



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



Creating compassionate, courageous, creative citizens for the future in God's love

January 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school after what I hope was a great Christmas break for you all.

In worship this week and last, I have used a story, which appeared on the BBC website on Christmas Day:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdxwllqz1l00>

This is about a couple called Rob and Dianne who invited a stranger into their home to share their Christmas dinner and who ended up staying for 45 years. I was really taken with this story; it really made me think about how everyday acts of kindness can have such profound effects on people's lives.

The themes of belonging, mattering and kindness will be explored further throughout this term and I hope that our community can use this inspiring story to think about how each of us, in small ways, can be a positive influence on others.

Many best wishes to you all,

Ian Hickman  
Executive Headteacher

## Safeguarding

The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime.
- Activity report.
- Visibility into what children are playing.
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.

Webpage: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps-family-app/>

## School Christian Value



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

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.."*  
Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

## Hampshire Picture Book Awards

Yesterday afternoon, Year 1 met with Mrs Bulpitt as they are taking part in the Hampshire Picture Book Awards. Each week, for the next four weeks, the children will meet to explore one of the four shortlisted books.

This week, the children looked at Luna Loves Gardening by Joseph Coelho. The story tells us all about Luna, her dad, and the community garden they are part of. The children loved the eye-catching cover full of colour, searching for the robin, and learning about where different seeds come from.

Once the children have looked at all four books, they will cast their vote and we will wait to see if we have chosen the winner. We will keep you updated!



## School Council

As a School Council, we met yesterday and discussed concerns about the speed of cars in the village. We are thinking about ways we can help prevent people from speeding and make our community safer.

We were hoping that some of you might be able to come up with ideas at home. If you do, please let the

school office know so that we can discuss your suggestions at our next School Council meeting.

Thank you for your support.

### Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes or purchased tickets for our Christmas raffle. We are delighted to share that we raised an amazing £419!

Our next raffle will be the Easter Raffle, which will take place at the end of March. If you are able to donate a prize, or know of any local businesses or companies that may be willing to support us with a donation, we would be extremely grateful.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

### Join Our School PTA

We warmly invite all parents and carers to become part of our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA plays a vital role in supporting our school, helping to organize events, raise funds for extra resources, and create a stronger school community.

Whether you have a few hours to spare or want to get more involved, everyone's contribution makes a difference! Joining is a great way to meet other parents, support our children's education, and have fun along the way.

If you're interested in joining or want to find out more, please email Miss Pauk at [adminoffice@vernhamdeangillums.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@vernhamdeangillums.hants.sch.uk)  
We'd love to welcome you to the team!

### REMINDERS

#### Rucksacks

Rucksacks should be brought into school for school trips and special activities.

For everyday school use, book bags are ideal. They're perfect for carrying your child's reading book, reading record, homework, and any letters that need to go home.

Thank you for helping us keep classrooms and cloakrooms tidy!

#### Snacks

Please provide your child with fruit, vegetables, or cheese for break time snacks.

Thank you for helping us keep snack time healthy and enjoyable for everyone!

#### Parking

When dropping off or picking up your child, please use the Burydeane car park.

We kindly ask that you refrain from parking in School Close, as this is a residential area, and please do not use the school staff car park.

Thank you for helping us keep our children and community safe.



### January

19<sup>th</sup> - Robins Class Trip to Winchester Science Centre

### February

3<sup>rd</sup> - Owls Class Trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

12<sup>th</sup> - Work Showcase at 3:10pm

16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> - Half Term

24<sup>th</sup> - Return to School after Half Term

28<sup>th</sup> - Fundraising Quiz at Village Hall

### March

5<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day

10<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening

11<sup>th</sup> - Kev's Comic Masterclass (in school)

18<sup>th</sup> - Robin's Beep Beep Day

26<sup>th</sup> - Work Showcase at 3:10pm

27<sup>th</sup> - Break up for Easter

### INSET DAYS 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Upcoming  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**