



Be the light and hope



LEARNING LINK

Issue 1

11th September 2026

What a fabulous start we have had to the term! The children have settled so well, and are already showing our school values beautifully in their interactions with staff and each other. We have welcomed Miss Moon and Miss Madden to our team and the children have really enjoyed getting to know them! There have been lots of 'new' or 'slightly different' things for the children to discover, such as the new play time resources, dining furniture and our cosy library renovation.



We have also introduced three Church School Values, and the children are already starting to articulate their understanding and demonstrate them in the classroom and playground. You can find out more about these values on the next page.



We would like to share our newsletters on our school website, but appreciate that some parents have requested that their child's photo does not go onto the website or social media. Therefore, we will continue to share photos of your children when we email the newsletters out to you personally, but will make sure that our children are not identifiable when we publish the newsletter online.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Learning Link newsletter will usually be published on the first Friday of every month (apart from this issue, as we had only been in school for two days when the first Friday of the month arrived!). In the subsequent weeks, our Online Noticeboard will be emailed to you on a Friday. This contains useful information of courses or events, key dates for your diary and a celebration of the children who have received an award.

We are all very excited to work with you and your children in the coming year and would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Annie Nesbitt
Headteacher





Be the light and hope

You will already be familiar with our three learning behaviour values (Readiness, Engagement and Respectful Relationships) which are promoted in class. Children demonstrating these values will receive a Head Teacher certificate in Praise worship on Fridays.

This year we are introducing three Church School values that help our children deepen their understanding of how they can demonstrate our school vision to 'be the light and hope', both in school and in the wider community. These three values are Love, Service and Courage and they will now be specifically celebrated with a 'Star Award' certificate. In our worship times this half term, we will be learning more about Bible stories that demonstrate each value, as well as people in our own lifetime who have applied these values in their own lives.



Love

Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12



Service

Serve one another humbly in love.
Galatians 5:13



Courage

Be strong and courageous...
for the Lord will be with you
wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

Another new addition this year is our SHINE awards. SHINE stands for Strive, Hope, Inspire, Nurture, Encourage. Children who have been identified as going above and beyond to help others will receive a certificate in a special worship once every half term. They will be presented by a member of our Local School Committee (LSC), which is our equivalent of a governing body. You are invited to attend if your child has been nominated for an award - we will let you know two weeks in advance. Dates for these events are included in the calendar on the next page.

Alongside our trophy for the most respectful class in the hall at lunchtime, we now have a trophy for the tidiest classroom or shared space. Our cleaning team will choose a room every Thursday to win the trophy.

We are exploring different ways in which you can come and share in your child's learning experience at school. Please have a look at the calendar dates on the next page to see some events that you are invited to attend if you are able to.



Please note that further dates will be added when they are confirmed. If we need to change a date due to unforeseen circumstances, we will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

- 10th September - Oak base in school full time (Gates open at 8:30 and shut at 8:45. School finishes at 3:00)
- 21st September - Meet the teacher - Oak base 3:20 - 3:50
- Meet the teacher - Maple base 3:50 - 4:20
- 22nd September - Meet the teacher - Willow Base 3:30 - 3:50
- Meet the teacher - Ash Base 3:50 - 4:20
- 30th September - Open evening for new Year R parents (2027 entry) 5:00 - 6:30
- 7th October - Open morning for new Year R parents (2027 entry) 9:00 - 10:15
- 9th October - Sponsored event - whole school. More details to follow soon - parents invited to join us!
- 12th October - Flu vaccinations
Parent Consultations 3:20 - 6:50 (please note location has changed to the hall)
- 14th October - Individual photographs
- 15th October - Parent Consultations 3:20 - 6:50 (please note location has changed to the hall)
- 16th October - Parent forum - an opportunity to share your views with the leadership team 8:45 - 9:45
- 19th October - Reading workshop for parents 3:10 - 4:00 (please see attached letter from Mrs Palmer)
- 22nd October - LSC SHINE Award presentation 1:10 - 1:40 (parents of children receiving awards will be invited to attend)
- 23rd October - Whole school Harvest Service at the church 9:30 (we are unable to accommodate all parents at this event, however we would appreciate some volunteers to walk our children to the church and back)
- 26th October - Half term
- 2nd November - INSET day
- 4th November - Open morning for new Year R parents (2027 entry) 9:00 - 10:15
- 9th November - Ash base to lead worship on Remembrance 1:10 - 1:40 (Ash parents invited)
- 10th November - Oak base phonics stay and play 9:00 - 10:00 (Oak parents invited)
- Willow base to lead singing worship 1:10 - 1:40 (Willow parents invited)
- 12th November - Oak base phonics stay and play 9:00 - 10:00 (Oak parents invited)
- 13th November - Mufti Day (donations for Christmas fair)
- 27th November - Christmas fair (5:00 - 7:00)
- 1st December - TBC KS1 Rocksteady concert 2:30 - 3:00
- 8th December - TBC KS2 Rocksteady concert 2:30 - 3:00
- 10th December - Festive bedtime stories (time TBC)
- 14th December - LSC SHINE award presentation 1:10 - 1:40 (parents of children receiving awards will be invited to attend)
- 15th December - KS1 Christmas service at the church 9:30 (parents invited)
- 16th December - Oak Christmas service at the church 9:30 (parents invited)
- 17th December - KS2 Christmas service at the church 9:30 (parents invited)
- 18th December - School finishes for the Christmas break 3:00/3:05

**Please note that Maple parents will be invited to singing worships after Christmas*

Let's get reading!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to our Reading Workshop on **Monday 19th October (3.10pm - 4.00pm)**, designed to support you in helping your child become a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader.

Reading regularly at home plays a vital part in your child's progress, and even a few minutes of positive reading practice each day can make a real difference. The workshop will give you practical guidance and strategies that you can use at home, while helping you understand how reading is taught in school.

During the workshop, we will provide a brief overview of our phonics programme, explaining how we teach children to recognise sounds, blend them together to read words, and develop increasing accuracy and fluency. We will also explain how phonics links to the books your child brings home and how you can reinforce these skills through everyday reading practice.

We will model effective 1:1 reading strategies, showing you how to make the most of your child's reading time at home.

We know that some children can be reluctant readers at times, and that reading at home does not always feel easy. We will therefore share practical strategies for overcoming common challenges. We will explore ways to keep expectations manageable, build positive reading habits and encourage your child without making reading feel like a chore.

Our aim is for you to leave the workshop feeling informed, reassured and confident about supporting your child at home. Most importantly, we hope you will have a clear understanding of how to help your child when they are successful, when they make mistakes and when they need a little extra encouragement.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to support your child's reading journey.



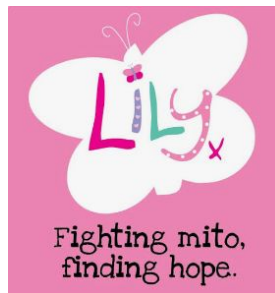
"Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible."
Barack Obama



Charity fundraising



We are excited to have been invited to take part in a charity fundraiser for Amelia's Rainbow, a local charity which supports children who are seriously or terminally ill and their families. Please find more details about the charity using [this link](#). Our children will be joining other school children in the area to take part in a Christmas single, organised by the group Vocalise (of which one of our parents is a member). The vocal recording will take place at the beginning of October, and there is an opportunity for children to be included in the accompanying video (potentially this will be a short visual sweep across a group of children singing). This video will go onto the charity and school websites and social media pages. If you and your child are willing for your child to be filmed for this video, please complete the online consent form [here](#). You do not need to use the form if you do not give consent. They will need to wear a Christmas jumper for the video. Further information will be sent out to consenting parents nearer the time.



We are also very proud of Mr Dear, who is training really hard for an ultramarathon to raise money for the Lily Foundation. If you would like to donate to his fundraising page, you can either scan the QR code or go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/chris-dear-8>

An article explaining more about the cause can be found in the [Bournemouth Echo](#).



Chris's fundraiser for The Lily Foundation

A fundraiser organised by Chris Dear for The Lily Foundation

Every other day in the UK, a baby is born who may develop serious mitochondrial disease. The Lily Foundation was founded in 2007 by Liz Curtis in memory of her daughter Lily, who died from mito at just 8 months old. Finding little information or support to help her, Liz set out to provide answers for herself and others in her situation. The charity exists today to...



Scan to donate

Help us reach our £3,100 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**



Our car park is primarily intended for use by staff and visitors to Verwood First School and Emmanuel Middle School. We are willing to keep the gates open and allow parents in to drop off their children in the morning and collect them in the afternoon, however we would like to remind you of the safety points below that should be adhered to by all users of the car park.

- A speed limit of **10 miles per hour** applies when driving around the car park.
- Please park within marked bays only.
- No parking is allowed on the zebra crossings or double yellow lines.
- Only blue badge holders are permitted to park in the disabled bays. These badges should be clearly visible on the dashboard/window.
- Double parking in front of other parked cars, is **not** permitted.
- Please refrain from mounting the pavement when parking along the side of school - this is extremely dangerous and puts our children and parents at risk.
- Before and after school, please supervise your child when they cross roads and do not allow them to cycle or scoot around the carpark.
- Please **do not** move cones that have been placed in specific areas - these have been placed there to enable parking for coaches for school trips. Some cones have a 'reserved for staff members' sign on them - some members of staff need to leave site for meetings/courses and require easy access to a parking space when they return later in the day.

Thank you for your continued support and patience to enable our school campus to be safer for all people as they travel to and from school.



Snacks

All children in Year R, 1 and 2 receive a fruit or vegetable snack as part of a government scheme. This does not extend to children in KS2, so if you would like your child to have a snack to eat at breaktime, they are able to eat a piece of fruit or vegetable. If it is cut into smaller pieces, please ensure it is in a named container. Children are not permitted to eat crisps, chocolate or sandwiches as a snack. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that some members of our school community have allergies caused by airborne allergens - and would ask you not to send your child in with any food containing nuts or oranges at this current time.



Computer Xplorers

Due to a change in management, unfortunately Computer Xplorers is not able to run our after school clubs this half term. They will be starting up again straight after half term - please look out for further details shortly..



Pick-up arrangements

We would be grateful if you could email the office with details of any regular pick-up arrangements throughout the year. This includes childminder details, days your child is attending SCOOSC, relatives or family friends who will collect your child on specific days. We would be grateful if you could please let us have this updated information as soon as possible.



We would like to fill some Christmas boxes to send off to children in other countries who would otherwise not receive any gifts for Christmas. If you would like to donate any items, or collect a box to fill as a family, please collect a leaflet explaining the items that will be accepted and/or a designated shoe box from the school office. We ask that any donations/filled boxes are brought to the school office by Friday 2nd October.

For further information please go to [Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme](#)



If you have a child due to start school in September 2027, please see the attached letter from Dorset admissions with guidance on the process of applying and deadline to complete your application.



Well done to our children who have received a certificate in our Praise worships. We are all so proud of you!

Head Teacher award: Kylo S, Noah S, Elijah M, Eddie S, Raya M, Poppy Y, Abigail H-J, Eleanor T, Eliza B

Church School Values award: Rocky H, Rosie G, Logan P, Dexter C, Anna D, Eliza A, Maddison D

Lunchtime award (for great manners and reducing food waste): Maple Base

The Cleaner's Award for the tidiest room: 3SM

Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

Is your child due to leave their current school in July 2027 and transfer to the next school in September 2027?



Secondary applications - Closing date 31 October 2026

- Primary - Secondary School
- Middle - Upper School

Primary applications - Closing date 15 January 2027

- Starting School
- Infant - Junior School
- First - Middle School



Dorset residents apply online at:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place
or call 01305 221060



Scan here

