



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



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

July 2026

Dear Families,

## Reflecting on an Extraordinary Week

As we look back on the historic heatwave of last week, which was part of an extraordinary stretch of summer weather, I wanted to take a moment to reflect and say a proper thank you to our entire school community.

Making the decision to close our doors or reduce hours is always an absolute last resort. I am acutely aware of the immense pressure, stress, and logistical juggling short-notice closures place on working families. I want to apologise sincerely for the disruption caused to your households; balancing full-time work and unexpected childcare in extreme conditions is no easy feat.

We are aware that some of the upcoming World Cup fixtures may finish very late/into the early hours of the morning, and we have been asked whether allowances will be made if children stay up to watch the matches. While we understand that this is an exciting event and many families will want to enjoy it together, we would like to remind everyone that school will continue as normal. We therefore expect all children to attend school on time and ready to learn, even if they have chosen to stay up to watch the football.

Thank you once again for your patience, cooperation, and continued support across all aspects of school life.

Best wishes,

Mr Hickman

## Safeguarding Social Media Ban and Online Safety Measures

By now, most of us are likely aware of the UK government's announcement regarding a social media ban for those under 16, which is slated for implementation in Spring 2027. While the move has garnered significant support from some quarters, it has also faced substantial criticism from others. A major challenge is the lack of concrete information regarding the practical implications of the ban, including which specific platforms will be affected and how it will impact family life.

To help navigate these uncertainties, Internet Matters has published a comprehensive article that delves into these issues, providing insights that many parents may find beneficial.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/uk-social-media-ban-and-new-online-safety-measures/>

## School Christian Value



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

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour." Ephesians 4:25*

## Sports Day

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the children at our

Sports Day on Tuesday. Your encouragement, enthusiasm, and cheers from the sidelines helped make the afternoon extra special for everyone.

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all the races and activities, showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the event. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, and a fun afternoon was had by all.

Congratulations to Linkenholt, who were this year's overall Sports Day champions and were presented with the Sports Day Cup. Well done to everyone who took part and gave their very best.



### **Superkind Social Impact Award**

We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the SuperKind Social Impact Award for the second consecutive year.

This award recognises the kindness, generosity and community spirit shown by our pupils throughout the year. Through their

fundraising, charitable initiatives and acts of kindness, our children have continued to make a positive difference both within our school and in the wider community.

Retaining this award for a second year is a wonderful achievement and reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of our pupils, staff and families, who have all worked together to support a range of worthwhile causes.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who has contributed towards this recognition. Thank you to our pupils, parents, carers and staff for helping to make kindness and community at the heart of everything we do.



## Wrap Around Care

We are delighted to announce that our new **Wraparound Care** provision is now up and running.

If you would like your child to attend any of our sessions, please contact **Miss Pauk** in the school office to request a **Registration Form** and **Terms of Business**. Once these have been completed and returned, Miss Pauk will activate your account so that you can book sessions through the **SCOPAY** system.

Please note that **all sessions must be booked and paid for in advance**. If your child attends a session without a prior booking, the session charge will be added to your SCOPAY account and must be paid before any further bookings can be made.

## Early Birds

Monday to Friday

7:45am – 8:45am

Run by Miss Richards

Children will be provided with a healthy breakfast.

## Night Owls

Our after-school sessions offer a different activity each day:

- **Monday** – Arts & Crafts with **Miss Pauk**
- **Tuesday** – Baking with **Miss Richards**
- **Wednesday** – STEM Activities with **Miss Richards**
- **Thursday** – Board Games with **Miss Pauk**
- **Friday** – Puzzles with **Mrs Parker**

Children attending **Night Owls** will be provided with a healthy snack during the session.

We look forward to welcoming your children to our exciting new wraparound care provision, where they can enjoy a range of fun, engaging activities in a safe and friendly environment.

## Verham Dean Village Fete

A reminder that the Vernham Dean Village Fete takes place this Saturday, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible!

