



3rd July 2026

Dear parents,

A gentle shift in the weather has brought a welcome breath of cool air this week, allowing the school to settle back into its familiar rhythms. Children have loved returning to outdoor play, soaking up the lighter summer breeze as they reconnect with friends and activities. It has also been a busy and purposeful few days, with many year groups completing their final assessments. I am always struck by the positivity and determination our pupils bring to these moments, approaching each challenge with confidence and a genuine desire to show how much they have grown.

This week, we came together to celebrate and remember our dear colleague, Miss Lane, who sadly passed away last year. Miss Lane was a truly wonderful member of the Chilmark team, working as a TA from 1999 to 2019, and she brought warmth, kindness and joy to everyone around her. In her memory, we have placed a special bench in the playground, a place where children can sit, talk, read, or simply enjoy the sunshine. We hope it will offer the same sense of comfort and warmth that Miss Lane shared with us every day. On Monday morning, we welcomed Miss Lane's family into school for a heartfelt dedication of the bench, marking a moment of reflection, gratitude and celebration of her lasting impact on our community.

We've continued to enrich and enhance the children's learning this week and Elm Class enjoyed their visit to Tisbury Pool for swimming. This forms an important part of the PE curriculum, and we're fortunate to have the pool so close by, along with Wendy's expertise supporting the sessions. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, a few lessons were missed, but these will be caught up in September so the children still receive their full programme.

Oak Class also visited Wardour Castle today, a trip designed to deepen and enrich the learning they've been doing in History and Geography. Experiences like this help children make meaningful links between classroom learning and the real world, allowing them to see how the places they study come to life beyond the page.

Next week is shaping up to be a busy and exciting one. On Tuesday, children will be spending time with their new classes and new teachers, beginning to think ahead to September and what the next stage of their learning will look like. Our Year 6 pupils will also be visiting their new secondary schools, taking important steps in their transition and preparing for the next chapter of their learning journey. These moments always feel significant, and it's wonderful to see the children growing in confidence as they look forward to what comes next.

On Wednesday, we're eagerly anticipating Elm Class's production of Grim Tales. It has been lovely to watch the children prepare, and the performance is really starting to come together with the emergence of scenery, props, and costumes. Their enthusiasm and creativity have been shining through, and I'm sure we're in for a great show.

Vicky is busy preparing for our Spanish themed lunch on Thursday so if you have not yet booked a lunch for your child and they are interested in savouring a Spanish dish please do book with Mrs Rennard or Mrs Hawkins. These days are requested by our pupil leadership team and it is nice for them to see it come to fruition.

Finally, on Thursday evening, the Governors and I would like to invite you to join us for an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the past year. We will share the progress made in the areas we outlined at the beginning of the year and take time to focus on the many positives from this academic year. A ping has been sent with the details.

With the temperatures due to rise again over the coming days , I wish you all a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Hale

Photos of the week





CHILMARK AND FONTHILL BISHOP

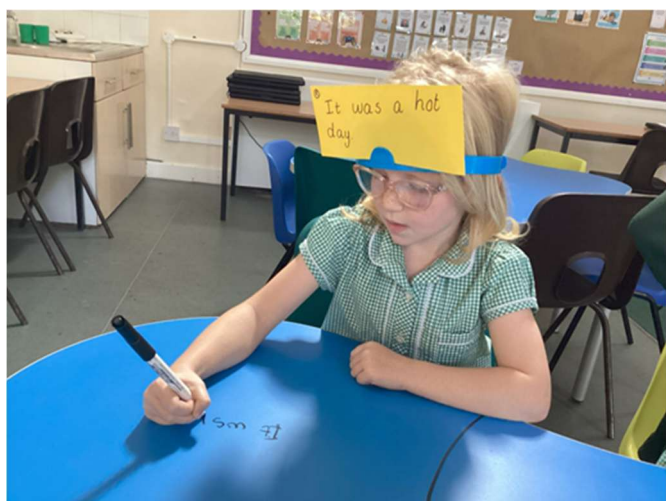


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Oak Class



After last week's deviation from our writing unit, Oak Class have now resumed their current English unit. Both Reception and Year 1 have been focusing on using description and the conjunction 'and' to develop their writing skills. Reception children have been learning how to use 'and' to join words and phrases, helping them to add more detail to their ideas. Year 1 pupils have been building on this by using 'and' to join sentences, creating longer and more interesting pieces of writing.

In RE, both Reception and Year 1 children have continued to be active and thoughtful learners. We have been particularly impressed by their contributions during discussions and the respect they have shown towards different faiths and beliefs. It has been wonderful to see the children listening carefully to one another and sharing their ideas with confidence.

Our Geography learning this week has focused on developing the children's understanding of different areas of the world and what life is like in a variety of places. The children have enjoyed exploring similarities and differences between locations and learning more about the wider world around them.

Today, we rounded off the week with an exciting visit to Old Wardour Castle, linking together our learning in both local geography and history. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring this fascinating historical



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site and discovering more about its significance within our local area. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring our learning outside the classroom and create lasting memories.

Sycamore Class

Sycamore have approached their assessments this week with courage, determination and a positive attitude. We are incredibly proud of the resilience they have shown.

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils are now in full swing with rehearsals alongside Elm Class, and they have been working hard to prepare for their upcoming performance. In French, they have been learning about different forms of transport and practising how to say where they would travel using a variety of vehicles.

Year 2 have been busy researching animals and have produced some fantastic non-chronological reports, demonstrating their growing knowledge and writing skills. In PSHE, they have been discussing private belongings, how to keep their bodies safe, and learning the correct names for body parts. They have also worked incredibly hard on improving their letter formation, with great progress being made.

Across the class, the children have completed informative leaflets about the activities available along the Weymouth coast. In Science, they have applied their understanding of rocks and soils by tackling a range of practical challenges, showing excellent problem-solving skills and scientific thinking.

Elm Class

This week Elm have been working very hard balancing their learning whilst preparing for our end of year performance. The Year 5s have completed end of term assessments in both Maths and Reading and showed excellent focus throughout. In RE, the children have been analysing the Ten Commandments and debating which might be considered more important; there was some mature debate and thoughtful justifications. Pupils were pleased to receive some completed surveys for our Local Geography enquiry and have begun to organise and analyse the data. Elm were able to cool off in Tisbury swimming pool after a morning of rehearsals on Thursday and have an opportunity to compete with other local schools in a gala next week. We are looking forward to a jam-packed final couple of weeks before waving farewell to our Year 6 pupils.

Special mentions:

Bobby – resilience

Bobby has worked hard to challenge himself this week. He has had a resilient attitude towards challenge, taking on and accepting feedback.

Daisy – resilience

Daisy has had a can-do attitude this week. She has tried her best across her learning and she has also pushed herself to do things out of her comfort zone.

Max G-Resilience

You have tried your hardest when completing assessments and have persevered when it has been challenging. You have kept trying and shown a growth mindset throughout the week.

Felix-Love

You have shown a real enthusiasm for your learning this week and have completed challenges with a positive attitude. You have asked questions to extend your learning and have engaged really well.

Haylie – Love/Resilience

She has shown love and resilience to play a convincing and entertaining character in the school play. She has truly brought her well-rehearsed lines to life and has super comic timing.

Amelia – Faith

She has demonstrated Faith and increased self-belief. Amelia is coming into school more enthusiastically, putting extra effort into her learning and takes on additional responsibilities. We are so proud of the confident pupil she is becoming.



Top Table

Joining me on the top table today were – Felix, Joshua, Charlie, Frankie, Phoebe, Harry, Toby and Joel.

Well done to those children who have been shining their lights this week.