



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,

One of the best moments of my week is when a pupil comes to see me with some great work. On Thursday, all of our Year R pupils brought their beautiful handwriting to show me. They were rightly incredibly proud of their work and were definitely very deserving of a special gold headteacher sticker!

I wonder whether you can remember learning to write? I'm not sure I can. However, I do remember sitting next to someone in my GSCE Geography class who had the most beautiful calligraphic handwriting and I thought 'I want to write like that!' So I kind of copied his style I guess and although most of the writing I do now is in digital form, I still am able to fall back on a neat and tidy handwriting style.

Handwriting remains an important cornerstone of the primary curriculum and something that it was great to see our 4 and 5 year olds taking so much pride in. Many best wishes to you all,

Ian Hickman
Executive Headteacher

Safeguarding

We kindly ask that visitors **do not take photos or videos** whilst on the school site. This includes the following situations:

- **Celebration Assemblies:** While these are proud moments, not all children in have parental consent to be photographed, and we must ensure everyone's privacy is protected.
- **Outside the Grounds:** As our site is quite open, please refrain from taking photos or videos of pupils from the perimeter or public footpaths.
- **Digital Privacy:** Images captured on personal devices may unintentionally include other children in the background. If shared online, this can pose a significant safeguarding risk.

Why this is Important

We have a diverse school community, and for various reasons - including legal and safeguarding requirements - some of our children must remain anonymous. By putting your phones away, you help us maintain a secure environment where all pupils feel safe.

Our Goal: We want our pupils to fully enjoy their experiences and our parents to share these moments without the distraction of screens, confident that everyone's privacy is being respected.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping to keep Vernham Dean a safe and welcoming place for all children.

Set Up Safe Guide

Once again Internet Matters have put together a brilliant new resource for parents and carers. This time it's a Set Up Safe guide which simplifies all the confusing tech/device settings advising that online safety works best when it's shaped around how children actually use their devices, it's all about 'layering'.

The guide can be accessed here:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/setupsafe/>

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.

"Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go." Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Robins Class Trip to the Winchester Science Centre

This half term, Robins Class has been exploring the topic "Man on the Moon." On 19 January, we visited the Winchester Science Centre, where the children enjoyed investigating a range of interactive exhibits and took part in an exciting workshop on building rockets that could fly through the air. We also visited the planetarium, where we journeyed through the

stars and learned about constellations and our solar system. The children had a fantastic day.



Inspired by the visit, they were then challenged to design and make their own rockets - and, as you can see, they produced some truly amazing creations.



Hampshire Picture Book Awards

This week Y1 met with Mrs Bulpitt again to judge a book for the 'Hampshire picture book awards'. This week we looked at 'The hare who wouldn't share' and discussed the importance of friendship and sharing.



World Book Day

This year, World Book Day will take place on Thursday 5th March. We would love the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters and join us in celebrating a day dedicated to reading.

As 2026 is the Year of Reading, this is a wonderful opportunity to highlight something we truly value at our small school with a big heart.

Join the PTA - We'd Love Your Help!

The PTA plays a big part in supporting our school, raising funds for trips, resources, and special events for the children. You don't need special skills or lots of spare time - just enthusiasm and a willingness to help when you can.

Every idea, every helping hand, and every small contribution makes a big difference. Come along, get involved, and help make school life even better for our children!

If you're interested in joining or want to find out more, please email Miss Pauk at adminoffice@vernhamdeangillums.hants.sch.uk

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.



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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.



February

- 3rd - Owls Class Trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- 12th - Work Showcase at 3:10pm
- 16th - 20th - Half Term
- 24th - Return to School after Half Term
- 28th - Fundraising Quiz at Village Hall

March

- 5th - World Book Day
- 10th - Parents Evening
- 18th - Robin's Beep Beep Day
- 25th - Kev's Comic Masterclass (in school)
- 26th - Work Showcase at 3:10pm
- 27th - Break up for Easter

INSET DAYS 2026

- Monday 23rd February
- Friday 3rd July

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



Southampton FC Women take on Newcastle Women at St Mary's Stadium in the Women's Super League 2 on Sunday 8th February, 2pm kick-off.

Southampton FC Women return to St Mary's for another home matchday against Newcastle Women. After starting the year off with a 4-0 win against Portsmouth Women in front of a record crowd of 7,561, we need the fans to back us for another vital game.

Whether you're a regular in the stands or thinking about your first visit, enjoy the atmosphere of a women's matchday by arriving early and exploring the fan zones, LEVEL1 and The Dell with family and friends.

Claim your free tickets.

<https://tickets.southamptonfc.com/list/partnerAdvantage?code=SFCNUFCWOMEN3>

PANCAKE PARTY
"STACK UP THE JOY, DISCOVER THE LOVE!"

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY - 10 AM - 2 PM
ST THOMAS - CHARLTON
COST - £3
OPEN TO ALL IN YR R - YR 6

QR code and SCAN TO BOOK text.