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Mrs Vicky Davies, BSc (Hons)

No. 2

School Newsletter

October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and enjoyable half term it has been! We have just one more week left at school before the October half term holidays.

We would like to thank everyone who gave constructive feedback as part of Michelle's Macmillan coffee morning– we really do value any feedback given and have already begun acting upon it. Unfortunately, we have had very little response to our Parent forum agenda and therefore will postpone this until the Spring term.

You may have noticed that we are no longer sending our 'weekly notices' email every Friday. This is due to feedback that information was being missed as the weekly notices became samey and weren't being looked at properly. Instead, we have a diary dates page at the end of our monthly newsletters and are sending emails as and when required.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to meet with Miss Spark, our new headteacher, earlier this week, and have arranged for her to come into school to meet the children and the rest of the staff shortly after half term. As communicated already, Miss Spark will begin her role at Freegrounds from January.

Kind regards,

Mrs Blake and Mrs Davies
Acting Headteachers

Governor Spotlight!

Jerry Hughes– Chair of Governors

My name is Jerry Hughes and I have been a Governor with the school since 2017. I have had two children go through the school, both who are now at Wildern School and I currently have a daughter in Year 5.

I am currently the Chair of the Curriculum and Standards Committee (CAS) where we meet with the staff and discuss the implementation of the school's curriculum within the school and monitor the school's "School Improvement Plan" throughout the year. Being on this committee has always aligned with my beliefs and interests in Education in what our children are learning and ensuring that every child at school is happy with their learning.

Outside of the school, I currently work for a Digital Marketing Agency and I help coach an U10 girls football team for Wyvern Youth FC which is made up of lots of the girls in Year 5 at Freegrounds Junior School.



Pupil Voice

We were so impressed by the number of children who applied for our pupil voice roles. We hope that every child who applied for a role was given one (even if it wasn't their first choice). Please let us know if this is not the case.

We are excited to announce the representatives for each role below:

<p><u>School Council</u></p> <p>Ash- Martha A / Philippa G Elm- Alice M / Lily D Pine- Ben T / Aubree J Beech- Charlie L / Fleur S Maple- Isabelle B / Zara T Willow- Marson N / Katie F Larch- Jess C / Anabelle S Juniper- Amelia R / Hope I Sycamore- George B / Isla Po Hawthorn- Jess T / Henry W</p>	<p><u>Eco-rep</u></p> <p>Ash- Vinnie B Elm- William S Beech- Elsie-Mae J Pine- Barney B Maple- Rosie S Willow- Emily D Larch- Delta E Hawthorn- Jess T Sycamore- George M Juniper Jess H</p>	<p><u>Wellbeing Champion</u></p> <p>Sophia C Charlie W Morgan W Alice R Archie G Charlie L Leon E Flo M</p>
<p><u>Reading Ambassador</u></p> <p>Aurelia L Sophie M Summer B Cruz J Marson N Evelyn B Chloe L Ella B Elsie-Mae T</p>	<p><u>Play Leader</u></p> <p>Freya K Lewis S Morgan B Elliott G Amy-Leigh F Esmae C Alice C Bella C Alyssia A Matilda Y Everly P Lewi C</p>	<p><u>Sports Leader</u></p> <p>Marlee G Amelia S Jessica M Annabel O Logan F Emily R Myles C William W Phoebe C Lewis S Sophia C Isabelle F Frankie N Willow A Oscar T</p>
<p><u>Librarian</u></p> <p>Willow-Rain A Pheobe C Lottie D Emily D Florence C Poppy H</p>	<p><u>Digital Ambassador</u></p> <p>Evie S Alice C Lily R</p>	

Vacancy– Sports Coach

We are looking for a Sports coach to enhance our PE and extra-curricular offer. Please visit the staff vacancy page of our school website for further details. The closing date is Monday 20th October at 12 noon.



Year 3

This first few months has been packed full of exciting lessons, new friendships and learning opportunities. The children have settled into their new routines beautifully, and we are already so proud of the learning, effort and enthusiasm they have shown.

RE

Our first topic in RE has been all about 'Special Books'. The children were thrilled to bring in books that hold meaning for them, from photo albums and treasured storybooks to comics and poetry notebooks. It was lovely to see such a wide variety, each with its own story. As a class, we created our very own 'special book', filled with information about ourselves and decorated with self-portraits.

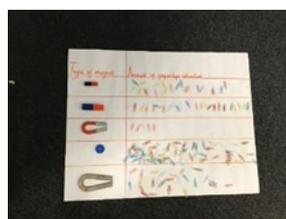
PE

This half term, Year 3 have been practising their fundamental skills of: balance, throwing, running, skipping and dodging during PE lessons. For each skill practised, there has been a lot of resilience and perseverance required. Each lesson has centred around the learning of a new skill through games and structured activities, which Year 3 have enjoyed taking part in.



