



Newsletter 24

20th March 2026

'Let us love one another, for love comes from God'

1 John 4:7



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

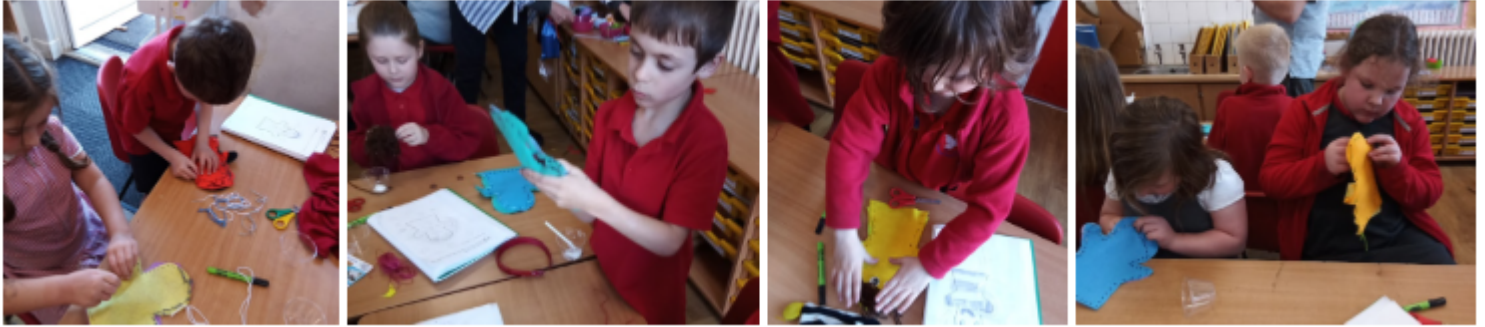
This week, the Snow Leopards took us on an incredible global adventure during their Class Worship. It was a fantastic showcase of everything they've learned about our planet's diverse biomes. We were blown away by the original biome raps! The class shared deeply moving persuasive letters. Their passion for protecting our rainforests was clear, reminding us of our responsibility to look after these "lungs of the earth." Inspired by the collage artist Megan Coyle, the Snow Leopards displayed their stunning art work. A huge well done to all the Snow Leopards for their hard work and for inspiring us to be better stewards of our world!



Dolphins enjoyed their second trip of the year to Wimborne Library. They listened carefully and discussed the different types of books they like to read, from comics to chapter books. The *Bunny vs Monkey* books by Jamie Smart are currently the Dolphins' top recommendation. The Dolphins were very excited to borrow a book to take home using their brand-new library cards, with the librarians helping as many children as possible to find the perfect pick.



Thank you to the team of parent and community volunteers who dedicated their time and expertise this week to assist with the Dolphins' sewing project. Your invaluable guidance and assistance ensured all pupils successfully participated and made great progress. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on learning.



On Wednesday, Pandas visited Wimborne Minster, where they took part in a meaningful and engaging exploration of the Easter story. The children were divided into small groups and rotated through activities that focused on different parts of the story. They learned about Palm Sunday and thoughtfully decorated palm leaves with their own hopes and dreams. They also explored key events including the Last Supper, Jesus' time in the garden, and his death on the cross. As part of their learning about the Last Supper, the children shared a small piece of bread and a grape, before listening quietly and respectfully to a prayer.



The school hall was alive with the vibrant sounds of Brazil this week as Pandas performed their long-awaited Samba concert. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in the audience cheering the children on. Thank you to everyone who found their rhythm and joined in the fun during the audience participation! This performance was the culmination of 10 weeks of hard work under the expert tuition of Mr Whitmarsh from Dorset Music Service. We also owe a massive thank you to Miss Chant for her fantastic leadership in conducting the samba band with such passion. Well done, Pandas; you truly brought the carnival spirit to our school!



Best wishes
Miss Michelle Prince
Headteacher

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

Elephants: Louie and Aria
Giraffes: Flora and Dylan
Dolphins: Joshua and Rory
Pandas: Ellie and Lydia
Snow Leopards: Jack and Ava



Half Term Value - Forgiveness



When Jesus was talking to his disciples about forgiveness. He said:

If you forgive others the wrong things they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14

Jesus wanted his friends to know and remember that God will forgive anything that we have done and are ashamed about, but in return we should be ready to forgive others.

If everyone decided to forgive the mistakes of others, how would our world look different today?

Reminder

You are invited to your child's class worship in the hall where the children will lead a presentation about what they have been learning. Please see the dates for these below.

Class Worship - in the hall

Date	Class
Tuesday 24th March 9:00am	Dolphins
Tuesday 21st April 9:00am	Elephants
Tuesday 28th April 9:00am	Giraffes

Meningitis

In light of the recent news regarding a rise in Meningitis B cases, it is natural for parents to feel concerned. NHS guidance states that the overall risk to people outside the Kent area remains low. Further information can be found [here](#). If you have symptoms of meningitis, call 999 or go to A&E straight away. If someone goes to bed unwell, check on them regularly.

Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:

- a high temperature (fever)
- being sick
- a headache
- a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it (but a rash will not always develop)
- a stiff neck
- a dislike of bright lights
- drowsiness or unresponsiveness
- seizures (fits)

These symptoms can appear in any order. You do not always get all the symptoms.



