CHILMARK AND FONTHILL BISHOP

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, it was wonderful to come together today at our Harvest Service and take time to reflect on all that we have achieved and to give thanks for the many opportunities we have shared. From exciting school trips and village walks to sporting fixtures and memorable learning experiences, there has been so much to celebrate. We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated staff, whose hard work, enthusiasm and careful planning have made these experiences possible, enriching our children's learning and creating lasting memories. As you read through this final newsletter of the term, we hope you will join us in celebrating all that has been accomplished and all that we have to be thankful for.

It was a pleasure to welcome families to the Elm Class assembly this week. The children confidently shared their learning from across the term, demonstrating not only what they had learned but also how different subjects connect and support one another. It was wonderful to see the many cross-curricular links they have made, bringing together their knowledge and skills from a range of areas of the curriculum. The children's enthusiasm, confidence and pride in their work shone through, and they should be extremely proud of their fantastic presentation.

Following feedback from the children, we were delighted to hold another successful 'Chat Café' this week on Wednesday. It offers children a valuable opportunity to socialise, strengthen friendships and develop their communication skills in an informal setting. Supporting both mental wellbeing and our wider oracy work, the session was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. It was particularly pleasing to see children from across the classes engaging in thoughtful and friendly conversations.

This week Elm Class had the opportunity to take their science learning beyond the classroom during an exciting trip to Longleat. I was fortunate enough to join them and see first-hand how wonderfully they represented our school. They were excellent ambassadors, demonstrating outstanding behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of the way they engaged with the learning opportunities on offer and, for many, showed great courage in conquering some of their fears.

On Thursday evening, the hall was transformed into a fantastic Halloween party filled with fun, laughter and excitement. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Friends of the School who, once again, created such a wonderful experience for our children while also raising vital funds that help support the learning opportunities we provide. I would also like to thank Mrs Gray for her support with the craft activities, which offered a welcome quieter space for children to enjoy away from the noise and bustle of the hall and Mrs Johnstone for expertly compering the evening and helping to make the event such a success. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to support the children. It makes a huge difference to each and every one of them.

I wish you all a restful and relaxing half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hale

Photos of the week





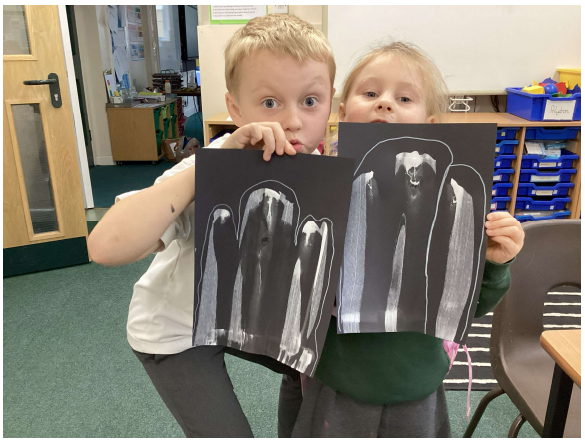


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Oak



Oak took full advantage of the more traditional autumn weather this week! Our wet walk provided plenty of opportunities to explore the changing season, learning about the weather changes that autumn brings and how these affect life in Chilmark village. Of course, there was also lots of enthusiastic puddle splashing along the way!

Our Discovery challenges have continued with an autumn theme, and the children have particularly enjoyed taking part in a range of pumpkin-related activities. For those of you who were able to attend the Harvest Service we hope you enjoyed their performance of Dingle Dangle Scarecrow. The children showed great enthusiasm while learning and performing the song, and it was wonderful to see their confidence shine through.

Oak have continued to work hard across the curriculum this week. In Mathematics, Reception have been busy helping Maths Monkey as they continue to develop their subitising skills, confidently recognising quantities to 4 without counting. Year 1 have been focusing on number bonds within 10, while Year 2 have been developing their understanding of related number facts within 100.

We would also like to thank you for your continued support with reading at home. It has been wonderful to see how our new Reception children are already beginning to develop a love of reading. They have been making some fantastic choices when selecting books for pleasure and are enjoying sharing and exploring stories both in school and at home. Your support is making a real difference as we help the children build strong foundations for their reading journey.

