



# Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

This week we examined another representation of Jesus from a different culture. It was painted by William H. Johnson (1901-1970) who was an American modernist painter known for his expressive and colourful work that evolved from landscapes to depict African American life and folk art.

The image represents the Bible story in which Jesus implores his disciples to "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

The story reminds us that everybody is important to God. Jesus showed this by saying that the children should come to him. He wants everyone to feel welcome in his family.



Remember that **Monday 3rd November is an INSET day** for staff training. Most staff will be refreshing their First Aid training, whilst our Safeguarding Leads will also be engaged in training bespoke to their role.

Thank you for your support and engagement this half term. I hope you all have a good half term break and enjoy the autumnal celebrations.

Many best wishes,

Ian Hickman  
Executive Headteacher

## Safeguarding For Parents - Roblox Age Estimation

As the most popular game in the world Roblox has come under a lot of criticism recently, particularly in regards to predatory activity on the platform. Whilst Roblox has always had fairly good parental controls in place, the ages of users has always been a concern, particularly with adults pretending to be younger children.

Recently Roblox have announced that they are expanding facial age estimation and ID age

verification to all users who access the communication features within Roblox, as well as new systems designed to limit communication between adults and children unless they know each other in the real world.

Further information can be found here:  
<https://corp.roblox.com/newsroom/2025/09/roblox-to-expand-age-estimation-to-all-users>

## School Christian Value



This half-term our spotlight is on the Christian value of Thoughtfulness. Our daily act of worship is based on a theme linked to thoughtfulness.

*"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you"* Ephesians 4:32

## Owl Class Visit to Oxenwood for Egyptian Day My day at Oxenwood by Toby Small



As soon as we got to Oxenwood for our Egyptian day for our project, we met Matt the helper and then the professor came in, he had started a dig somewhere saying he found something.

We blasted on over seeing a site of maybe pottery. Leo, my friend brushed the sand with care, we were tempted just to take it out, but the professor persuaded us not to. At last, we took it out, the professor said it was a roman rooftile, which was many years over what he was studying.

We put it in a box, then we got some rope and covered the site in six sections, with each person digging in a different section, we found things such as a canopic jar, a wooden hook, a brain bowl and many more things for embalming surprisingly.

We went back to the lab to study the mysterious items, Matt rushed in saying he found a lost tomb, we ran as fast as cheetahs, the professor asked us to suddenly stop to check if it was dangerous. He asked

us to come take a look, we had lanterns so it was easy to see, we looked through a small gap but we could not see anything so we knocked the bricks down slowly, then we passed them along one by one to make a pile at the end.

As soon as we looked through, we saw a skeleton, we thought maybe it would have been a potential tomb raider! The professor pushed the skeleton to the side so we could climb through. When I went in, the first thing I had my eye on was the cool but small sarcophagus, after I went towards the gate to the afterlife, it seemed pretty cool at first but then I went to the canopic jars, they were really cool they store lungs, stomach, intestines, and liver.

One of my favourite activities was where we had to take some heavy bricks to a boat pretending to transport them to pyramids. Our first idea was to attach rope to the bricks and pull together. After we did that the professor said to imagine we were on a rough sandy ground, so we had to do something different. We decided to use some logs and put them under the bricks then we pulled and stopped so Seth my friend could put the logs in front of the bricks again. Eventually we pulled it to the boat.

We also did activities in the lab like clay, we made a scarab beetle aka a dung beetle. I also tried to make a pyramid but sadly I couldn't do it in time.

Finally, we went back to the tomb where Lucas my friend got mummified, but not really. We did things like wrap him up in toilet paper and put a fake heart in his t-shirt, we pretended to put a hook up his nose and we also put a mask on him. We pretended he was a real mummy, and all ran away shouting "its alive!"



### School Community

We are so grateful to the support from our parent Community and days like our Grounds tidy day really

prove this. Here is Mr Morey proudly showing his kindness certificate for working so hard on the day. The support from you all really makes our school community stronger.



### Join Our PTA – We Need You!



With the support of our school PTA, we've been able to provide our children with valuable resources, exciting trips, and a variety of enriching experiences. To continue offering these opportunities, we need your help!

Would you be able to support us at events, even occasionally? If so, please speak to Mrs. Hannington or Mrs Bulpitt about adding your name to our volunteer list.

Together, we can keep creating memorable experiences for our children!

### Christmas Giftbox Appeal

This Christmas, you can make a real difference for families in need in our community. Andover Foodbank is collecting gift boxes to help bring joy to those who may be struggling this festive season.

A gift box could include items such as:

- Non-perishable treats or snacks
- Toiletries or self-care items
- Small toys or games for children
- Warm socks, gloves, or scarves

Every donation helps brighten someone's Christmas and reminds them that they are not forgotten.

If you'd like to donate, please attach the completed giftbox appeal flyer to your box and bring into school by **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. Thank you for helping make this holiday season a little brighter for everyone!

## REMINDERS

### Rucksacks

Rucksacks should be only used for school trips etc. Book bags are perfect for bringing into school all the children need eg book, reading record, homework and any letters that go home.

### Snacks

Break time snacks should be fruit, vegetables or cheese only please

### Parking

When dropping off and picking up your child from school, please refrain from parking in School Close. This is a residential area and should not be used for parking. Please use the Burydeane car park.

### DIARY

#### October

24<sup>th</sup> – Break up for half-term

#### November

6<sup>th</sup> – Open Afternoon (1:30pm – 2:30pm)

14<sup>th</sup> – Children in Need

20<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Tree Planting at Bury Hill

28<sup>th</sup> – Yr 5 & 6 assisting the Foodbank at Tesco Express Andover (09:30am – 10:30am)

#### December

4<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Craft Open Event (more details coming soon)

11<sup>th</sup> – Christingle (2:00pm)

11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Jumper Day

11<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Christmas Dinner at Village Hall

16<sup>th</sup> – Nativity Play at Village Hall (4:15pm)

18<sup>th</sup> – Robin Hood & Maid Marion Panto at Newbury Corn Exchange

18<sup>th</sup> – Carol Service at the Church (2:30pm)

19<sup>th</sup> – Class Christmas Parties

19<sup>th</sup> – Break up for Christmas Holidays

### INSET DAYS 2025/26

#### 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

#### 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

### Stow Sports Holiday Camp

When: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> / Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>  
October, 9am to 3pm

Where: Endeavour King Campus, Andover

Who: All students aged 8+

Our fun filled holiday course gives students the opportunity to sample a variety of sports from professional coaches.

Monday: Football, Dodgeball, Nerf Battle, Basketball

Tuesday: Football, Capture the flag, Dodgeball, Handball

Wednesday: Football, Dodgeball, Tag Rugby, Nerf Battle

Students will require a packed lunch and refillable drinks bottle. Medals, certificates and prizes awarded daily for sporting excellence, attitude and progress. Groupings will be done by age with age appropriate training/matches delivered.

Drop off: 8.45am to school main hall

Collection: 3pm from the school main hall.

booking details <https://stow-sports.classforkids.io>

The Stow Sports coaching team are qualified, insured, DBS checked and have many years experience delivering sports and activities with the aim of giving all the opportunity to practice, learn and have fun.

Please contact Dean 07423498623 if your child is unable to attend/change of person to collect or any emergencies.

