CHILMARK AND FONTHILL BISHOP

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

6th November 2026

Dear Parents,

It has been so lovely to welcome everyone back after the half-term break. We hope that all of our families enjoyed some time to rest and recharge, ready for another busy and exciting few weeks at school.

We have certainly noticed the change in the season with colder weather, darker mornings and evenings and plenty of autumnal sights around us. Despite the chilly weather, there has been a wonderful atmosphere around school this week. The children have returned with enthusiasm and have quickly settled back into their learning. It has been a pleasure to see their positive attitudes, curiosity and engagement with their learning.

On Monday, Elm Class were treated to a magical 'Polar Express' experience to launch their new writing unit. The children were transported on an exciting journey to the North Pole, where they immersed themselves in the wonder and mystery of the story. Along the way, they enjoyed delicious hot chocolate and cookies, helping to bring the experience to life and spark their imaginations. The memorable morning provided the perfect hook for their learning generating excitement, curiosity and plenty of inspiration for the fantastic writing that is sure to follow.

This week, Sycamore experienced life as Anglo-Saxons as they were transported back in time for a truly immersive learning experience. The children discovered some of the key skills that the Anglo-Saxons needed to survive, taking part in a range of hands-on activities that brought history to life. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Gray, who kindly allowed us to use her woodland and carefully planned the day's experiences. From cooking apples over an open fire to dyeing fabrics using natural materials, the children thoroughly enjoyed learning through practical activities and gained a deeper understanding of Anglo-Saxon life. It was a memorable day filled with teamwork and adventure.

At the end of last term, the children completed a Mental Wellbeing Survey which explored a range of aspects of school life, including their learning, friendships and overall experiences at school. The survey also provided an opportunity for children to share their ideas about what they would like to see in school and any suggestions they felt could help us continue to improve. As a result, I met with our Pupil Leadership Team to discuss the feedback in detail. Together, we have agreed a number of actions that we will be taking forward this term to further enhance the children's experiences and ensure that their voices continue to play an important role in shaping our school community.

The Pupil Leadership Team have once again chosen to support our local Food Bank through our annual Christmas Chocolate Collection. We are inviting families to donate a chocolate treat that will help ensure every child can enjoy something special this festive season. At a time when many families face additional pressures, even a small donation can make a significant difference. We would be incredibly grateful for any contributions. This can be brought in to the school office.

We have also decided to run the popular 'House Christmas Tree decoration ' competition again. This year, the theme for our Christmas Tree Decoration Competition is "The Christmas Story." We invite children to create a decoration inspired by an event, character or symbol from the Nativity. This could be the angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, the shining star or the stable in Bethlehem. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas while showcasing their creativity and imagination. We look forward to seeing a beautiful collection of handmade decorations that

will help tell the Christmas story and make our school tree a festive and meaningful celebration of this special season. All decorations need to be in by Friday 27th November.

Finally, next Friday (13th November) is Children in Need day. We are aware that families support different charities and therefore we are not doing a specific fundraising event but we will have a collection pot in the school office should anyone want to donate. Children are welcome to wear Pudsey Accessories such as ears as an addition to their normal uniform.

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

Best wishes,

Mrs Hale

Photos of the week



Elm Class aboard the Polar Express !

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Sycamore's Anglo Saxon Day













Craft Club made poppies & firework pictures



Oak Class

It has been a busy and exciting first week of the term in Oak Class. There has been a real buzz of enthusiasm around the classroom as we begin another busy and enjoyable term together.

It has been wonderful to see the children's excitement as they start learning the songs for our Nativity. We are already hearing some fantastic singing, and we look forward to sharing their performances with you later in the term.

In Reception, the children have enjoyed learning about the history behind Bonfire Night celebrations, while Year 1 and 2 have enjoyed revisiting and building upon their existing knowledge. Reception children have particularly loved the discovery challenges focused on fireworks, where there has been some wonderful creativity and imagination on display.

