



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,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we have achieved together. It has been a year of significant growth, filled with moments of joy, discovery, and resilience. Seeing our children flourish, from our newest learners settling in to our Year 6 pupils preparing for their next big adventure, has been a privilege for us all.

This success is not possible without the dedication of our incredible staff, who work tirelessly to ensure every child is supported, and the unwavering partnership of you, our families. Thank you for your trust and for being such an active part of our community.

As the summer break begins, I hope you have the opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy quality time with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back in the autumn, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful summer holiday.

With best wishes,

Mr Ian Hickman
Executive Headteacher

A Message from Mrs B

As we reach the end of another fantastic academic year at Vernham Dean Gillum's School, it is the perfect time to look back and celebrate the incredible journey we have shared. This year has been filled with growth, laughter, and outstanding achievements, all made possible by our wonderful children,

dedicated staff, and supportive families we have here at our small school with a big heart. Here are just a few of the highlights that have made this year so memorable:

Transforming Our School Grounds

We have been incredibly busy enhancing our outdoor environments to ensure our children have the very best spaces to learn, explore, and play. Over the past year, you may have noticed some brilliant transformations:

- **EYFS Area Resurfaced:** Our youngest learners now have a beautifully refreshed, safe, and vibrant space to kickstart their educational journeys.
- **The Bandstand Rebuilt:** A cherished feature of our grounds has been restored, providing a wonderful hub for outdoor creativity and quiet reflection.
- **Forest School Development:** Work is well underway on our expanding Forest School area, allowing us to bring even more hands-on, nature-based learning into our curriculum.

Certified Kind: A Social Impact School

One of our proudest milestones this year was being officially recognized as a Social Impact School and designated as a School of Kindness. This award is a testament to the core values we hold dear at Vernham Dean Gillum's. It highlights our commitment to nurturing empathy, community spirit, and positive change - not just within our school gates, but in the wider world.

Proud of Our Pupils

While physical awards and upgraded grounds are wonderful, the true heart of our school is our children. Throughout the year, we have been endlessly proud of how our pupils work, play, and grow together.

Whether they are tackling a challenging classroom project, sharing games on the playground, or stepping up to help a friend in need, their care for one another is truly exceptional. They consistently look after each other, ensuring that our school remains a safe, welcoming, and joyful place for everyone.

Thank You and Happy Summer!

Thank you to our entire school community for your unwavering support, enthusiasm, and partnership this year.

To our leaving pupils, we wish you the absolute best of luck in your next chapters. To everyone else, we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year in September. Have a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer break!

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.

"He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known."
Proverbs 10:9

Year 6 Leavers Lunch: A Slice of Celebration!

To mark the upcoming end of their primary school journey, our Year 6 were treated to a

fantastic goodbye lunch at Pizza Express this week - and what a memorable occasion it was!

Amid the excitement of sharing dough balls, pizzas, and plenty of laughs with teach other and Mrs B the children were absolute shining stars. From the moment they stepped through the restaurant doors, their behavior was nothing short of brilliant. They showed wonderful manners to the restaurant staff, chatted happily with one another, and represented our school with immense maturity.

As they prepare to take their next big steps into secondary school, days like this remind us just how much they have grown. They were a real credit to their families and to the entire school community.

Well done, Year 6 - you've made us incredibly proud!



REMINDERS

School Play

We are looking forward to our whole-school summer play next week! Please see the key details below:

- Date & Time: Next Tuesday, 21st June at 4:30 PM.
- Pick-up Arrangements: There is no need to collect your child at the usual

3:30 PM dismissal time. We will supervise and keep all children at school until the play has finished.

- Costumes: No special costumes are required for this performance, as the children will be playing the roles of school students.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Y6 Leavers Service: Bring the Tissues!

The time has come to say a fond - and likely emotional - farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for the Year 6 Leavers' Service next Wednesday at 2:30 PM.

This special service will be a wonderful opportunity to look back at their time with us, celebrate their incredible achievements, and wish them the absolute best as they take their next big steps into secondary school.

⚠ A quick piece of advice: It promises to be a beautiful but highly emotional afternoon, so please make sure to bring a packet of tissues with you!

We look forward to seeing you there to give our leavers the send-off they truly deserve.

PTA End of School Disco

To celebrate the end of a fantastic school year, the PTA is hosting an end-of-school disco! It's the perfect chance for the children to let their hair down, dance with their friends, and celebrate the start of the summer holidays.

- Where: Chute Village Hall
- When: [Date] from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- Cost: £5 per ticket (includes a hot dog and a drink)

How to book:

Please copy and paste the link below into your browser::

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QHII87XK>

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for organizing this event.



July

21st School Play at 4:30pm
22nd Leavers Service
22nd Last day of term

September

3rd Return to school

October

5th – 9th Y5 & 6 Residential Trip
20th Work Showcase
22nd Individual pupil photographs
22nd Harvest Festival

INSET DAYS 2026-27

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 5th July 2027

Information

For

PARENTS / CARERS

YEAR 6 LEAVERS PHOTO'S

FRIDAY 24TH
JULY 2026
IN YOUR

Andover Advertiser



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.

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

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.

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/

Enjoy the water
Stay safe
Look out for each other

HSCP
Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding children together



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