



Newsletter 36

3rd July 2026

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

1 John 4:7



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday, the children spent time in their new classrooms and met their new teachers. To further support your child with transition, please [click here](#) to find transition booklets for each class on our school website.

The School Council and Ambassadors had a meeting with Councillor Jeff Hart who is the chair of our Local School Committee and also the Mayor of Wimborne. The children spoke about what they like about Wimborne and what could be improved in the town for young people. The children also told Councillor Hart what they love about our school and how we make a difference in our local community.



We would like to extend a massive thank you to our local **Wickes** store for generously donating a brand new shed to the school! This fantastic addition will give us much needed storage space for the Friends of St John's to organise their supplies. We are incredibly grateful for their wonderful community support.

We welcomed David from the **RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution)** to talk to us about staying safe around the water. With the warmer weather here, they shared four life-saving steps that everyone should remember:

- **STOP AND THINK:** Always check the hazards, look for safety signs and never swim alone.
- **STAY TOGETHER:** Keep an eye on your friends and family - sticking together keeps everyone safer.
- **FLOAT:** If you fall into the water unexpectedly, don't panic or fight the water. Fight your instinct to thrash around. Lean back, extend your arms and legs and **Float to Live**.
- **CALL 999:** If you or someone else gets into trouble, call 999 immediately and ask for the Coastguard.



Pandas have been using their graphic design skills to create posters about sun safety. We were very impressed with their creativity! Here are a few examples.



Best wishes
Miss Michelle Prince
Headteacher

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

- Elephants: Arlo and Sophie
- Giraffes: Billie and Esme
- Dolphins: Ayla and Phoebe
- Pandas: Iris and Oliver
- Snow Leopards: Jack and Isaac



Half Term Value - Respect

This week, we explored the core value of respect by looking at the story of Jesus becoming angry when the Temple in Jerusalem was turned into a noisy marketplace. We had a discussion about why he was right to protect this sacred space and how holy buildings are designed to foster peace and closeness to God. The children then reflected on how we can show respect for both people and places, noting that we can find our own sense of wonder and quiet reflection anywhere, whether sitting under a tree, looking at the stars or resting in a quiet corner.



Staffing Update



We are bidding a very fond farewell to Mrs Small, who is retiring at the end of term after an amazing 18 years of service at St John's. Mrs Small has greeted generations of children, parents and visitors with a warm smile, kindness and patience. No matter how busy the office gets, Mrs Small always makes time for everyone. She goes above and beyond every single day! Thank you, Mrs Small, for everything you have done for our school, families and staff over the years. You will be incredibly missed and we wish you all the very best for the future.

We will be welcoming Mrs Gribbins to our office team from September.

Important Health Notice: Head Lice

We have recently received several reports of head lice within school. While head lice are a normal part of school life and not a sign of poor hygiene, they can spread quickly if left untreated.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to check their child's hair this evening and on a regular basis going forward.

What You Need to Do:

- Check: Use a fine-toothed detection comb on wet or dry hair to look for live lice or eggs (nits).
- Treat: If you find live lice, please treat your child immediately.
- Read: For further information, please refer to the attached leaflet.

Need Extra Help? Nurse Drop-In Support Session

We understand that dealing with head lice can be frustrating and tricky to clear up. To support our families, the School Nurse will be hosting a drop-in session on Thursday 16th July in the afternoon. If you would like further support or advice please contact the school office to book your appointment. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our school community healthy and comfortable.

IMPORTANT ACTION REQUIRED - FREE SCHOOL MEALS – NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2026 - 2027

From the start of the 2026 - 2027 academic year, the Government plans to expand access to Free School Meals to all children and young people from households receiving Universal Credit.

From 1 September 2026, all children with a parent/carer who receives any level of Universal Credit can have free school meals. **The application window opened on 1st June 2026 and all parents/carers must apply.**

Due to these changes, everyone currently eligible for Free Schools will be required to reapply to continue to be eligible for Free School Meals. The current arrangement for FSM will end on the 31st August 2026. If you think you are eligible, we strongly recommend applying online as early as possible to allow for your application to be processed in readiness for the new academic year.

You can apply online via the Initio Learning Trust Free School Meals Application: [Free School Meals Application](#).

Schools Out! (HAF) – Bookings Open Now

Bookings for the Schools Out! Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme are now open.

They offer fun activities and tasty food free of charge to children who are:

- in receipt of benefit-related or targeted free school meals
- attending school in the Dorset Council area

Register online: **Holiday activities and food (HAF) programme - Dorset Council**

To book activities visit: **School's Out! Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) - Holidays, Activities and Food**

Holiday activities within Schools Out! are also open to fee-paying families, and the majority are accessible to children of all abilities.

Attendance



Well done Pandas!



Class Weekly Attendance **for Week beginning 29 June 2026**

Elephants	88.3%
Giraffes	97.7%
Dolphins	83.5%
Pandas	98%
Snow Leopards	94.3%
Whole School	92.4%

****New Dates****

Dates for your diary

What's on this week

Tuesday 7th July

Giraffes trip to Travellers Rest Farm

Wednesday 8th July

Rocksteady Concert 10:00am

Thursday 9th July

School Ambassadors, School Council and Worship Team - Visit to Harleston House 2:00pm

Friday 10th July

****Year 4 Leavers' Service at Wimborne Minster****

(For children only)

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 1:45pm
(Everyone is welcome)

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.



Junior Mayor & Junior Town Crier COMPETITION



SATURDAY
4TH
JULY



2:00^{PM}



WIMBORNE
MODEL
TOWN

Do you have a loud
voice, great ideas, or a
flair for public
speaking?



Why not take part in
this year's Junior
Mayor and Junior
Town Crier
Competition!



JUNIOR TOWN CRIER

Ages 6 – 14 years



Participants
will deliver a
pre-written
town cry.

JUNIOR MAYOR

Ages 9 – 18 years



Participants will present
their own speech, up to one
minute in length, on the
subject:

*"My ideas to make
Wimborne a better place"*



This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to build confidence,
develop speaking skills, and take part in a fun community event.
Family, friends, and supporters are warmly welcome to attend.



For further information or to enter, please contact: Gary mason 01202 881655 or community@wimborne.gov.uk
Closing date for entries: Friday 26 June 2026

