



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



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

June 2025

Dear Families,

I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 6 to their special Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral yesterday. Over the course of three days around 1500 Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to enjoy the Cathedral and be part of a significant rite of passage. There were singing workshops and a Cathedral tour in the morning, lunch in the Cathedral grounds and a service led by the Bishop of Southampton in the afternoon. During the tour, the children had the opportunity to view the art installation they had contributed to (picture below). The theme for this year's service was our natural world and in the afternoon's service we were reminded about the preciousness of our planet, the beauty in the world around us and the importance of our role in preserving it.

The Year 6 children have been given an invite to view the installation with their families over the course of the next week. I thoroughly recommend a visit.

Have a great weekend.

Ian Hickman  
Executive Headteacher



*"Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the King." 1 Peter 2:17*

## SAFEGUARDING Webinar - Understanding and Safeguarding Children's use of AI Chatbots

Internet Matters are putting on a free webinar for parents to examine their findings in their latest report about how children in the UK are engaging with AI chatbots including the risks and opportunities. This would be a really worthwhile webinar for parents to attend, it will be taking place on 17th July at 1100 and parents can register here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/5917496531386/WN\\_0oLZ\\_HTWROGRuSov7K5Bhq#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/5917496531386/WN_0oLZ_HTWROGRuSov7K5Bhq#/registration)

## SUPERKIND

I am delighted to share that Vernham Dean Gillum's Primary has earned the @superkind\_org #SocialImpactSchoolsAward this year.



This is a testament to the wonderful social action work that our students and staff have put in this year to make a positive impact on our local community and wider world.

We are thrilled to have earned this recognition showing that we truly are the small school with a big heart and are looking forward to having even more social impact next year!

Mrs B

## OXENWOOD

On Tuesday 17th June, Vernham Dean School went on a whole school trip to the one and only Oxenwood Education Centre.

We started the day by walking to a forest for den building. We were split into two groups for a competition to see who could build the biggest, sturdiest and most weather-proof shelter. Our group built an A frame, but it wasn't very weather proof! To test it Miss Nicoll created a storm - we got drenched; luckily the weather was hot.

Next, we had rock climbing. The wall was higher than the nearby trees, it was really fun! Most of us went to the top and we got to press a BIG RED BUTTON. Some of us were even blind folded.

## SCHOOL CHRISTIAN VALUE

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



We all sat down together for lunch in the shade to talk about our morning. After lunch we headed off to our next activity - archery. We each got 6 arrows and got to use a massive bow; our instructor Geff was really good at explaining it and all of Y6 got at least one gold, it was really fun and felt very professional.

For our last activity we had orienteering which was like a big scavenger hunt, we were split into 3 groups and ran around the whole site searching for clues, it was hot but we really enjoyed it.

We had a really fun day with all our friends and would love to go again.

Lily Simmen and Isobel Ness



### RAFFLE TICKETS

This week we have sent home with the children two books of raffle tickets per family to raise funds for the Vernham Dean Summer Fete. There are lots of amazing prizes to be won and tickets are £1 each. Please could you return any sold and unsold tickets to the school office. If you would like more tickets please do ask.

### REMINDERS

#### School Uniform/ Shoes

This is a reminder that children should be wearing shoes in school and **trainers are for PE only**. If your child is in trainers for any reason, please let their class teacher know. Please make sure all jumpers/ cardigans and PE kits are named, we are finding an increasing number in school without names which makes finding their owners difficult!

#### 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.

#### Sun

During the warmer months please make sure your child has a **water bottle** in school at all times. When the weather is warm children are encouraged to bring a sunhat and please apply sunscreen before they come to school.

#### 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



#### June

27<sup>th</sup> - Non Uniform Day in exchange for a bottle  
30<sup>th</sup> - Class, Whole School & Leavers Photographs

#### July

1<sup>st</sup> - Whole School Archaeology Dig - Diamond Woods  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Sports Day  
5<sup>th</sup> - Vernham Dean Village Fete  
7<sup>th</sup> - Skipping Day  
9<sup>th</sup> - Bags 2 School  
10<sup>th</sup> - Reserve Sports Day  
11<sup>th</sup> - School Reports to be sent home  
15<sup>th</sup> - Work Showcase  
16<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Day Out  
17<sup>th</sup> - School Play  
18<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Leavers Service  
21<sup>st</sup> - Inset Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Inset Day

#### September

3<sup>rd</sup> - Inset Day  
4<sup>th</sup> - Children Return to School  
8<sup>th</sup> - Inset Day