Sycamore



In this final week before the Autumn break, we have been busy reviewing our understanding of the various topics we have been studying and showing off with mini assessments and quizzes. Pupils recalled and understood many elements about how settlements differ, how the body moves and stays energised/healthy and why God made covenants with Noah and Abraham. The children have been in fine voice enjoying the songs we will perform at Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday 12th November – details to follow as no fee needed to attend. We have been brushing up on common spelling words as well as solving anagrams using the Year 3/Year 4 list. Hopefully I will see a real reduction in spelling errors of high frequency words in written work. We reached the end of our class text ‘Song of a Dolphin Boy’ and it received super feedback. There was quite a clamour of children wanting to borrow the text to read again at home – a great sign. In Maths, Year 3s are continuing to consolidate using formal methods to add and subtract with 3-digit numbers. Year 4 pupils have moved on to work on area problems. More opportunity was provided at school for the budding mathematicians to access Timestables Rockstars and I hope they check in with some challenges over the week off.

We are looking forward to a time travel trip soon after half term on Tuesday 3rd November to launch us into our Anglo-Saxon topic.

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Elm



What a fantastic week we have had in Elm Class to round off our first term! Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who came along to our class assembly on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see the children confidently sharing their work and showing off everything they have learned in Science and History this term. On Thursday, we headed off on our first school trip of the year to Longleat! The children enjoyed an exciting animal handling workshop, where they had the opportunity to hold a variety of animals, including a snake, cockroach and millipede. There were plenty of fears conquered by both children and staff, particularly when we had the chance to hold a tarantula later in the day! The boat trip was a highlight for many, with the chance to see sea lions, gorillas and hippos, while the bat cave gave us an amazing opportunity to get up close to bats and even a sloth! Throughout the day, the children were an absolute credit to the school, showing fantastic behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity. It has been a busy but brilliant week and a lovely way to finish our first term together. I am incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved so far!

Special Mentions



Congratulations to those who joined me on the top table this week – Harry, Atley, Robin, Skylar, Jasper, Max, Kathleen and Matilda. These children have been shining their lights all week and have been demonstrating our words of power.



In this morning's assembly we also celebrated children who have been shining their lights all term – Bruno, Phoebe, Finley, Felix, Jasper and Skylar.

Key Dates

Half Term – 26th - 30th October

Tuesday 3rd November – Sycamore class visiting Wild Trekkers (Anglo Saxon topic)

Friday 6th November – Non-uniform (please bring a bottle for the stall at the Christmas market)

Wednesday 11th November – Parent Meetings

Thursday 12th November - Sycamore Class attending signing event in Salisbury Cathedral (parents will be able to attend – details to follow)

Tuesday 17th November – Flu immunisation

Friday 20th November – Wear your pyjamas to school (£1 - Friends Donation for Christmas Market)

Friends' Movie Night

Saturday 28th November – Friends' Christmas Market

Tuesday 1st December – Whole school trip to pantomime at Salisbury Playhouse

Thursday 3rd December – Sycamore Class Assembly – 2.30 pm

Wreathmaking in the hall – 6-8pm

Tuesday 8th December – Elm & Sycamore performance 5.30pm

Wednesday 9th December – Oak Nativity performance 5.30pm

Tuesday 15th December – Carols by Candlelight 5pm – 6pm

Thursday 17th December – Christmas lunch for children and staff

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Friday 18th December – Christmas service 11.00 am at the church

Break up for Christmas Holidays

2027

Monday 4th January – INSET day

Tuesday 5th January – Back to School

Half Term – 15th – 19th February

Thursday 25th March – Break up for Easter holidays

Monday 12th April – Back to School

Half Term – 31st May – 4th June

Friday 16th July – Break up for summer holidays (INSET days – 19th ,20th & 21st July)

SAFEGUARDING - We take the safeguarding of our children very seriously. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Hale and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss Murphy. Our safeguarding governor is Caroline Marking. If you have any concerns about a child, please speak directly to either Mrs Hale or Miss Murphy email – safeguarding@chilmarkfonthillbishop.wilts.sch.uk . Or you can ring MASH on 0300 456 010

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	**Glandular fever**
Head lice	**Tonsillitis**
Threadworms	**Slapped cheek**

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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