The fete is a wonderful community event and an important fundraiser, with proceeds being shared between Vernham Dean Primary School, Little Fingers Pre-School, and the Vernham Dean Playing Fields Association. Every ticket purchased, game played and refreshment enjoyed will help support these fantastic local organisations.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your incredibly generous donations of bottles, books and teddies. Your kindness and support have helped us prepare some fantastic stalls, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Whether you're trying your luck on the bottle or teddy tombolas, browsing the book stall, enjoying the games, or simply spending time with friends and neighbours, there's something for everyone. We hope you'll come along and help make it a fantastic day for our whole community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Bishop of Basingstoke

This week, Mrs Bulpitt was invited to our local church to meet the Bishop of Basingstoke. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with the Bishop and discuss the important role our school plays within the local community.

The visit provided an opportunity to share some of the many achievements of our pupils, celebrate our strong community links and

reflect on the values that are at the heart of our school.



## REMINDERS

### PE Kits

To ensure that children are always prepared for their PE lessons, we kindly ask that PE kits are brought into school on Monday and remain in school throughout the week.

PE kits should then be taken home on Friday so that they can be washed and returned ready for the following week.

Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Our new yellow PE bag is now available to purchase through Happy Fish.

### 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

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, we would like to remind families to provide children with a healthy snack for morning break time.

Suitable snack options include:

- Fresh fruit (e.g. apples, bananas, grapes, oranges)
- Vegetable sticks (e.g. carrots, cucumber, peppers)
- Cheese portions
- Plain crackers or rice cakes

We also ask that children bring a clearly labelled water bottle each day to stay hydrated.

Thank you for your support in helping us promote healthy eating.



## July

- 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

## September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Return to school

## INSET DAYS 2026

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Information For PARENTS / CARERS

**SPORTY BEES SUMMER CAMP ANDOVER**

Sports and Fun for Children ages 5-11

**SUMMER CAMP ANDOVER**

Roman Way Primary School  
Roman Way, Andover, SP10 5JY

**3rd - 7th August.**

SCAN TO BOOK

Let's Build a **KINDER, SAFER HAMPSHIRE**

Everyone has the right to feel safe and be respected.

DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN AFFECT ANYONE

Together, we can make a difference.

Help and support is available.

- Call Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service 03300 165 112 (24/7)
- Visit [hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse](https://hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse) for support and information
- In an emergency, always dial 999.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Let's listen. Let's support. Let's build a safer Hampshire. #SaferHampshire

Hampshire County Council

**WATER SAFETY**

Stay safe. Have fun. Enjoy the water.

DROWNING IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN CHILDREN IN THE UK. MOST INCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE.

As the weather warms up, children and young people spend more time around water – at home, on days out or on holiday. Let's keep them safe.

Almost half of drownings occur during the summer months when temperatures are higher – especially when 25°C or above.

THE HSCP WATER SAFETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS & CARERS INCLUDES:

- EVERYDAY RISKS AT HOME**  
Including bath time safety and garden hazards.
- STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS**  
Such as the beach, around rivers and in open water.
- PRACTICAL SAFETY ADVICE**  
Including the Water Safety Code and how to "Float to Live".
- AGE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE**  
For babies, young children, older children and teenagers.
- WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY**  
Including simple first aid steps and where to find further support.

Small actions, big difference

- Keep children within arm's reach of water.
- Choose safe places to swim.
- Talk to your children about water safety.

Together, we can help prevent tragedies and keep our children safe this summer.

For practical advice and resources, download the Water Safety Toolkit: [www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/](http://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/)

Enjoy the water Stay safe Look out for each other

HSCP Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
Safeguarding children together

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

**CHILD HEALTH CLINICS\***

The Community Public Health Advisors from the Andover & Winchester Public Health Nursing Team (5-19y) are offering support with your aged child's health primary

Scan the QR code to book a 30minute slot at Beech Hurst, Andover

How do I manage challenging behaviour?

Why does my child wet the bed?

Where can I access support for my child's anxiety?

How do I encourage healthy eating?

\* These slots should not be used as a place to seek advice regarding specific medical conditions