Science

This week, Year 3 have been completing some different science experiments exploring the strength of magnets and the distance of magnetic attraction. They've needed to work as a team to plan, predict and then set up their experiments. As a whole class, we have then discussed and written a conclusion to our findings.



Computing

In Computing, the children have been building their independence using technology. They have learned to log in and sign out of the Chromebooks safely and practised creating and editing a Google Doc. The children particularly enjoyed experimenting with different fonts, sizes and paint tools to help create their own pieces of artwork.

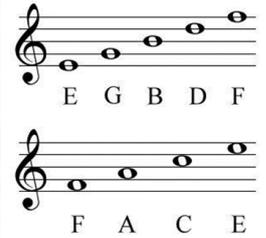


Year 4

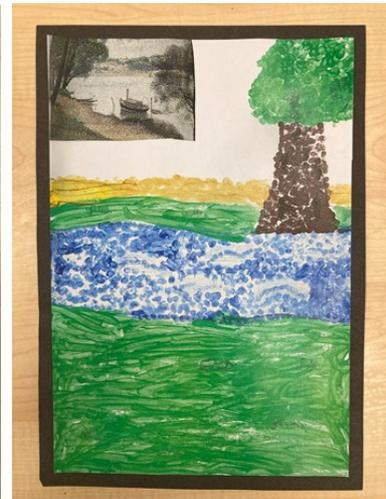
October has been a very busy month for Year 4! We have been enjoying our topic "Our European Neighbours" and learning all about the similarities and differences across the continent. We have also been very busy with learning our times tables, using counting sticks, games and of course Times Tables Rockstars!



In Music, we have been learning how to play the keyboard and are perfecting a variety of different songs using both one hand and moving on to using both. We are learning how to be careful with our hand placement to make sure we are playing each note correctly. Additionally, we have been learning how to read music, as we play to understand which notes we should be using. We are excited to play in our concert for our families next half term!



In Art, we have been taking the knowledge from our trip to the art gallery to continue our studies of European Artists. Recently, we began our study of French painter Georges Seurat, his sketching style and painting technique of Pointillism. We were able to study his famous works and have a go at some of our own. Our outcomes were very creative!



In DT, we had the opportunity to study the country of Italy, and the famous foods that come from there – particularly pizzas. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to taste different foods that Italians would traditionally use for their pizzas, as well as some Western favourites. After tasting some different toppings, we chose our favourites, before designing our ideal pizza. Chef Liam was then able to join us to help us make our own pizzas, which we were also able to taste fresh from the oven!



Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed all things Space this half term, a highlight of which was our visit to Winchester Science Centre. Here we enjoyed exploring a range of different exhibits related to Space including testing the weight of a can of beans on different planets, dressing up in a space suit, driving a remote-control lunar car and discovering what satellites around the Earth can tell us. We also took part in an interactive workshop to design a telescope that could be used in space, we particularly liked using heat lamps to test the properties of different materials and investigating how light travels. In addition, we took a journey through the stars in the planetarium – it was a weird feeling to be travelling across lightyears and seeing different planets and stars up close! We have been applying all of this knowledge into our science lessons, during which we have continued to learn about the length of days and years on different planets and learnt why the tilt of the Earth is important factor in weather patterns around the world.

Our Art unit has concluded by producing compositions of planets – using chalk to create a 3D effect – and adding our astronaut line drawings to our galaxy backgrounds. The results look fantastic and are displayed around the school.

In computing this week, we will finish coding our quizzes using scratch. We are combining our knowledge of space with this unit to ask our peers tricky questions related to space, our quizzes will tell them if they are right or wrong when they answer and the scratch characters may even do a little dance or make a celebratory sound.



Travelling near or far?

If you are out and about over the half term holidays or indeed on holiday somewhere in the UK or abroad, we would love it if you sent us a postcard. Post cards could be addressed to your teacher or class and sent to the school's address. We will then add these to display around our class maps to see some of the exciting places we have visited over the year.



Year 6

It has been a wonderful and busy month in Year 6, filled with exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum. In RE, we have been exploring the concept of *rites of passage*, focusing particularly on Christianity and the significance of *baptism*. The children learned that a rite of passage marks an important stage or transition in a person's life, and they discussed examples from their own experiences as well as from different cultures and faiths. We looked closely at how Christians celebrate baptism, learning about the symbols of water, light, and the cross, and how these represent new life and belonging. A highlight of the unit was our visit to a local church, where the children had the opportunity to see a baptismal font up close and ask thoughtful questions about the ceremony. It was wonderful to see how engaged and respectful they were during the visit, showing real interest in the traditions and beliefs we explored.

