



Our grounds looking gorgeous in the spring sunshine

Dear Parents and Carers



What a difference the sun makes to everyone's mood. What's also made a difference is that our **Ofsted report** finally arrived after weeks of waiting. See attached, or the [school website](#).

Whilst there are no overall judgements anymore, there are key areas that get graded. As shared before, the new inspection framework is much more rigorous than previous frameworks and for schools to be working at the *expected level* for different areas is a big achievement. Please see attached the letter from Clive Haines, Deputy Director of Education at Achieveing for Children with more information about the new inspection framework.

We were really pleased with how positively the inspection team viewed the school and the journey the school has been on since the previous inspection. They recognised that we know the school well, are ambitious for every child and have worked hard to secure steady improvements over time. The team was clear that the school has moved forward with purpose, keeping children's needs and wellbeing firmly at the centre of decision making.

The inspectors also commented strongly on the calm, safe and welcoming atmosphere across the school. They saw pupils who are polite, respectful and keen to learn, supported by staff who know them well and understand their individual needs. Relationships were highlighted as a real strength, with children telling the inspectors that Wessex is a friendly, positive and encouraging place where they feel listened to and well supported.

Inspectors also recognised the caring and inclusive ethos that runs through the school. The team praised the nurturing start children receive in Early Years, the strong foundations built for learning and the way staff adapt provision so that all pupils can succeed.

And now some huge thank yous - to our staff, thank you for your hard work during the inspection itself and, most importantly, for your commitment, professionalism and care over the past three years. To governors who have provided support, respectfully challenged and provided balance when necessary. To parents and carers, thank you for your ongoing support and trust. Most importantly, thank you to our children, who were a real credit to the school through their behaviour, confidence and positivity - they continue to be at the heart of everything we do.

We have agreed our **INSET days** for next year which we hope will help you with any forward planning. Two of our INSET days are scheduled either side of May half term so that holidays can be booked including these dates if you wish, potentially reducing costs to you.

The INSET days for 2026-27 are:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026 (the Friday before half term)
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Friday 28th May 2027 (the Friday before half term)
- Monday 7th June 2027 (the Monday after half term)

All dates and a printout of the term dates are available on the school website.

A few **reminders** please:

- pupils should not be congregating outside school before 8.45am
- we ask that you do not let your children climb the trees at the front of the school before or after school
- any pupils attending breakfast club who bring phones to school should place their phone in the box when entering the hall. These will be taken to the Year 6 classrooms when classes open at 8:45am.

If you have any questions or comments relating to our Ofsted report, please email the office,

Mr Beavan

“ Quotes of the week

“I liked History because we are learning about Christopher Columbus” Sienna, Year 1

“I enjoyed writing this week as we are writing a book” Isaac, Year 3

“Art has been a lot of fun this week as we made mood boards with a forest theme” Aadriti, Year 4

“OPAL has been great, I have enjoyed playing with younger people from lower school” Eliana, Year 5

“I loved Art and Science this week because it was educational and fun drawing blood cells” Eva, Year 6



Diary dates coming up



Monday 4th May
BANK HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

Monday 11th May to Friday 15th May
Y6 SATs week

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May
Walk to School Week

Friday 22nd May
Last Day of Term 5 - 3.20pm finish

Monday 25th to Friday 29th May
HALF TERM

Monday 1st June
INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL

Good News Certificates



FS2: Albie and Eric

Year 1: Isla and Sienna

Year 2: Dylan and Alex

Year 3: Callum and Tariro

Year 4: Ava F and Jacob

Year 5: Zia and Freddie

Year 6: Erin and Azlan

Attendance

Lower School: Beech winners with 99%

Upper School: Pine winners with 98.4%

School attendance this week

94.7%



Last year average = 94.6%

Aiming for 97%

School Values



In assembly this week we explored the British value of democracy, learning that it means having a voice, listening to others and accepting decisions fairly, even when we do not all agree. We linked this to local elections and to school life, where pupils share their views through discussions, pupil voice and school council, highlighting the importance of respect and listening to different opinions.

OPAL updates

OPAL continues to be a huge highlight at lunchtimes and we are excited to now be recruiting OPAL Play Detectives to help make lunchtimes fun, safe and exciting for everyone. Play Detectives have an important role in improving play by checking equipment, supporting safety, sharing new play ideas and celebrating great play across the school. This is a brilliant opportunity to be a positive role model and help make playtimes even better for others.

The Play Detective role is open to pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. Children who wish to apply should write a short letter of application, using the Play Detective job description (see next few pages) to help them explain why they would like the role and how they could help improve playtimes for others. Completed applications should be returned to class teachers by Monday 11th May at 9am.

