



# Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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

May 2026

Dear Families,

For those of you with children in Year 6, congratulations on making it through SATs week!

KS2 SATs have been part of primary school assessment for the past 35 years, although they have changed considerably over time. In the early years, pupils completed science and writing tests alongside reading and maths assessments. There was even a 'mental arithmetic' test, delivered via cassette tape or CD during the exam — some of you may even remember taking SATs yourselves.

This week, our Year 6 pupils completed tests in reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar, arithmetic and maths reasoning. The feedback I have received has been overwhelmingly positive, with staff praising the pupils for the mature and determined way they approached each test, giving their very best effort and showing real perseverance throughout.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged the children during the week, and a huge well done to Year 6 for all of your hard work and resilience.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!  
Many best wishes

Mr Hickman  
Executive Headteacher

## 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.

*"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4*

### Robins Class

As part of our topic work, we carried out an experiment to investigate what plants need in order to grow and stay healthy. We planted seeds in three different conditions: some had both water and light, some had light but no water, and others had water but no light.

Throughout the experiment, we regularly observed the seeds to see what changes were taking place. The seeds that had light but no water did not grow at all. The seeds that had water but no light began to grow, but they were pale yellow and very weak. The seeds that had both water and light grew strong, healthy green shoots.

This week, we potted one of the healthy shoots and have been carefully looking after it. We are now measuring it each week to observe how much it grows over time.



I will, of course, let you know as soon as I hear the outcome of this year's award.

Mrs B



### School of Kindness

It is wonderful to think that almost a year has passed since we were recognised as a Social Impact School/School of Kindness, and I am currently waiting to hear whether we have achieved the award again for the next academic year.

I am continually proud of the kindness and compassion our children show each day in school. A recent example of this was Owls Class collecting spare change so they could adopt a polar bear through WWF. Their adopted bear, "Bear", now sits proudly in the classroom as a reminder of their thoughtful efforts.

The School of Kindness award considers all aspects of school life, including the wider community such as stakeholders, parents and guardians. It is therefore important that we, as adults, continue to model the values of kindness, compassion and respect, showing children that these are qualities to be valued and admired.

### School Gates

A reminder to all parents and carers that the school gates will be locked promptly at the designated time each morning. If you arrive as the gates are being locked, the member of staff will take your child into school and escort them to their classroom.

To ensure that teaching staff are able to begin the school day promptly and settle classes effectively, we kindly ask that all parents and carers leave the school site by 8:55am.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

### Walk to School Week

Next week is "Walk to School Week" (18-22 May 2026) which encourages pupils to walk, wheel, scoot or cycle to school in order to

boost health and wellbeing, reduce congestion and improve air quality around our school. This year's "Mission Move" challenge encourages children to travel actively each day, with classroom wallcharts, stickers and rewards available throughout the week.

We are delighted to be joining schools across the UK in taking part and encouraging children to enjoy the many benefits of active travel.

Why take part? Healthier children – walking and scooting help children achieve their recommended daily physical activity and prepare them for a positive, focused day at school.

Safer streets – fewer cars around the school gates help to create a safer environment for everyone.

Cleaner air – reducing car journeys helps to lower emissions and improve air quality within our village community.

As we are a village primary school, we understand that many families need to drive some or all of the journey to school. If this is the case, we kindly ask parents and carers to consider parking a little further away from school and walking the final part of the journey.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make the school run healthier, safer and happier for all.

School Cleaner

We currently have a vacancy for a School Cleaner working 10 hours per week, term-time only. Further details about the role and how to apply can be found on our website:

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

## 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

A member of the local community has raised concerns about cars being left idling for extended periods while parents wait to collect their children at the end of the school day, and the impact this may have on the environment.

If possible, please could you switch off your engine while waiting. Small actions can make a big difference in helping to reduce unnecessary emissions and improve air quality around the school.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.



### May

18<sup>th</sup> Walk to School Week

18<sup>th</sup> Owls Class Trip to Stonehenge

- 21<sup>st</sup> Work showcase 3:10pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Breakdancing Workshop for whole school
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Break up for half-term

**June**

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

**July**

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

**INSET DAYS 2026**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July



**DFG4 Adventure**

# BRAVE HEARTS

STANDING STRONG WHEN LIFE GETS TOUGH

Stories, crafts, games, friendship & more ...

**JULY 28th - 30th**  
9.30-3.30

**HARROWAY SCHOOL**  
£20 for all 3 days!

Lunch & snacks provided, book now as spaces are limited.

Scan QR Code or visit  
<https://forms.gle/sDEt25DRM3GssxIG7> to book

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# XTRAS

FOOTBALL COACHING

SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

ANDOVER

AGES 10-12 WEDNESDAY 430-515  
AGES 6-8 WEDNESDAY 430-515  
AGES 8-9 WEDNESDAY 515-600  
AGES 8-9 FRIDAY 430-515  
AGES 6-8 FRIDAY 430-515  
AGES 10-12 FRIDAY 515-600

EMAIL  
STOWSPORTSSCHOOL@GMAIL.COM  
TO REGISTER INTEREST

**stowsports**  
SPORTS SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN

ENDEAVOUR KING CAMPUS

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SPORTS SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

# SPORTS CAMP

AGES 5-12 YEARS

26 27 28 MAY

9AM TO 4PM

**ACTIVITIES:**  
Mini Olympics Hockey  
Basketball Nerf Battle  
Football Rounders  
Tennis Dodgeball  
Ultimate Tag  
Capture the flag

 <https://stow-sports.classforkids.io>  [Stowportsschool@gmail.com](mailto:Stowportsschool@gmail.com)