In English, Year 1 and 2 have begun a writing unit based on The Snowman. Through this unit, the children will continue to develop their use of capital letters and full stops while also having further opportunities to embed and apply a range of grammar skills within their writing.

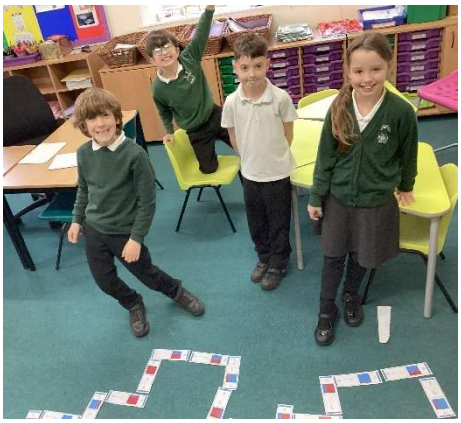
On Wednesday, we enjoyed a beautiful autumn walk to the woods. The children were full of awe and wonder as they explored the signs of the season around them. We identified evergreen and deciduous trees, discovered a robin's nest and, to great excitement, some of us even spotted a deer that had definitely heard us coming long before we saw it!

We are looking forward to another busy week of learning next week.

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sycamore Class



Sycamore have had a great start back to learning. We had a full morning of History on Monday to prepare us for our journey back to Anglo-Saxon times. On Tuesday, we time travelled to our temporary Anglo-Saxon settlement hidden in Wild Trekker's Woods. As we walked, we marked milestones from British history to anchor the time period in a wider context. Activities helped pupils understand the importance of natural resources to the tribe. Children made model 'wattle and daub' houses using woodland materials and clay. They completed a runic treasure hunt to win honey for their stewed apples. Pupils tested out weaving skills and dyed cloth with beetroot. They made clay pots around a fire listening to the Beowulf legend and singing songs (we are looking forward to performing in the Cathedral on Thursday 12th). We have started a new class text 'Winter of the Wolves' to link with our topic. Children are soon to discover their parts in our Christmas Play - what a busy time! I look forward to showing off the children's books and providing more insight at Parents' Evening.

Elm Class



It has been a fantastic first week back in Elm Class, with the children returning from half-term full of enthusiasm and ready to learn! We started the week with a rather special morning to introduce our new Writing topic, *The Polar Express*. The children arrived at school in their pyjamas, received their very own train tickets and took part in a range of activities inspired by the story. Of course, no Polar Express experience would be complete without a hot chocolate topped with cream and marshmallows! It was a lovely way to introduce our new topic, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the morning. We have also started several new topics this week, moving on from the Maya to explore *Life in the Alps* in Geography, *Light and Reflection* in Science and Netball in PE. In Computing, the children are taking their coding skills a step further, working towards creating their very own animated games using Scratch by the end of term. The children have already demonstrated some fantastic knowledge and enthusiasm for our new topics, and I can't wait to see how their learning develops over what promises to be another busy and exciting term!

Special Mentions

Jenson – Friendship

It has been lovely to see Jenson return to school with a lovely attitude towards making friends with the newer members of Oak class.

Sienna – Resilience

Sienna has shown a can-do attitude towards her own learning, both adult-led and when in 'discovery time'. This has been noticed by a number of an adults in school.

Max N - Love of learning

Max is always engaged in inputs and loves answering questions and digging deeper with his own. He did unprompted research at home about Anglo-Saxon runes. Super attitude.

Toby - Resilience

Toby found his 'inner calm' to overcome emotions when faced with the tricky model house building task. He lifted his spirits and led us in song later in the day.

Teddy - Resilience

For showing fantastic improvement in their learning already this term, particularly with their handwriting, which has been brilliant all week.

Max G - Friendship

For making brilliant contributions in class and always bringing positivity and a smile to the faces of his classmates!



Congratulations to those who joined me on the top table this week – Eric, Sasha, Violet, Bobby, Jasper, Sienna, Skylar and Aurora.

These children have been shining their lights all week and have been demonstrating our words of power.

Key Dates

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

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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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