



Newsletter 16
16th January 2026

'Let us love one another, for love comes from God'
1 John 4:7



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Elephants had a fantastic time at their first Forest School afternoon this week. They learned how to whittle wood, painted on ice, explored a winter scavenger hunt, and enjoyed plenty of imaginative play in the mud kitchen.



It is wonderful to have our children's artwork displayed in the 'A Splash of Colour' exhibition at Walford Mill. The artwork created by Pandas and Snow Leopards will be on display until 25th January. There is another free painting workshop this weekend. Please see the flyer below for more information.



Best wishes
Miss Michelle Prince
Headteacher

Congratulations to these children who have gone above and beyond and **sparkled** this week:

Elephants: Beau and Chanelle

Giraffes: Jack and Amelia

Dolphins: Aiden and Freddie B

Pandas: Iris and Eve

Snow Leopards: Ivy and Alejandro



Half Term Value - Courage

Everyone feels scared sometimes. Have you ever overcome your fears and achieved something that you're proud of?



Pupil Voice

It has been an exciting week as we have been recruiting for our roles of responsibility within the school. These children will be the representatives for the spring term.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Worship Team	Dylan Gino	Harriet Lilly	Emilia Henry	Maria Ivy
School Council	Emilia James	Charlie O'G Ayla	Presley Alice	Ronnie Lily

Reading Event - For parents/carers of children in Reception

We would love you to join us for the Elephants' Reading Event. During the session, you will have the opportunity to watch part of a phonics lesson and enjoy some reading time with your child. The event will take place on Thursday 22nd January at 2:45pm. We'd be grateful if you indicated whether you will be attending by completing [this form](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) Meeting for parents of children in Year 4

In the summer term, the children in Snow Leopards will complete the Multiplication Tables Check which is a statutory test for all Year 4 pupils.

We would like to invite you to a meeting where we will explain what this check involves and how you can prepare your child for it. We are holding the session on two dates:

- Monday 26th January 3:30pm in the school hall.
- Thursday 29th January 9:00am in the school hall.

Please come to the main school office entrance to be signed in. The meeting should last no more than 30 minutes and both sessions will cover the same material. You only need to attend one session.

Jewellery and Watches

We do not encourage the wearing of jewellery in school for health and safety reasons, although simple stud earrings are permitted. Traditional wristwatches are acceptable, however, smartwatches and novelty/toy watches are not allowed in school.

Attendance



Well done Giraffes!

Dates for your diary

[What's on this week](#)

Tuesday 20th January

Elephants' Library Trip

Thursday 22nd January 2:45pm

Elephants' Reading Event



Class Weekly Attendance

for Week beginning 12th January 2026

Elephants	88.6%
Giraffes	98%
Dolphins	91.3%
Pandas	94.7%
Snow Leopards	92.9%
Whole School	93.7%

Monday 26th January 3:30pm

Multiplication Tables Check Meeting for Y4 Parents

Thursday 29th January 9:00am

Multiplication Tables Check Meeting for Y4 Parents

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Half Term Holiday

Monday 23rd February

INSET Day - no children in school

Tuesday 24th February

Children return to school

Friday 27th March

Last day of term

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Easter Holiday

Monday 13th April

INSET Day - no children in school

Tuesday 14th April

Children return to school

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Half Term Holiday

Monday 1st June

Children return to school

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th July

Year 4 Leeson House Residential Trip

Wednesday 22nd July

Last Day of Term

Year 4 Leavers' Service in St John's Church

Privacy Notice Initio Learning Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. The privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. Please find the document [here](#) on the school website.



**Join us to celebrate the opening of the exhibition
on Sunday 11 January from 1–3pm**

FREE Drop in painting workshops for ages 4+ must be accompanied
10 January 1–4pm and 18 January 12.30–3.30pm

A Splash of Colour

7 January to 25 January 2026

Walford Mill Crafts, Stone Lane,
Wimborne BH21 1NL

Kicking off the year with
vibrant artwork from
Witchampton and St John's
First Schools

WWW.WALFORDMILLCRAFTS.CO.UK

WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY 10–5PM,
SUNDAY 11–4PM