When to get medical help

Call 999 for an ambulance or go to [your nearest A&E](#) immediately if you think you or someone you look after could have meningitis or sepsis. Trust your instincts and do not wait for all the symptoms to appear or until a rash develops. Someone with meningitis or sepsis can become very unwell very quickly. If you're not sure if your symptoms are serious, use [NHS 111 online](#) or call 111 to find out what to do.

Attendance



Well done Pandas!

	
Class Weekly Attendance for Week beginning 16th March 2026	
Elephants	87.7%
Giraffes	96%
Dolphins	86%
Pandas	97%
Snow Leopards	93.9%
Whole School	92.1%

Dates for your diary

What's on this week

Saturday 21st March

The Extra Mile Obstacle Course Event

Tuesday 24th March

Dolphins Class Worship 9:00am

Giraffes Library Visit

Parents Consultations 3:30-6:30pm

Thursday 26th March

Parents Consultations 3:30-6:30pm

Friday 27th March

Last day of term

Easter Service at St John's Church 1:45pm

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Easter Holiday

Monday 13th April

INSET Day - no children in school

Tuesday 14th April

Children return to school

Tuesday 21st April

Elephants Class Worship 9:00am

Snow Leopards Library Visit

Tuesday 28th April

Giraffes Class Worship 9:00am

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May

Elephants Library Visit

Monday 18th May

Elephants trip to Dumpton School

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.



ERUPTING

EASTER CAMPS

Ages 5-11

DORSET

9.30am-3pm

30th March - 31st March

Bearwood School,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH11 9UN

7th April - 10th April

Clayesmore School,
BLANDFORD, DT11 8LL

Science Week £5
off any camp day
package

£5 off
Code
PJZT551

Make and Take
activities each day

Highly
interactive

Make new friends

DBS checked
instructors

Fun

Limited
Places

Make this Easter
STEM-Tastic!

wessex.madscience.org
Info@madsciencewessex.co.uk



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Ukers UKULELE CLUB

AT ST. JOHN'S FIRST SCHOOL

SIGN UP HERE!

<https://highpinemusic.com/sessions-register/>

WEDNESDAYS after school
from 3:15pm-4pm

£30 per
month

Open to
ALL year groups

More info at
www.highpinemusic.com/ukers

Instruments
& equipment
provided

No prior
experience
necessary

Play Your
Favourite
Songs

Build Confidence
& Make Friends

Gain Stage Experience
in Termly Performances

CHOIR

AT ST. JOHN'S FIRST SCHOOL

SIGN UP HERE!

<https://highpinemusic.com/sessions-register/>

THURSDAYS after school
from 3:15pm-4pm

£30 per
month

Open to
ALL year groups

REGISTER NOW
TO SECURE
YOUR SPACE!

No prior
experience
necessary

Sing Your
Favourite
Songs

Build Confidence
& Make Friends

Gain Stage Experience
in Termly Performances

CALL OUT FOR CREATIVE WORKSHOP PRACTITIONERS



We are inviting creative practitioners, artists and facilitators to deliver free creative workshops for young people as part of UPLIFT Youth Festival in April 2026.

Workshops can take place on Weds 8, Thurs 9, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 April.

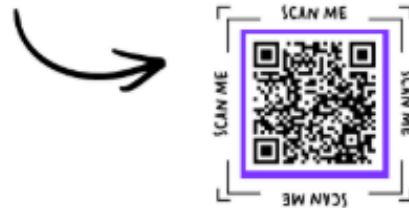
You can propose a single workshop or multiple sessions on one day or across multiple days.

We are open to a wide range of creative activities, including art and illustration, crafts and making, performance and movement, textiles & design.

Fee: £25–45 per hour depending on experience

Scan the QR code to find out more and apply

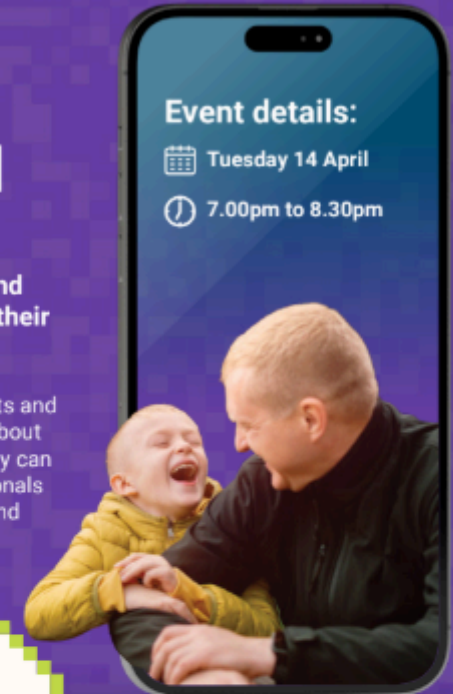
Applications close:
Monday 23 March



Parenting together in a digital world

Join us for an online information event designed to help parents and carers feel confident supporting their child in today's digital world.

This online event offers practical insights and open, non-judgemental conversations about how smartphones and digital technology can influence children's wellbeing. Professionals will share insights on supporting safe and balanced tech use, and there will be the chance to ask your own questions.



Our speakers include:

- Dr Helen Thomas**, Hampshire GP
- James Law**, Primary Headteacher
- Leanne Symmonds**, Secondary Headteacher
- David Sidwick**, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner



Sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parent-together-event



This event is delivered in partnership with:

