



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



Creating compassionate, courageous, creative citizens for the future in God's love  
September 2025

Welcome back, everyone.

I hope you had a restful summer break. I enjoyed a short break of my own up in the stunning Wye Valley, getting in plenty of long dog walks. My personal highlight was probably being lucky enough to see Coldplay at Wembley - a truly magical experience and so different from the last time I saw them at a small venue in Southampton 25 years ago.

With that fresh perspective, it's been a pleasure to welcome everyone back for a productive and encouraging first week. It's wonderful to see the students settling so well into their new routines, and we're all looking forward to the opportunities this academic year will bring.

To our new families, a very warm welcome to our school community! We are so glad to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We wish everyone a successful autumn term.

Many best wishes,

Ian Hickman  
Executive Headteacher

## MESSAGE FROM MRS B

Welcome back everyone! It really has been so lovely to see the children coming in so positively in the mornings and happy to be back at our small school with a big heart. I have already had children been to see with work they have done and books they have discovered which always makes my day.

I am sure you have noticed that we have new interactive walls at school. These Activall walls are already being well used by the children they promote physical activity, improve fitness levels and encourage sharing. We also have an indoor wall that children are able to use at wet playtimes.

This term we are introducing a new learning platform which work at the children's individual levels in Maths, English, Spelling and Timetables. Key Stage have already made a start and we will communicate with you soon about how to access the platform from home.

Have a lovely weekend everyone



## 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.

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" Philippians 2:3-4*

## Safeguarding

The NSPCC has some wonderful resources for parents including age-appropriate conversations and topics, top tips, quizzes and more. You can find all the resources listed here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>.

## YR

The Year R children have all settled in very well and are enjoying their time in school. They especially enjoy being with the big Robins and sharing their learning with them. They have already started to learn some new phonic sounds and number work.

During break times, the whole school enjoy playing together outside.



## REMINDERS

### Rucksacks

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.

### Snacks

Break time snacks should be fruit, vegetables or cheese only please

### Parking

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

16<sup>th</sup> – Drama for All Workshop – Robins Class  
19<sup>th</sup> – Peace Day

### October

2<sup>nd</sup> – Harvest Festival  
11<sup>th</sup> – Grounds Tidy Day  
17<sup>th</sup> – Nasal Flu  
21<sup>st</sup> – Owls Class trip to Oxenwood  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Work Showcase 3:10pm  
24<sup>th</sup> – Individual pupil photographs  
24<sup>th</sup> – Break up for half-term

## INSET DAYS 2025/26

### 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

### 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July