



**Pupils enjoying themselves with loose parts on the playground**

### Dear Parents and Carers



It can't be only two weeks until half term can it? We've had four very busy weeks so far this term but plenty more to look forward to in the coming weeks. Lots of information to read this week in the newsletter.

The Government has tightened its guidance to schools relating to mobile phones. All schools were emailed this week stating that no phones should be used during the school day, including at break and lunch. We do not permit phones to be on whilst pupils are at school and would encourage children not to bring them to school at all.

We have made it clear that we do not believe children are mature enough to own phones and thank parents who have taken measures to ensure that if their child does own or have access to a phone, they do not have access to a smartphone or social media.

Staffing wise, we have an update: Mrs Powell will be sadly leaving us at half term. Mrs Powell has been a valued member of the teaching staff both in Year 6 and Year 4 over the past couple of years. We will all miss Mrs Powell and wish her well for her future.

After half term, Mrs Conlon (Mon-Thur) and Mr O'Gorman (Fri) will be teaching Lime class and as Mrs Conlon is teaching in Lime class on Mondays, Mrs Kok will be teaching Chestnut class each Monday. We look forward to welcoming our new members of staff.

Don't forget that our next Share my Learning event takes place next Wednesday afternoon. We often hear that parents don't have enough opportunities to see their children's classes in action and this is always a big highlight for us and the children.

Our first sharing assembly of the year takes place next week too with Year 1 pupils sharing what they have been learning. Do come along and support your children if you can - queue up at the old entrance door after drop off.

Absence rates are slightly up this month with lots of children off with coughs, colds, sore throats or tummy aches. Remember we would not expect children to be off school for minor aches and seasonal coughs and colds. Should children be off for more than a couple of days we may request evidence of medical appointments. A reminder too about getting your children's eyes checked as headaches and tiredness can be brought on by uncorrected vision. Eye tests are free for children.

Over the last couple of weeks, Reception children have been exploring their new digging area in all weathers! Mr Dalziel created the area using unused wood from around the school and soil from old planters. The children are not only having fun but developing muscle and core strength from using real spades and shovels, fine motor skills from picking up stones (and worms), using vocabulary such as scoop and turn taking. Thank you Mr Dalziel

Have a good weekend.  
**Mr Beavan**



### Quotes of the week

"I've enjoyed English with us reading Leo and the Octopus"  
Zulfi - Year 1

"I've enjoyed learning how to do different techniques in art"  
Aadrityi, Year 4

"I liked art because we have been exploring installations"  
Abdi, Year 5

"I got a pride sticker for my presentation in Maths and my diary entry"  
Zach, Year 6

"I liked phonics because I can learn better"  
Aubree, Reception

"I enjoyed English because we got to write newspaper reports about Pompeii"  
Zanah, Year 3



# Diary dates coming up



## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Y1 to Y6 - Share my Learning - 2.45pm to 3.15pm

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Y1 Assembly to Parents & Guardians - 9am (upper school hall)

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Y5 Assembly to Parents & Guardians - 9am (upper school hall)

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Larch class - Primary Dance Festival at Braywick Leisure Centre

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Last day of Term 4 - 3.20pm finish

# Good News Certificates

GOOD NEWS

**FS2:** Finley and Imela

**Year 1:** Isla and Alex L

**Year 2:** James and Hugo

**Year 3:** Isaac and Inaaya

**Year 4:** Ruby and Ella

**Year 5:** Oscar and Alessia

**Year 6:** William and Ashdon

# Attendance

**Lower School:** Alder winners with 97.3%

**Upper School:** Holly winners with 96.8%

School attendance this week

93.5%



Last week = 94.6%  
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

# School Values



This week's assembly focused on the school value of respect. We explored what consent means, asking first and listening to the answer, and why this is an important part of treating others fairly. The children also learned that people have differences, some of which are protected by law, and that it is never acceptable to be unkind or unfair because of who someone is. We finished by encouraging pupils to think about how they can show respect for others' choices and differences this week.

# Netball result in the rain

Despite both schools keeping an eye on a weather app all day, the game went ahead in the rain with both teams adapting well to the worsening conditions. Both teams showed great passing, teamwork and determination. After a close first half, which ended 4-4 our shooters found their range, the centre court players kept the game moving and our defence worked well together to secure the win for Wessex 12-7. A special thank you to our valiant supporters for sticking it out to watch the win.

Maiya was picked as the Player of the Day by Furze Platt for her immense shooting.

The team was Maiya, Summer, Frankie, Emaan, Erin, Annabel, Elisa, Isla, Anah, Abi, Chloe, Freda and Aanya.

# Online safety support

Following on from last week's newsletter, we are sharing with this week's newsletter a helpful guide for parents and carers about children's online use.

The guide is based on the Ofcom Online Nation Report 2025 and looks at some of the apps and games that children and young people commonly use. It includes clear information about safety and wellbeing features, parental controls, and where to find help and support if concerns arise.

We hope this resource helps families continue conversations at home about staying safe and showing respect online.

# Character Curriculum

This week, we reminded children how using please and thank you links to our school value of respect and to our discussions about consent. We revisited familiar expectations such as saying please when asking, waiting and listening to the answer, and saying thank you. We also reinforced the importance of using kind words and polite voices, respecting others' choices, and being kind about differences.

## Using please and thank you - manners



- Saying please when asking
- Waiting and listening to the answer
  - Saying thank you
- Using kind words and polite voices
  - Respecting others' choices
  - Being kind about differences



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride