

Newsletter

April 2026

Exploring Possibilities Together
'Love one another, as I have loved you' (John 13v34)



- 1 May 3.30 pm PTFA Meeting in the Community Centre Playing Field
- 11 May to 15 May Year 6 SATS Week**
- 13 May Cross Country Festival at Shillingstone School
- 13 May Road Closure—Duck Street (further information on page 2)
- 15 May Year 6 Shillingstone Walk and Picnic
- 18 May Reception Vision Screening
- 19 May Sports Day (pm)
- 20 May Reserve Sports Day (pm)
- 21 May Class Group Photos
- 21 May Swift Kitchen—Theme Day—Out of this World
- 25 May to 29 May—Half Term**
- 3 June Parent Drop In Session with School Nurse from 9.15 am to 11.00 am—please contact the school office to make an appointment
- 6 June PTFA Summer Fete—further details to follow
- 8 June Swimming for Years 5 & 6 begins for 6 weeks (Monday afternoons—until 13 July 2026)
- 9 June Year 6 Leavers Service at Salisbury Cathedral
- 18 June 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm Area Sports Athletics Festival in Sturminster Newton—further details to follow
- 19 June Big Teddy Takeover—Julia's House Fund Raising—further details to follow
- 19 June Year 6 Defrib Training in School
- 24—26 June Year 6 Residential Visit to Brenscombe
- 26 June Year 2 Run Around Rounders at William Barnes Primary School—further details to follow
- 1 July Years 5 & 6 Aquathlon at William Barnes
- 2 July Year 5 Step Up Day SNHS
- 3 July Oaks—Larmer Tree Workshop Rehearsal in School
- 7 July Transition Day
- 8 July Year 5 & 6 Rounders Tournament here
- 10 July School Reports out to Parents
- 14 July Oaks Play for Parents 2.00 pm & 6.00 pm
- 14 July Year 6 Leavers Party 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm—further details to follow
- 15 July Oaks Class Larmer Tree Pageant at Larmer Tree
- 15 July ACR Meeting at 4.00 pm
- 22 July Leavers Service in the Church
- 22 July Last day of the Summer Term—School finishes at 1.30 pm

Academic Year 2026-2027

- 3 September All students back to school

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our School Community

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school for what promises to be another busy and exciting term.

The summer term is always a vibrant and important time in the school calendar. Our pupils will be engaging in a wide range of learning opportunities, including outdoor activities, educational visits, performances and, of course, important assessments for some year groups. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children continue to make, and we look forward to supporting them as they build on their achievements.

This term, we will be placing a strong focus on maintaining high standards of attendance, punctuality and presentation, as these are key to ensuring every child can thrive. We also encourage pupils to continue demonstrating our school values in all aspects of school life.

You will receive further information from class teachers about specific topics and upcoming events. Please do keep an eye on newsletters and communications, as there is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Working in partnership with you is vital to the success and wellbeing of our pupils.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Ms J Watson—Headteacher

Brenscombe Outdoor Centre

The Year 6 children are visiting Brenscombe Outdoor Education Centre from 24—26 June 2026

Based in Corfe Castle Brenscombe Outdoor Centres utilises the woodland and field as well as the wider landscape of Purbeck Heath National Nature Reserve, Poole Harbour and the Jurassic Coast and offers a host of exciting activities and challenges the children will participate in. Look out for further details in our next newsletter.



Assessments—Summer Term 2026



Year 4—Multiplication Tables Check. All the children in Year 4 take part in a multiplication tables check during June. The purpose of the check is to see whether the child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in maths. It also helps us identify if a child may need additional support. This is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions and they have 6 seconds to answer each question. The children will be practising in a 'try it out' area during April to ensure they are familiar with the site and procedures. Parents in Year 4 will be receive a hard copy of a flyer giving further information.

The children in Year 6 will take part in the KS2 National Curriculum tests in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and Mathematics during the third week in May. These tests are carried out to help measure the attainment of the pupils in relation to the standards set out in the national curriculum and help teachers and parents identify where pupils may need additional support in certain subject areas and helps the secondary school that the child is moving onto, to best support them on their educational journey.

Phonics Screening check for Year 1 children also takes place in June. The purpose of the phonics screening is to confirm that all children have learned phonic decoding to an age appropriate standard. Phonics is an effective way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to (i) recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes, (ii) identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make, such as 'sh' or 'oo' and (iii) blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word. Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

Reception Baseline Assessment—the children in Reception participate in the reception baseline assessment within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure between Reception and Year 6.



Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Ms Jill Watson (Headteacher). Mrs Belinda Bolar and Mrs Sarah Salisbury are our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you have any concerns related to child protection issues please contact them through the school office.



This year's Sports Day will take place on **Tuesday 19 May 2026**, with a reserve date of **Wednesday 20 May 2026** in case of poor weather.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us from **1:00pm** for what promises to be an exciting and action-packed afternoon of sporting achievement. Our pupils have been working hard and are looking forward to showcasing their skills, teamwork, and enthusiasm.

Advance Warning Road Closure

Dorset Council have informed us that Duck Street in Child Okeford will be closed during the day for surface dressing with the proposed dates of 13 May 2026 to 27 May 2026—5.00 am to 5.00 pm, the area concerned is marked **RED** on the map below.



Davison Cup

We are so proud of our Yr 5 & 6 football team who reached the semi-finals of the Davison Cup tournament. This North Dorset, knock-out competition has been running for 75 years, and this is the first time in 20 years that St Nicholas has qualified for the semis. Back in October, 31 schools started the tournament but only 4 achieved the honour of participating in the finals event last week.

In our semi-final, the team put on an amazing performance of skill, determination and teamwork, but sadly, lost 3 -2 to Sherborne Primary (a considerably larger school).

Whilst feeling disappointed, the boys quickly turned their thoughts to the play off for 3rd and 4th place and amazed everyone by their resilience and positivity. This fabulous attitude sent them back on to the field determined to win third place. This they did, with a convincing 6-2 victory over Motcombe Primary.

Congratulations to the team for a superb performance and outstanding team spirit!



Village Litter Picking

A group of children took part in the village litter picking event, working together to collect rubbish from the roads, footpaths and the park. With gloves and bags, they quickly filled several sacks and helped make the village look cleaner.



St Nicholas CE Primary School is a member of the Sherborne Area Schools' Trusts (SAST), a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England with the company number 08130468.



Friendship



Respect



Curiosity



Community