Strength in difference, together we are one, together we fly high.

Dunbury
Church of England Academy

Weekly communication

Week beginning 12th October 2026

"Strength in difference, together we are one, together we fly high."



Harvest is traditionally a time of bounty and a time when we think about those in our community who might not be as fortunate. We are grateful that our school community came together recently to provide some donations to the charity Nourish Blandford. **Together we are one.**

Attendance: Last week's whole school attendance was 97%. It is a legal requirement that children miss no more than 10% of school time. Please ensure that, where possible, all appointments (such as dentist) are taken outside of school hours. If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please contact your class teacher, or Mrs Richardson.

SEND: Thank you to all of the parents who made an appointment this week with Mrs Stoker (SENDCo) to review your child's targets and provision. These meetings are so helpful to ensure we are meeting your child's needs and setting actions and targets together to ensure that they are thriving and making progress. We are delighted to invite parents of children with SEND to our first ***coffee morning*** on **Wednesday 4th November** from 9am-10am at the Dunbury Primary site as an opportunity to talk to staff, ask questions, receive support and connect with other families.

Things to remember: 21st October – Y4 – iSingPop – Salisbury Cathedral

22nd October – Flu immunisations at Early Years (with approved consent forms)

23rd October – End of half-term

Spirituality - We encourage families to take a moment together this week to notice something beautiful, share something they are thankful for, and reflect on how they have shown our school values of friendship, trust, courage and respect. "*Be still and know that I am God.*" (Psalm 46:10). This reminder invites us to slow down, appreciate the present moment and recognise God's presence in our everyday lives.

Beech Class: Preschool and Reception

We would like to invite all preschool families to an open morning to meet our new Early Years Practitioner on Monday 19th October between 9:00am and 9:30. It is also an opportunities for parents to meet each other and build a local network of support.

In Reception, the children are now starting to blend the sounds taught, to read and write simple words. We have been using the sentence 'We practise to get better' to help the children understand that 'having a go' helps us to improve, and we feel good when we try.

Curriculum

Phonics: We will be consolidating the sounds taught so far, as well as embedding correct letter formation. We are now sending home short blending books so please read these at home with your child and record in the reading record. Thank you.

In Maths, they will continue to compare quantity using the language 'more than and fewer than'. **Please check that your child can confidently order numerals to 5 and can count confidently to 10.**

Things to remember: Speech matters! If you notice that your child uses an incorrect word, please model the correction back to them (i.e. 'He ran' – rather than 'He runned'). This will help a lot as they learn to write.

Oak Class: Year 1 and 2

We have had another great week in Oak. Thank you to everyone who has donated items of food for the harvest collection and items for the shoebox appeal- our box is filled up to the top! We have had a busy week designing our own puppets, looking at maps of the local area and labelling important features as well as getting the percussion instruments out in music as we continue to explore how music and poetry are linked!

Curriculum

Phonics: The children have learnt lots of new sounds, please read with them at home to practice.

Maths: Year 1 have been exploring 100s squares, gattengo grids and counting forwards and backwards within 100. Year 2 have been continuing their place value work by partitioning 2- digit numbers into tens and ones and understanding their values.

Things to remember: PE is on Mondays and Thursdays.

If you have any questions, please use the class email address: oak@dunbury.dsat.org.uk

Cherry Class: Year 3

Cherry have had a great week. They enjoyed imagining they were Bronze Age children visiting Merrivale standing stones and sending a postcard home explaining their time there.

Curriculum

Reading: This week we have had fun engaging with Roahl Dahl's version of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We've decided that we wouldn't want to cross Miss Hood.

Writing: The children have been writing sentences about the three little pigs which include apostrophes for singular possession and adverbial phrases for 'when' and 'how'.

Maths: We have been using our known facts to add and subtract 3-digit numbers. E.g. if I know 4 + 8 = 12 then 40+ 80 = 120.

Things to remember: PE is on Tuesday and Friday. Please keep reading with your child 3 x weekly.

Elm Class: Year 4

We are now familiar with our 2 and 5 times tables. Please do help your child to practise these at home. A couple of questions now and then make all the difference. Please keep reading with your child and recording what you have read, if you could ask questions to check their understanding that helps them too.

Curriculum

Reading: We are looking at Roald Dahl's 'Red Riding Hood' where the girl needs no huntsman to help her.

Writing: We have been looking at uplevelling our writing by adding adverbs and adverbial phrases. Sometimes these are known as fronted adverbials.

Maths: We have been adding and subtracting hundreds through thousands, by counting back and also counting forwards.

Things to remember: PE is on Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure your child's kit is labelled. Please also label their coats. If you have any questions, please use the class email address: elm@dunbury.dsat.org.uk

Golden Willow Class: Year 5

This half term the children have been thinking about how 'strength in self' can be shown by standing up for others respectfully if we feel that something is not fair. In DT we are designing draw-string bags which we hope to make using sewing machines, but to support the children with this we could do with some help! We'd love to hear from any friends or relatives who are confident machinists that would be willing to give up some time next week to help us.

Curriculum

Reading: We've been reading a non-fiction text on the history of witches, answering comprehension questions about how they have been portrayed over time since the Middle Ages.

Writing: We have been revising how to use subordinating conjunctions in clauses and revisiting our Year 3 and 4 common exception words.

Maths: We have been adding, subtracting and multiplying tenths.

Things to remember: Please ensure that you have countersigned your child's reading diary, heard them read and are encouraging reading at home. The children have weekly spellings, and targeted times tables fluency.

Scots Pine Class: Year 6

Thank you to all who donated to the shoebox appeal. Our girl and boy gift boxes are absolutely full to the brim!

Curriculum

Reading: We are reading an information text about King cobras – we can tell you lots of new facts!

Writing: We are now researching about rats to begin creating our own information texts.

Maths: We are continuing with multiplication using formal methods and applying these to worded problems.

Things to remember: Please ensure that children are practicing spellings daily to help them with memorising for Friday spelling tests. A reminder that this week SPaG pg. 10-13, Maths pg. 7-9 and Reading pg. 8-10 need completing.

If you have any questions, please use the class email address: scotspine@dunbury.dsat.org.uk