In Computing, we have begun an exciting long-term project: designing our very own *webpages* to showcase our journey through Year 6. The children have been learning about website design, layout, and how to create pages that are clear, engaging, and informative. So far, they have created their homepages and started planning subpages for different subjects and experiences. As the year continues, they will be adding photos, examples of their best work, and reflections on their learning each half term. This project is helping the children not only to develop their digital literacy skills but also to take ownership of documenting their achievements in a creative and meaningful way.

In Writing, our focus has been on developing emotional depth and empathy within storytelling. We have explored how authors use *show, not tell*, descriptive language, and dialogue to portray complex emotions such as pain, shame, and fear. Using these techniques, the children have written their own powerful narratives set in *Victorian schools*. We studied how life for children in the Victorian era was very different from today, particularly in education, and how strict rules and harsh punishments often created an atmosphere of fear. The children have worked hard to create vivid scenes that encourage the reader to sympathise with a pupil who has broken the rules and to feel anger or frustration toward a stern teacher. Their stories have been full of emotion, atmosphere, and strong imagery—showing great maturity in their writing.

It has truly been a fantastic first half term in Year 6. The children have shown curiosity in their learning, kindness towards each other, and an eagerness to challenge themselves. We are so proud of their achievements so far and are looking forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead as we move into the next part of the year.

Wellbeing Champions

World Mental Health Day

On 10th October, we joined as a whole school to celebrate World Mental Health Day. The Wellbeing Committee created a positivity post box, allowing children to send and receive kind and encouraging letters. It was heart-warming to see so many smiles as these kind messages were shared. A huge well done to our Wellbeing Champions, who gave up their lunchtimes to spread kindness and positivity across our school.



Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal

We are pleased to be selling merchandise on behalf of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. We will begin selling items on the playground after school from Monday 3rd November and will continue selling after school until we run out of items. Unfortunately we can only accept cash, so please bring some change. Children may wear purchased items (such as wristbands) in school until Friday 14th November.

Price List:

Festival wristbands- £2.00

Snap bands- £2.00

Reflective clips- £2.00

Paper poppy/Sticker- 50p

Pin badge- £2.00

Any additional donations are welcomed.



Wessex Rotary Shoebox appeal

Thank you to everybody who generously donated Christmas gifts for the Rotary shoebox appeal. The charity were pleased to collect 16 shoeboxes earlier this week and we were proud to be able to contribute to such a great cause.



Rotary  **SHOEBOX APPEAL**

Bikes and Scooters

We are receiving an increasing number of reports about children riding their bikes and scooters in an unsafe way outside of school. Please could we ask that if you know your child arrives to school unattended on a bike or scooter, that you have a conversation about the safety of them and others on the busy pavements and roads.

Additionally, please could we remind all parents and carers that children (including infant school children) are not permitted to ride their bikes or scooters on our school playground at pick-up time and should instead be walking them across the playground. This is to ensure the safety of everyone as the playground does get incredibly busy at this time.

As always, we appreciate your support in talking about these things with your children.



Diary Dates

Monday 27th October—Friday 31st October— **HALF TERM**

Thursday 13th November— Year 5 Wessex River visit in school

Monday 17th November— Year 6 trip to Portsmouth D-Day museum

Thursday 20th November— Year 3 trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Friday 21st November— FoFJS Disco (Year 3/4 4:30pm-5:40pm and Year 5/6 5:50pm-7:00pm)

Monday 1st December— **INSET DAY**

Thursday 4th December— Year 4 Listen2me concert to parents (Pine 9:15am/ Beech 10:00am/ Maple 11:00am)

FoFJS Christmas shopping event

Tuesday 9th December— Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance 1 (9:15am-10:15am)

Tuesday 9th December— Family Prize Bingo— 6:00pm (more details to follow)

Wednesday 10th December— Rock 2 the beat concerts AM (time TBC)

Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance 2 (2:00pm-3:00pm)

Thursday 11th December— Christmas jumper and lunch day

Monday 15th December—Friday 19th December— Year 6 Bikeability (more details to follow)

Wednesday 17th December— Year 3 and 4 Christmas play 1 (2:00pm-3:00pm)

Thursday 18th December— Year 3 and 4 Christmas play 2 (9:15am-10:15am)

Friday 19th December— **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January— **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Monday 5th January— **SPRING TERM BEGINS**

Tuesday 20th January— Young Voices choir performing at the O2

Friday 23rd January— Year 5 Mexicolore workshop in school all day

Tuesday 10th February— Pupil Voice trip to Houses of Parliament

Wednesday 11th February— Year 6 Height and weight check

Friday 13th February— **INSET DAY**