



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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

May 2026

Over the past couple of weeks in our times of worship, we've reflected on the Artemis II mission and the well-known "Pale Blue Dot" photograph captured by Voyager I in February 1990. At that time, Voyager I was 3.7 billion miles from Earth; as of 1 May 2026, it is now around 15.8 billion miles away - nearly a full light-day's distance.

Considering just how small Earth is within the vastness of our solar system and the Milky Way has encouraged us to appreciate how precious our planet truly is. This week, we began thinking about the small, practical steps we can take to care for it. We explored themes such as "dominion" and a "community of care," reflecting on how deeply connected we are and the shared responsibility we hold.

Wishing you all a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend!

Many best wishes

Mr Hickman
Executive Headteacher

Your Child's Digital Footprint

What do we mean by a digital footprint? It's the record or trail left behind whenever we go online - whether that's visiting websites, making purchases, using apps, or scrolling through social media. Understanding this is important for many reasons, including privacy, reputation, targeted advertising, and potential risks. Internet Matters offers a clear and helpful guide explaining what a digital footprint is, the difference between active and passive footprints, why it matters, and more.

Link:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/what-you-need-to-know-about-your-childs-digital-footprint/>

School Christian Value



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

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Super Kind

Congratulations to Seth for being the first child to earn a 'Super kind' badge. This means he has received 3 school kindness certificates. Seth is a great role model to younger children and shows kindness to adults and children in school. Well done Seth!



RED Challenge

Congratulations to Logan who is the first child in school to reach stage 5 of the RED challenge. Logan was presented with a book this morning by Mrs Bulpitt in celebration worship this morning that he gets to enjoy at home. Well done Logan!

The children are thoroughly enjoying learning with Sunny and look forward to finding out even more about his life in the desert.



Weather

As the weather becomes warmer, please make sure your child comes to school prepared for sunny days. They should wear sun cream, bring a hat, and have a water bottle with them. You are also welcome to send in sun cream so it can be reapplied during the day if needed.

London Marathon

Huge congratulations to Miss Dickinson for completing the London Marathon last Sunday in support of Mind. Her dedication and effort have made everyone - both colleagues and pupils - extremely proud.



So far, she has raised an incredible £965 towards her goal of £2,500. If you would like to support her and help her reach this target, please consider making a donation by copying and pasting the link below into your browser or by scanning the QR code.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/milliemaiddickinson?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_60DaysToEvent_Active



REMINDERS

Rucksacks

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

For everyday use, book bags are recommended as they are ideal for carrying reading books, reading records, homework, and letters.

Thank you for helping us keep our classrooms and cloakrooms tidy.

Snacks

Please provide your child with a healthy snack for break time, such as fruit, vegetables, or cheese.

Thank you for helping us promote a healthy and enjoyable snack time for everyone.

Parking

When dropping off or collecting your child, please use the Burydean car park.

We kindly ask that you do not park in School Close, as this is a residential area, and also avoid using the school staff car park.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our children and wider community safe.



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

May

- 8th Non Uniform Day - Bring a bottle for tombola
- 11th Y6 SATS Week
- 18th Walk to School Week
- 18th Owls Class Trip to Stonehenge
- 21st Work showcase 3:10pm
- 22nd Breakdancing Workshop for whole school
- 22nd Break up for half-term

June

- 1st Return to school
- 5th Non Uniform Day – Bring a bottle for tombola
- 12th Pyjamara
- 18th Whole school archaeology dig
- 19th Kung Fu Workshop for whole school
- 23rd New YR Parents Meeting
- 25th Y6 Leavers Service at Winchester Cathedral
- 29th Class photographs
- 30th Sports Day

July

- 2nd Non Uniform Day – Bring a bottle for tombola
- 4th Village Fete
- 7th Reserve Sports Day
- 10th School Reports sent home
- 16th Work Showcase
- 21st School Play
- 22nd Leavers Service
- 22nd Last day of term

INSET DAYS 2026

Friday 3rd July