



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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

June 2025

What a busy first week back! We started the week with bestselling author, Mel Taylor Bessant who entertained the children with what inspires her and how she writes; there was great book chat and we even had a rap off in the style of one of her book characters - well done Eloise and Toby!



The last part of the week has seen two groups of children start their Forest School session at Appleshaw school. We give our children a wide variety of learning opportunities here at Vernham Dean, to help them learn in different ways as well a wider curriculum. This is so important to us. Don't forget to visit our school Instagram page which is kept up to date with all the wonderful work our children do.

We have more exciting outings and visits planned for the rest of this term to keep our children inspired and learning, including a whole school day out - so keep your eyes peeled for communication

This week a parent said to me 'This school is all about the children' and I couldn't agree more.

Have a good weekend everyone.

Mrs B



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.

On Wednesday the whole school had a visit from 'Bright Bites' who talked to the children about the importance of looking after their teeth by regular cleaning and having a healthy diet, we hope the toothbrushes prove to be useful.

"Young people take pride in their strength, but the gray hairs of wisdom are even more beautiful.." Proverbs 20:29

OUR VALUE: RESPECT

Our key value for Collective Worship this half term is **RESPECT**. At the beginning of this week, I talked with the children about ways in which we might show respect to each other, to our classrooms, and to our wider environment. As always, they had lots of wonderful ideas; words like 'kindness' and 'care' were highlighted by the children as being at the forefront of their minds when thinking about respect. I believe it's always possible to be kind and respectful, and I hope that all of us adults – parents and school staff – who are so important in our children's lives, can model this to them every day.

SAFEGUARDING

Pinterest Privacy and Safety Settings

Pinterest is an enormous and hugely popular platform. Known as a 'visual discovery engine' which basically means it is a user-to-user platform, meaning that individual users upload content for anyone else to see. You can use it for a variety of things to get ideas, create mood boards, scrapbooks and so much more, but



because it is user to user there will be content that isn't suitable for everyone. Back in 2022, during the inquest into the death of a 14 year old, even Pinterest admitted the platform wasn't safe.

Internet matters have an excellent page full of advice and guidance about filtering content, reporting tools and more which you can find here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/pinterest-privacy-and-safety-settings/>

SUPPORTING A SMARTPHONE-FREE CHILDHOOD

I recently attended a meeting to hear a speaker from Smartphone Free Childhood, an excellent initiative you can learn more about here:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

I'm pleased to share that our school has signed up to support this initiative. This means we are committing to ensuring our primary school will be smartphone-free by January 2026, and we strongly encourage all primary school children not to bring smartphones to school. We are also asking all parents to delay giving a smartphone to your child until they are at least 14 years old and to delay allowing their children access to social media until age 16.

There will be further communication about this during this term, but in the meantime, please do look at the website. A growing body of research highlights the significant impact smartphones can have on children's development and well-being.

BAGS2SCHOOL

We have arranged a Bags2School collection for Wednesday 9th July 2025 to raise some much needed funds for the school. If you, a family member or friend will be having a clear out please bag up any unwanted clothing and drop this into school by 9am on Wednesday 9th July.

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.

Sports Day

Please note that we have had to change the date of Sports Day to Wednesday 2nd July.



DIARY

June

- 17th - Whole School Trip to Oxenwood
- 19th - Y6 Leavers Service at Winchester Cathedral
- 27th - Non Uniform Day in exchange for a bottle

July

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

September

- 3rd - Inset Day
- 4th - Children Return to School
- 8th - Inset Day