serving means to help people. For example some people have to sleep on the street. If a person hasn't got a home to live in, you could give them some money to buy a house or food so they are not hungry. (Lincoln)

Helping people is kind. We have to help people if they are hurt, even if they are not your friend. (Olive)

It's about helping other people and being kind, even if you don't know them. That's what Jesus shows us. (Eilidh)

Service means doing things to help others without expecting anything in return. Jesus served lots of people. (Evelyn)



7th October - Open morning for new Year R parents (2027 entry) 9:00 - 10:15
9th October - Sponsored event - whole school. Please complete the option form for your child.
12th October - Flu vaccinations
Parent Consultations 3:20 - 6:50 (please note location has changed to the hall
14th October - Individual photographs
15th October - Parent Consultations 3:20 - 6:50 (please note location has changed to the hall)
KS2 Bikeability Level 1 (please see separate letter which will be sent out next week)
16th October - Parent forum - an opportunity to share your views with the leadership team 8:45 - 9:45
KS2 Bikeability Level 1 (please see separate letter which will be sent out next week)
19th October - Reading workshop for parents 3:10 - 4:00 (please see letter on next page from Mrs Palmer)
KS2 Bikeability Level 1 (please see separate letter which will be sent out next week)
20th October - KS2 Bikeability Level 1 (please see separate letter which will be sent out next week)
22nd October - LSC SHINE Award presentation 1:10 - 1:40 (parents of children receiving awards will be invited to attend)
23rd October - Whole school Harvest Service at the church 9:30 (we are unable to accommodate all parents at this event, however we would appreciate some volunteers to walk our children to the church and back)
26th October - Half term
2nd November - INSET day
4th November - Open morning for new Year R parents (2027 entry) 9:00 - 10:15
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 check confirmation email direct from R
8th December - Rocksteady concert (2:30 - 3:00)
10th December - Festive bedtime stories (time TBC)
14th December - LSC SHINE award presentation 1:10 - 1:40 (parents of children receiving awards will be invited to attend)
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

**Please note that Maple parents will be invited to singing worships after Christmas*

Let's get reading!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to our Reading Workshop on **Monday 19th October (3.10pm - 4.00pm)**, designed to support you in helping your child become a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader.

Reading regularly at home plays a vital part in your child's progress, and even a few minutes of positive reading practice each day can make a real difference. The workshop will give you practical guidance and strategies that you can use at home, while helping you understand how reading is taught in school.

During the workshop, we will provide a brief overview of our phonics programme, explaining how we teach children to recognise sounds, blend them together to read words, and develop increasing accuracy and fluency. We will also explain how phonics links to the books your child brings home and how you can reinforce these skills through everyday reading practice.

We will model effective 1:1 reading strategies, showing you how to make the most of your child's reading time at home.

We know that some children can be reluctant readers at times, and that reading at home does not always feel easy. We will therefore share practical strategies for overcoming common challenges. We will explore ways to keep expectations manageable, build positive reading habits and encourage your child without making reading feel like a chore.

Our aim is for you to leave the workshop feeling informed, reassured and confident about supporting your child at home. Most importantly, we hope you will have a clear understanding of how to help your child when they are successful, when they make mistakes and when they need a little extra encouragement.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to support your child's reading journey.



"Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible."
Barack Obama





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.



Snacks

All children in Year R, 1 and 2 receive a fruit or vegetable snack as part of a government scheme. This does not extend to children in KS2, so if you would like your child to have a snack to eat at breaktime, they are able to eat a piece of fruit or vegetable. If it is cut into smaller pieces, please ensure it is in a named container. Children are not permitted to eat crisps, chocolate or sandwiches as a snack. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that some members of our school community have allergies caused by airborne allergens - and would ask you not to send your child in with any food containing nuts or oranges at this current time.



Jewellery and toys

Please make sure your child does not wear any jewellery other than stud earrings or a simple flat watch (not a smart watch). This is to prevent accidents and injuries to your child and other children. Long hair should be tied back and we cannot allow children to come to school wearing false nails - this is a safety hazard and stops the children from fully accessing their learning.

Toys should not come to school unless it has been specifically requested by the class teacher. If children have toys in school they will be taken to the Head teacher's office and you can collect them from there at the end of the day.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Pick-up arrangements

We would be grateful if you could email the office with details of any regular pick-up arrangements throughout the year. This includes childminder details, days your child is attending SCOOSC, relatives or family friends who will collect your child on specific days. We would be grateful if you could please let us have this updated information as soon as possible.



Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Shoe box collection. **The deadline has been kindly extended by Wessex Rotary for a couple more weeks.** Please drop off your boxes or any requested donations to the office.

For further information please go to [Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme]



If you have a child due to start school in September 2027, please see the attached letter from Dorset admissions with guidance on the process of applying and deadline to complete your application.



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

Head Teacher award: Ocean G, Olive H, Harry D, Charlie M, Valeria K, Florence M, Otti L, Pixie H

Church School Values award: Maisie T, Isabella BM, Barney M, George E, Penelope R, Edward S, Charlotte K, Ollie G

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

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

Staff Appreciation Certificate (written by the children): Frances (kitchen assistant)



Woodland Council

The children who will be representing the school this year are:

Eilidh P, Arthur W, Felicity P, Jack P, Louie W, Marlee R, Eliza A

(They will receive their badge in Worship on Monday 5th October)

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