



CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

25th September 2026

Dear Parents,

The weather has certainly been kind to us this week and the children have thoroughly enjoyed making the most of our outdoor spaces. It has been wonderful to see them playing on the grass and enjoying the new play equipment, with children of all ages supporting, encouraging and looking out for one another as they play together. We have also taken learning beyond the classroom, making the most of the pleasant conditions. Elm Class have enjoyed whole-class reading sessions and maths warm-up activities outside, benefitting from a change of environment and opportunities for mindfulness. These moments in the fresh air have helped to promote concentration, engagement and wellbeing, while reminding us all of the value of learning beyond the four walls of the classroom.

This week Miss Murphy and I attended a training course focused on the importance of language and communication. The course was a valuable reminder of how essential meaningful conversation and genuine engagement with one another are particularly in today's busy lives where technology can sometimes reduce opportunities for face-to-face interaction. It reinforced the crucial role that reading plays in developing language skills and highlighted the importance of children regularly listening to adults read aloud, modelling the rich vocabulary and communication skills we expect them to use themselves. Strong communication skills are a key indicator of future success and opportunities, helping individuals to build relationships, access learning and thrive in the workplace. The training reminded us that nurturing language development is vital at every stage of life and remains one of the most important foundations for lifelong achievement.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Rennard and Mrs Hawkins for organising and running our Macmillan Tea and Cake Event this afternoon. Their hard work and dedication helped make the event such a wonderful success. Thank you also to everyone who attended, donated and supported this very worthy cause. Each year, our Pupil Leadership Team identifies charities they would like to support, and this annual event is always one that the children are particularly keen to champion. It is heartening to see our school community come together to support others and we are incredibly grateful for your generosity in helping us raise money for such an important charity.

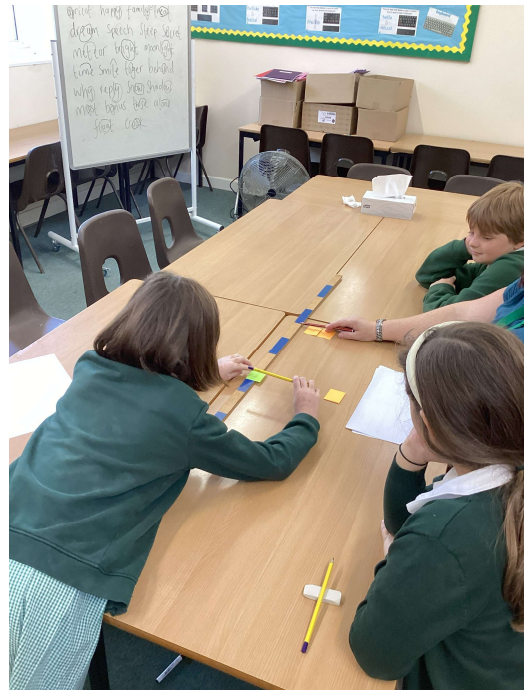
On Thursday 1st October, we will be holding our first themed lunch of the year. Last year, our themed lunches took us on an international journey, with each term featuring dishes and cuisine from a different country. This year, our Pupil Leadership Team has chosen a wonderful new theme based on books, with each term's menu inspired by a different story. This term, we are excited to be hosting a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed lunch. Vicky has created a fantastic menu inspired by Roald Dahl's beloved book, and we are sure the children will enjoy this fun dining experience. Please see the attached menu for full details. If your child would like to take part in the themed lunch, please speak to Mrs Rennard to book their meal in advance. We look forward to what promises to be a delicious and exciting start to our themed lunch programme!

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Monday

Best Wishes

Mrs Hale

Photos of the Week





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Oak



What a busy and exciting week we have had in Oak Class!

During Discovery time, the children have been thinking carefully about how we can reuse and repurpose materials as we celebrate Recycling Week and Sustainability Fortnight. We have been impressed by their creativity, from transforming old egg boxes into masks and animals to creating a home for the spider that was found in the classroom. It has been wonderful to hear the children sharing their ideas about how small changes can help us to look after our world.

It has also been a very busy week in maths. Our Reception children have been developing their early number sense by subitising quantities from one to three, recognising how many objects there are without needing to count them individually. Year 1 have been busy building their place value knowledge of numbers to 10, while Year 2 have been extending their understanding of place value within 100. We are particularly proud of the resilience and growth mindsets the children have shown when faced with new challenges.

In Science, all year groups have been thinking about the seasons and the changes that happen throughout the year. We are looking forward to our next village walk, where we hope to spot signs that autumn is arriving. We will be using our observational skills to notice changes in the world around us and, of course, keeping our eyes open for some autumn treasures to bring back to Oak Class!

Sycamore

In Sycamore this week, we have been learning more about using commas and the past perfect tense in our writing. In reading, children have explored the concept of underlying themes and searched for evidence. In maths they have been using place value knowledge to estimate and compare. They had chance to login to

Times tables Rockstars to practise and navigate the site. In Geography we looked at different categories of land use and looked at a local OS map. Music was a highlight with children impressing our visiting teacher with their first attempt at some of the Cathedral Concert songs. We have two further visits and seven weeks to polish and perfect. In science, pupils found identified different joints and learnt that muscles work in pairs. Some class members showed a great love for learning and significant craft skills to make a moving model hand as an optional home task.

Elm

This week in Elm Class has been filled with creativity and making the most of the lovely weather! During our reading of *The Curse of the Maya*, we took the opportunity to enjoy our new grass area, reading a chapter outside before discussing and exploring the meaning of some new vocabulary. In History, the children used their growing knowledge of Maya culture to design their own Maya-inspired drinking vessels, which are now proudly displayed on our History board. It has been another lovely week in Elm Class, and I continue to be incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, kindness and positive attitudes the children are showing each day.

Special Mentions

Resilience – Amelia

For showing fantastic resilience and growing confidence by being willing to step outside her comfort zone and try new things.

Faith – Matilda

For showing faith in their own abilities, always contributing in lessons and confidently giving everything a go.

Violet - Love

Violet has made a real effort to complete reading and homework tasks. She is engaged in lessons and participated particularly well in singing. She acts upon pointers to improve her work. Super attitude.

Felix - Resilience and Kindness

Felix showed real perseverance in completing a maths challenge which had taken several attempts. He supported some of his peers with their understanding too and showed real kindness.

Atley – love

Atley has shown a love of creativity this week. The thought and care that he puts into his creations is amazing!

Florence – resilience

Florence has shown great resilience towards writing this year. She has started year 1 with a great can do attitude!



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As I was on a course this morning Mrs Johnstone joined the children the top table today.

Well done to all the children who shone their lights this week
- Matilda, Elodie, Bobby, Toby, Finley, Kathleen, Max and Bruno

Key Dates

Saturday 10th October – Open Morning for prospective families

Wednesday 14th October – Full Governors Meeting 5.30pm

Tuesday 20th October – Elm Class Assembly - 2.30 pm

Thursday 22nd October – Halloween Disco

Half Term – 26th - 30th October

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

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

Wednesday 2nd December – Sycamore Class Assembly – 2.30 pm

Friday 18th December – 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



Open Day
Saturday 10th October 2026
10.00 - 11.30am





**Chilmark
& Fonthill Bishop
Primary School**

Come and experience what it's like to be a pupil at Chilmark.
meet the team - classroom activities - tours of the school

'I look forward to welcoming you, and sharing how we shine our light.'
Mrs Hale - Head Teacher

Please contact the school for further details, and to register your interest.



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