



CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

9th October 2026

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic week in school and it has been wonderful to see the children enjoying their learning. Across all subjects, they have shown enthusiasm, curiosity and a positive attitude towards new challenges. We are very proud of their hard work and the progress they continue to make. Thank you to all parents for ensuring that children arrive on time each morning. This helps them to start the day calmly, settle quickly into their routines and engage fully in their learning from the very beginning of the school day.

Please could I remind all parents that children remain your responsibility until 8:30 a.m., when the school doors open and staff are available to welcome them into class. While I appreciate that the space at the front of the school is limited, I am aware that there have been a few bumps and minor incidents recently as children wait to come in. To help keep everyone safe, please ensure your children remain with you and are supervised until the doors open. Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and positive start to the school day.

As the weather is becoming increasingly colder and wetter, please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for all weather conditions. We aim to take the children outside as much as possible throughout the day, as outdoor learning and play are an important part of their school experience. To help us do this safely and comfortably children should bring warm, waterproof outerwear, including a coat and suitable footwear. Being dressed appropriately allows them to enjoy their time outdoors, whatever the weather and ensures they can fully participate in all activities. Thank you for your support in helping us keep the children warm, dry and ready for learning.

Thank you to all of our families for your generous contributions to our Harvest collection. It has been wonderful to see our school community shining a light on others through such thoughtful acts of kindness. The children are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and they have enjoyed hearing about how their efforts can make a positive difference to those in need through our collective worship. Your support has helped show the children the importance of compassion, generosity and working together for a common cause. We are excited to continue supporting our local food bank and will be sharing details of our next collection initiative over the coming weeks. Thank you once again for helping make such a meaningful impact.

We are looking forward to welcoming new families into school tomorrow morning for our Open Day. This is a wonderful opportunity for prospective Reception families considering a September 2027 start, as well as any families who may be transferring schools during the academic year, to visit our school, meet our staff and experience the warm, caring environment that makes our school so special. We are incredibly proud of our wonderful school and all that our children achieve and we would be grateful if you could help spread the word to friends, family, and anyone who may be looking for a school place. We look forward to sharing everything that makes our school such a happy and successful place to learn and grow.

We would like to share that our Harvest Service will be held at the church on Friday 23rd October at 11:00am. During the service, we will also be celebrating those children who are receiving the Headteacher's Award for Term 1. All families are warmly invited to join us for this special occasion, and we

look forward to seeing many of you there as we come together to celebrate our achievements and give thanks for the harvest.

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

Mrs Hale

Photos of the week





Oak



There has been a real buzz in Oak this week, as the children are now settled into the routines of the classroom. It has been lovely to see how enthusiastically they have engaged with the different challenges during Discovery Time. Our classroom is feeling very well loved and cosy, with so much creativity and learning happening!

Year 1 and 2 have come to the end of their fiction writing unit based on Toys in Space. Today, they enjoyed an exciting hook for their new 'faction' writing unit (fake non-fiction), which they are about to begin. Reception were

also very excited to join in with a rather mysterious alien visitor! We are looking forward to seeing where this new writing adventure takes us.

Reception continue to impress us with their fantastic attitudes towards Skip and Bounce's fine motor challenges. They have shown great perseverance and enthusiasm. This week, their Drawing Club adventures have focused on Leaf Man, and we have loved seeing the wonderfully creative ideas that the children have come up with.

In RE, Year 1 and 2 have been exploring forgiveness and thinking about Christian beliefs surrounding forgiveness and why it is important. Reception have been thinking about why God is important to Christians, sharing their ideas and listening thoughtfully to one another.

Sycamore



It has been another busy week in Sycamore.

In English, we completed writing our narratives and flexed our editing muscles to make corrections and improvements. Children had opportunity to feedback their reflections of our class novel, identifying memorable moments and favourite characters. In Maths, children have explored different strategies to add and subtract and we will move on to more formal methods. In Science, pupils learned about the different food groups and discussed a healthy, balanced diet. In French we practised appropriate greetings for different times of day. A

highlight was our village walk on Wednesday when we sought to prove that Chilmark has many types of land-use. The children directed our route using an OS map and a street map, all the time cross referencing landmarks and road names.

Elm



This week in Elm Class, we have been exploring information texts in English, looking at where we might find them and how they are structured, helping us prepare for our end-of-term piece of writing. In Maths, the children have been learning about prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers, showing fantastic resilience and perseverance when tackling some challenging questions. In History, Elm Class became archaeologists for the afternoon on Monday! Working in teams and even creating their own archaeologist names, the children examined Maya artefacts, came up with exciting newspaper headlines and presented their discoveries to the 'World Press' (the rest of the class). They then faced some tricky follow-up questions from their fellow reporters! It was wonderful to see every child so engaged, showing great creativity, teamwork and confidence when sharing their fascinating discoveries. A really enjoyable afternoon and another fantastic week in Elm Class!

Special Mentions

Teddy - Resilience : For showing fantastic perseverance and determination in PE, working hard for his team and scoring some brilliant goals!

Bruno - Faith: For showing confidence in his abilities, producing excellent work in Maths and demonstrating brilliant creativity in English and Reading. A special mention for helping us translate Spanish words while reading our class book!



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Jed - Love of learning

Jed wrote a very entertaining and accurate sequel which was full of ambitious vocabulary and proved he was a master of commas!

Frankie - Resilience

Frankie pushed herself to be more independent and focused in writing her story. The contrasting atmospheres - dramatic, scary, celebratory - really stood out. Keep it up!

Jasper – Faith

Jasper has continued to grow faith in his own ability. He challenges himself in towards phonics especially! Jasper's can do attitude was also noticed by one of House Captains this week too!

Elodie – Friendship and Resilience

Elodie has really risen to the challenges of being a year 2 in Oak class. She is working hard across all areas of her learning whilst also being a kind and caring friend to our new reception children.



Congratulations to those who joined me on the top table this week – Eric, Bruno, Joshua, Jasper, Harper, Phoebe, Sasha and Heidi.

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

Key Dates

Saturday 10th October – Open Morning for prospective families

Wednesday 14th October – Full Governors Meeting 5.30pm

Friday 16th October – Individual Photos

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

Thursday 3rd December – Wreathmaking in the hall – 6-8pm

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



CHILMARK AND FONTHILL BISHOP



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