



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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

February 2026

Dear Families,

Although January felt like it would never end, we already find ourselves nearly halfway through February, with the first signs of spring beginning to appear. On my early morning dog walks, I've noticed that it's now light when I return home, along with magnolia buds emerging on the trees and other gentle reminders that the seasons are changing.

Next week marks the beginning of Lent. The 40acts initiative by Stewardship focuses on kindness and generosity throughout this season. You may find their family wallchart helpful as a source of inspiration and encouragement to practise generosity at home:

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/sites/default/files/A4%2040acts%20Family%20Wallchart.pdf>

I hope you all enjoy a restful half-term break. Please remember that Monday 23rd is an INSET Day for staff training.

Many best wishes,

Ian Hickman
Executive Headteacher

Safeguarding

For children with Android devices, Google Family Link is a great way for parents to set restrictions. Last week Internet Matters released a brand new YouTube video showing how to set up Google Family Link to customise content and screen time restrictions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=kibl44z83tCoOYa&v=BYRQvANa7OE&feature=youtu.be>

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.

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."
James 1:12

Owls Class Trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

School trips provide wonderful opportunities to spark curiosity and strengthen learning through real-life experiences. On Tuesday 3rd February, Owls Class visited Portsmouth Historic Dockyard for a memorable day of exploration.

During the morning, we discovered what life was like on board HMS Warrior. We were fortunate to meet one of the 'gunners', who shared fascinating insights about daily life below deck and the important jobs carried out by the crew. We then ventured further down to meet an officer, who introduced us to some of the ship's weaponry and showed us the impressive dining table where officers would once have eaten.

After lunch and a quick visit to the gift shop, we explored some modern naval vessels, making comparisons between past and present. We even saw a naval ship undergoing maintenance, which was exciting to witness.

To round off the day, Owls Class admired the striking figureheads that once decorated ships. The children were impeccably behaved, as always, and coped brilliantly despite the constant pouring rain. With so much to see and do - including two other famous ships - it is certainly a visit we would highly recommend



The PTA plays an important role in supporting the school community - helping to organise fundraising events, social activities, and initiatives that enrich our pupils' experiences. Even giving a small amount of time can make a big difference.

You don't need any special skills or prior experience - just a willingness to help and share ideas. Whether you can offer occasional support at events or would like to be more involved in planning, we would love to hear from you.

If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more, please contact the school office. Together, we can make a real difference for our children.

adminoffice@vernhamdeangillums.hants.sch.uk

ABM Pancake Competition

Please email your entries to:

adminoffice@vernhamdeangillums.hants.sch.uk



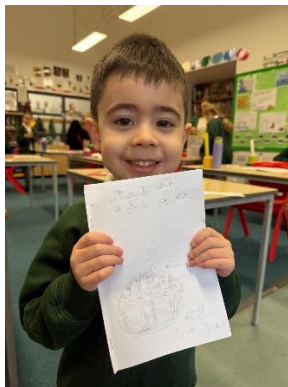
Easter Raffle

We are beginning preparations for our upcoming Easter Raffle and would be very grateful for any donations to help make it a success.

If you are able to contribute, we would welcome items such as Easter eggs, chocolates, gift sets, bottles, toys, vouchers, or any other suitable prizes.

Inspiring Learners

Teachers always love to see children inspired to continue their learning beyond the classroom — and even more so when they are eager to share what they have created. Mrs Bulpitt was delighted when a member of Robins Class proudly brought in a book he had made at home to show her. What a fantastic effort - well done!



World Book Day Reminder

A reminder that World Book Day will be taking place on Thursday 5th March.

We're looking forward to celebrating the joy of reading with the children! They are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character (please remember costumes can be simple and comfortable).

Thank you for your continued support - we can't wait to see everyone's fantastic costumes!

PTA Members Needed – We Need Your Support!

We are currently looking to recruit new members to join our PTA. At the moment, we only have one active member, which means we are limited in the events and activities we're able to organise for our children.

All donations, big or small, really do make a difference and help us create an exciting range of prizes for the children and families to enjoy.

Please bring in any donations to the school office. The Easter Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 26th March.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support - we truly appreciate it!

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.

Wraparound Care

Premier Education, who will be delivering our wraparound care provision, are currently seeking to appoint a Wraparound Care Manager for our school.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in this opportunity, please visit the following link to view the job description and application details:

<https://www.vernhamdeanschool.co.uk/vacancies>

Scholastic Book Club

This week, the children have brought home a book order form featuring a fantastic selection of titles. With World Book Day approaching on 5th March, there are plenty of great ideas to inspire young readers. Please use the link below to place your order.

Our new Scholastic Book Club is now live! Visit <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-HGQJF787> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 spent through this month's Book Club, our school will receive 20p in Scholastic Rewards.

Please ensure all orders are placed online by 6th March 2026.



February

16th - 20th - Half Term
24th - Return to School after Half Term
25th - Owls Class Swimming Lessons
28th - Fundraising Quiz at Village Hall

March

4th - Owls Class Swimming Lessons
5th - World Book Day
10th - Parents Evening
11th - Owls Class Swimming Lessons
18th - Owls Class Swimming Lessons
18th - Robin's Beep Beep Day
20th - Red Nose Day
25th - Kev's Comic Masterclass (in school)
26th - Easter Raffle Draw
26th - Work Showcase at 3:10pm
27th - Break up for Easter

May

11th - Y6 SATS Week
18th - Owls Class Trip to Stonehenge

INSET DAYS 2026

Monday 23rd February
Friday 3rd July

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

