



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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

October 2025

Dear Families,

What an excellent Harvest Service we had last week. The walk to the church along freshly ploughed fields, the Red Kites circling above, fantastic reading and singing by the children and some wonderful Samba dancing by Rev Carol made for a memorable afternoon! Thank you very much to all of you who were able to attend.



Attendance

The Leave of Absence Request Form (LOAF) has been updated by HCC to reflect a policy change. Schools are now authorised to issue Penalty Notices to parents who attempt to avoid penalties by scheduling holidays that fall below the threshold, including during weeks containing Bank Holidays or INSET days.

For Parents - App Safety Settings

With the Online Safety Act now in force it's no surprise to see a lot of focus and scrutiny on tech companies, their features and safety settings being so prominent in the media, particularly safety settings failures. However, that shouldn't detract from the fact that safety settings are important; they're not perfect and never will be, but they are there for a reason. Some of the more popular social apps are listed below, with links to their privacy and parent controls. They are all from the Internet Matters website:

Discord app settings -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/discord-app/>

TikTok parental controls -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/tiktok-privacy-and-safety-settings/>

Snapchat parental controls -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/>

Instagram parental controls -

[Pinterest privacy and safety settings -
https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/pinterest-privacy-and-safety-settings/](https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/pinterest-privacy-and-safety-settings/)

FaceTime privacy and safety settings -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/facetime-privacy-and-safety-settings/>

WhatsApp privacy guide -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/whatsapp/>

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.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others"
Philippians 2:3-4

Robins Trip to Finkley Down Farm

As part of our topic on habitats and food chains, Years R, 1 and 2 went to visit Finkley Down Farm. We had a wonderful time learning about the different habitats the animals need to stay safe and warm and the variety of foods the animals eat.

We also brushed a pony, stroked the rabbits, watched goat gladiators and had a talk about Owls at the Hawk Hanger. The children were brilliantly behaved and we all had a great day.

Thank you Finkley Down Farm!



House Captains



Buttermere
Seth Swadling



Fosbury
Tilly Marx-Hughes



Linkenholt
Lenny Hearne



Author Visit

What a way to end the week on World Mental Health Day with our visitor James Carter who brought a smile to everybody's face. James has spent the whole day in school creating riddles, poetry and having fun! The children will be bringing home order forms in their book bags if you would like to order a book. James will sign the books which will then be sent to us.



School Council

Our School Council for this year has been elected and congratulations to:-

Poppy Hannington
Toby Small
Zoe Morey
Billy Gair
Seth Swadling

Jacob Campos
Leo Otter
Lucas Coppins
Edith Young
Lily-rose Heald

Mrs Bulpitt is looking forward to working with our new School Council.

School Open Afternoon

On Thursday 6th November we will be holding an open afternoon for prospective parents. If any parents have anywhere they could advertise our posters please contact the school office who will provide you with the amount required.

Grounds Tidy Morning

Reminder tomorrow is our annual Grounds Tidy Morning. This will take place between 09:30am – 1:00pm. Any amount of time you can spare would be gratefully appreciated. Refreshments will be provided.

Red for Racism Day

On Friday 17th October, we will be joining in with 'Red for Racism' Day. On this day we ask that the children come into school wearing red. There is no cost involved.

Community

As you maybe aware, Miss Nicoll is due to take part in the Great South Run next weekend to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research. This is a cause that is very close to her heart after her Dad was diagnosed with cancer at the end of last year and is now cancer free. If you are able to support Miss Nicoll please done via the link below.

[Miss Nicoll's Fundraiser Macmillan Cancer Support](#)





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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

- 11th – Grounds Tidy Day
- 17th – Red for Racism Day
- 17th – Nasal Flu
- 20th – Parents Evening
- 21st – Owls Class trip to Oxenwood
- 23rd – Work Showcase 3:10pm
- 23rd – Individual pupil photographs
- 24th – Break up for half-term

November

- 6th – Open Afternoon (1:30pm – 2:30pm)
- 14th – Children in Need
- 20th – Whole School Tree Planting at Bury Hill
- 28th – Yr 5 & 6 assisting the Foodbank at Tesco Express Andover (09:30am – 10:30am)

December

- 11th – Christingle (2:00pm)
- 11th – Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th – Nativity Play at Village Hall (4:15pm)
- 18th – Robin Hood & Maid Marion Panto at Newbury Corn Exchange
- 18th – Carol Service at the Church (2:30pm)
- 19th – Class Christmas Parties
- 19th – Break up for Christmas Holidays

INSET DAYS 2025/26

2025

Monday 3rd November

2026

Monday 23rd February
Friday 3rd July

Stow Sports Holiday Camp

When: Monday 27th / Tuesday 28th / Wednesday 29th
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.

