

Newsletter

May 2026

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



DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY

25 May to 29 May—Half Term

- 1 June Year 4 Multiplication Tests—window opens from today
- 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
- 5 June PTFA Dress Down Day—for a filled jar for the Fete
- 6 June PTFA Summer Fete—12.00 noon to 4.00 pm
- 8 June Year 1 Phonics Screening—window opens from today
- 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
- 10 June 1.00 pm Sports Day
- 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
- 19 June PTFA Event—Years 4, 5 & 6 Boogie Bingo—further details to follow
- 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
- 27 June Hey Day—Village Event
- 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
- 3 July PTFA Event—Years R, 1, 2 & 3—further details to follow
- 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 pupils back to School
- 14 September Individual School Photos, sibling groups and pre-school groups
- 21 September Flu Immunisations—Reception to Year 6

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils, staff and families for their continued hard work, support and positivity throughout May.

This half term has been filled with wonderful learning opportunities, exciting events and achievements across the school. It has been fantastic to see our pupils showing such enthusiasm in lessons, resilience in their learning and kindness towards one another. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

A special well done goes to our Year 6 pupils who have approached their SATs with maturity and determination. They have represented the school brilliantly and should feel very proud of themselves.

As we head into the half term break, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy some quality time with family and friends. Whether you are travelling, spending time outdoors or simply enjoying a slower pace, we wish you a safe and happy break.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the final half term of the academic year, which promises to be another exciting and rewarding one.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and enjoy the half term holiday.

Warm wishes

Mrs Belinda Bolar Deputy Headteacher

Latest Staff News



We are saying goodbye to Mrs Mortimer as she leaves us to begin an exciting new job opportunity. We would like to thank Mrs Mortimer for all of her hard work, dedication and

contribution to the school community, and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

We will also be saying goodbye to Miss Hartland as she begins her maternity leave. We send Miss Hartland our very best wishes and look forward to hearing her happy news in the months ahead.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome back Miss Palamountain, who will be returning to school on Monday, 1 June. We are very pleased to have her back as part of the team.





Ofsted Report

Following our recent Ofsted report, we would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support and encouragement. We are excited about the new developments planned to further raise standards across the school.

Beginning over the half-term break, work will start on updating and enhancing our EYFS provision to create an even more engaging and stimulating environment for our youngest learners. We look forward to sharing these improvements with you in the coming weeks.



Children's Hospice Week Big Teddy Takeover 19 June 2026

As part of Children's Hospice Week, we will be taking part in the **Big Teddy Takeover** to help raise funds for Julia's House.

Children are invited to bring a teddy bear to school and make a small donation to support this wonderful charity and the important work they do for children and families.

Please look out for more information after half term. We hope as many children as possible will join in this special event!



PTFA Dress Down Day – 5 June

On Thursday 5 June, the PTFA will be holding a Dress Down Day. Children are invited to come to school in their home clothes in exchange for a filled jar donation for the school fete taking place on 6 June.

Filled jars could include sweets, small toys, stationery, chocolates, or other fun items suitable for children.

Thank you for your continued support – all donations will help make the school fete a great success, which is on the 6 June from 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm.



Teaching Appointments

Interviews for our teaching vacancies are taking place today. Once final decisions have been made, we will communicate with parents and carers regarding teacher placements for each class in September.

We are hoping to share this information during the first week back after half term.

Car Park Safety Reminder

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of traffic in the car park at busy times of the day. The safety of our children, families, and staff is extremely important, and we ask everyone to take extra care when entering and leaving the site.

After half term, cones will be placed out to direct pedestrians to follow the footsteps route out of the car park and onto the pavement. Please do not cut across the car park when exiting the school grounds.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that only vehicles displaying a blue badge should use the parking spaces at the front of the building. In addition, the area between the blue badge parking and nursery parking must be kept clear at all times to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us keep everyone safe.



Change of Date

Please note that our Sports Day has been rescheduled to **10 June at 1.00 pm**. We are hopeful that the weather will be much improved!

We look forward to seeing as many parents, carers, and friends as possible to support and encourage the children during this exciting event.

Don't forget our PTFA will be there selling refreshments.

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.



Friendship



Respect



Curiosity



Community



Acorns

Acorns have had a very productive first half to the summer term! We have been learning about the importance of the different part of plants and their purposes. We have been creating garden decorations to deter birds from eating crops, creating floral imprints in clay (which will be ready to come home after half term) and imagining we are florists in our role play! Our sunshine and Sunflowers topic concludes today and next half term we will be learning about our Big Wide World—exploring the different continents on Earth, looking at the coral reefs of Australia and various ways to travel around the world. Our books in Literacy will also reflect our topic as we learn to write postcards for *The Snail and the Whale*.

Chestnuts

Chestnuts class has had a fantastic week of learning! The children have been exploring the vibrant world of art by using primary colours and various hues of secondary colours to create stunning patterns in the style of Wassily Kandinsky. In Math, we have continued to master the analogue clock, practicing how to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes using both "past" and "to" the hour. I have been incredibly impressed with the children's dedication to working as a group and their commitment to creating a respectful learning environment for one another. Well done, Chestnut class!

Acers

Acers class has had a busy and successful term so far. Last week when Oak Year 5 joined us, the children produced some fantastic work on their SURVIVOR project and are continuing in this vein with our next English text, Mars Transmission. They have really enjoyed making El Día de los Muertos masks and learning about Pok-ta-pok, an ancient Mayan ball game. Our Hola Mexico topic continues after the break with a Design Technology twist and consists of looking at fruit drinks, Mexican dishes, sweet treats and of course, chocolate! After half term Year Five Acers will be swimming on Mondays while the Year Fours will be busy learning the intricacies of Rounders with me, so please remind your children to wear their kit in on that first Monday 1st June.

Oaks

The past two weeks in Oaks have been incredibly busy and full of achievements. Our Year 6 pupils approached their SATs with maturity and determination, working exceptionally hard and making us all very proud; the delicious breakfasts of croissants, pain au chocolat and fruit kindly provided by the PTFA, certainly helped set a positive tone for each day. To celebrate their efforts, Year 6 enjoyed a well-deserved walk to Shillingstone recreation park, where they spent time playing tennis, cricket and manhunt, alongside a relaxing picnic together. While Year 6 were focused on their tests, Year 5 took on an exciting survival project with Mrs Shon, producing some truly fantastic final creations. As a class, we are now full of excitement as rehearsals begin for our end-of-year production, Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits—with singing and script work already looking wonderful. Looking ahead, the next half term promises to be just as busy, with the performance, the Year 6 leavers' service at Salisbury Cathedral, the Lamer Tree pageant, Sports Day, Dragons' Den enterprise projects, the Year 6 residential and much more—how we will fit it all in, we're not quite sure, but we are certainly looking forward to every moment!