Parent workshop

We are pleased to share details of a free online sensory processing workshop from Parenting Special Children, taking place on 16th June 2026 from 7.00-9.00pm. Delivered by a paediatric occupational therapist, the session will help parents understand sensory processing, including sensory overload and sensory-seeking behaviours. Parents can expect clear explanations, practical strategies to use at home and opportunities to reflect on their own child's needs. No diagnosis is required to attend. [Click to book.](#)

Character Curriculum

Our character focus this week has been disagreeing politely. Children are learning that different opinions are okay but they should be shared calmly and respectfully. This is especially important as part of our OPAL journey, where pupils are learning to share space, equipment and activities so that play remains positive, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone.

How to disagree with someone politely



- Recognise people have a different point of view
 - Take some time
 - Speak calmly and politely
 - State what you think
- Say what the other person thinks
 - Compromise
- Get help to solve the problem
- Understand that we won't always be right



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

OPAL updates



Children attended their OPAL assembly yesterday where two new activities were introduced for their lunch play 4 sand boxes (with digging tools) and 12 suitcases (various sizes). The assembly was led by Mrs Pope where she discussed with children the expectations for the new additions to ensure safe and happy play. The children shared their ideas for rules that needed to be followed when playing with the resources. There was huge excitement during and after the assembly and this was shown in the lunchtime play. The children had a FANTASTIC time playing with the sand and suitcases and followed the expectations discussed. Please do enjoy looking at the pictures of another successful OPAL lunchtime play.



A reminder that we are inviting parents and carers to join us for an OPAL DIY Day at Wessex on Saturday 30th May from 10am. We are looking for volunteers to help create new play features for lunchtimes, including mud kitchens and a small stage area for performances. DIY skills are welcome but not essential. Help with building, painting, sanding and lifting would be greatly appreciated, particularly if you are able to bring tools. Even a short amount of time will make a real difference and help improve our outdoor play spaces for all children.

Enquiries to: Clive Haines
Email:
clive.haines@achievingforchildren.org.uk

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to provide important information about recent changes to the inspection framework used by Ofsted and what this means for our schools.

As you may be aware, Ofsted has introduced a renewed framework and inspection approach. These changes reflect a national ambition to raise standards even further across all schools. While our schools have continued to work hard to deliver high-quality education, it is important to understand that the expectations against which schools are evaluated are now more rigorous than in previous years. The 'expected' standard is a high bar.

In practical terms, this higher bar can be seen in several key areas, including:

- The quality and coherence of the curriculum
- How well pupils retain and apply their learning over time
- Support for pupils with additional needs
- Personal development, behaviour and attendance
- Leadership and governance accountability

Inspectors are placing greater emphasis not only on outcomes, but on how effectively schools design and deliver their curriculum, how consistently expectations are applied, and how leaders ensure continuous improvement.

We welcome these changes. High expectations drive improvement, and we are committed to ensuring that every child receives the very best education and opportunities to succeed. Our staff continue to work diligently to strengthen teaching, refine curriculum planning, and provide strong pastoral support for all pupils.

You may notice an increased focus on attendance, reading, homework routines, and communication between home and school. Your continued support in these areas makes a significant difference. Ensuring your child attends school regularly, completes

home learning, and engages positively with school life remains one of the most powerful ways you can support their success.

While the inspection framework has become more demanding, our commitment in RBWM remains the same: to provide a safe, ambitious, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school directly.

Yours sincerely,



Clive Haines
Deputy Director of Education



Play Detective Role



OPAL Play Detectives

Our Play Detectives help make lunchtimes fun, safe and exciting for everyone. They have important jobs to support outdoor play, which is happy and safe.

Communicators

- Share OPAL news through announcements and signs.
- Help create displays for the OPAL board.
- Take photos and write short reports about playtime.
- Help with assemblies by informing others about new play ideas.
- Show good play behaviour, including playing in all weather and following playground rules.

Weather Checkers

- Check the weather each day.
- Help decide which play equipment can be used (for example, what can get wet and what needs to stay dry).

Loose Parts Organisers

- Check items are still safe to use.
- Recycle or remove broken items (for example, damaged cardboard).

Safety Helpers

- With an adult, check new play items before they are used.
- Look for anything unsafe, such as sharp edges or broken parts.
- Help think about risks and how to keep everyone safe.

OPAL Award Presenters

- Look out for children showing great play each day.
- Choose and present awards such as:
 - *Most Creative Play*
 - *Best Tidying Up*
- Celebrate positive behaviour and teamwork during assemblies or class time.

The play detective role is available for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 so if you would like to be a play detective, you need to apply for the role.





What next?

If you are interested in becoming a play detective, then you need to write and let Mrs Patrick know:

- Why you want to be a play detective?
- What qualities you have for the role?
- Don't forget to write your name and class on your application - you can ask an adult at home to help you
- All applications need to be completed and handed to your class teacher no later than **MONDAY 11TH MAY at 9am.**
- Mrs Patrick and Mrs Pope will read all applications and decide which children they are choosing. If there are a lot of applications Mrs Patrick and Mrs Pope may have a meeting with you to help them make their decision.

