Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

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

September 2025

MESSAGE FROM MRS B

This time last week the whole school took a trip to meet with Andover Trees and a small amount of schools from the area to highlight World Peace day. This was organised to work alongside Roots & Shoots an organisation set up by Jane Goodall to encourage people to think more carefully about the world we live in.

The children spent the morning attaching their doves to trees and carrying a large dove puppet to a wood clearing where we all joined together to listen to Jane Goodall and a peace poem was read by children from different schools - well done Leo!

Our children always behave beautifully but it is always so lovely when members of the public comment on their conduct and how well they represent the school. I am always proud of our children but moments like this really show how our children understand that we are a school of kindness.

Some of our children were lucky enough to plant a tree with the Mayor of Test Valley, keep an eye on this week's local paper for photos - fingers crossed!

This week's kindness award went to Lola Goodman.

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.

"Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others" Corinthians 10:24

Safeguarding

For Parents - Managing In-Game Spending

In-game spending can be problematic with some children and young people. The urgency to level up, to look unique, to be better than your friends, and to top all this off the persuasive techniques that games companies use.

Internet Matters have an excellent guide for parents which includes:

- How do children spend money while gaming?
- How does in-game currency work?
- The benefits and risks
- Supporting resources, and more

You can view the guide here: https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/online-money-management-guide/in-game-spending/

Drama Workshop

We have had a great start to the new term with a drama workshop from Perform. The children were all engaged and took part in re-enacting a scene from The Sword in the Stone. The children listened well to all the instructions and impressed everyone with their acting skills.

GROUNDS TIDY MORNING
On Saturday 11th October, our annual Grounds Tidy Morning will take place between 09:30am - 1:00pm. We would be grateful for any amount of time you can spare.

HARVEST FESTIVAL
A reminder that this year's Harvest Festival will take place on Tuesday 30th September at 2:30pm at the Village Church. On this day, we would be grateful for food donations of items such as tinned food, cereals, biscuits, crisps, toiletries, animal food etc which will be donated to Andover Food Bank.

Walktober
We are taking part in Walktober 2025!

As we head into autumn, it's important that we all keep active and where possible, get outdoors. To encourage this, the My Journey Team at Hampshire County Council has invited schools to celebrate International Walk to School Month by taking part in Walktober.

This event is designed to inspire pupils, families and staff to travel actively and sustainably throughout October.

We are hoping as many of our pupils, families and staff as possible travel actively throughout October by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride or public transport to and from school and in their leisure time.

We want to hear about your active and sustainable journeys! Throughout October we will be inviting our pupils to complete a My Walktober Journey Report and share stories of their active and sustainable journeys in an effort to inspire others to give it a try.

REMINDERS
<u>Rucksacks</u>
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.

<u>Snacks</u>
Break time snacks should be fruit, vegetables or cheese only please

<u>Parking</u>
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

September
16th – Drama for All Workshop – Robins Class
19th – Peace Day
30th - Harvest Festival

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

INSET DAYS 2025/26

2025
Monday 3rd November

2026
Monday 23rd February
Friday 3rd July

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.

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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.