



## Newsletter 37

10th July 2026

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

1 John 4:7



### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Saturday 4th July, Wimborne Minster Town Council, in partnership with the Wimborne Model Town and Gardens, hosted the very first Junior Town Mayor and Junior Town Crier competitions.

We are thrilled to announce that both of the top spots were won by our very own talented St John's pupils!

- Junior Town Mayor: Congratulations to Hannah!
- Junior Town Crier: Congratulations to Philip!

This is a truly fantastic achievement. Both Hannah and Philip blew the judges away with their performances and they are going to do a wonderful job representing Wimborne Minster in the year ahead.



Giraffes had an amazing trip to Travellers Rest Farm on Tuesday. They learnt about where food comes from and how it ends up on our plate. They enjoyed a variety of activities that included a tractor ride around the farm to see the cows and calves, walking through the woodland and field. After their much deserved lunch, they then had a series of activities including preparing and cooking soup using the rape seed oil from the farm, baking bread using the flour they had ground and sorting food from the farm and around the world. Whilst the bread was baking they fed the sheep and had a chance to pet Sandy the lamb. It was such a lovely day out and we would like to thank our volunteers and members of staff that enjoyed this once in a lifetime trip.



Our talented young musicians absolutely rocked the school this week during our Rocksteady concert! Band members from across the school took to the stage to perform the tracks they have been working hard to master. From vocalists and keyboard players to guitarists and drummers, everyone showed incredible confidence and teamwork. It was fantastic to see them supporting one another and performing with so much energy. A huge thank you to our Rocksteady band leader and to all the parents and carers who came along to cheer them on and rock out with us!



Our School Council, Worship Team and School Ambassadors visited Harleston House for a special, informal service based on the story of the Good Samaritan. This perfectly reflected our school vision, *"Let us love one another, for love comes from God,"* as we thought about showing love to all and helping others. The service was also a wonderful opportunity to help Abbeyfield Wessex celebrate their incredible 70th anniversary. Our pupil voice leaders represented the school with such kindness, compassion and community spirit. Thank you to everyone at Harleston House for making us feel so welcome!



To mark a fantastic milestone—Guardall Security's 25th anniversary on West Borough—they invited local schools to enter a Safety Poster Competition. We had four runners-up from St John's: Annie, Lydia, Iris and Alexander. They each won a book voucher for their excellent designs. The overall winner was Florence from Wimborne First School (who happens to be Mrs Fowler's daughter!). In addition to the children's prizes, Guardall Security is making a donation to the school! A huge thank you to Guardall Security for protecting our community for 25 years and for supporting our local schools!

Best wishes  
Miss Michelle Prince  
Headteacher

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

Elephants: Delilah and Luke  
Giraffes: Ameer and Reuben  
Dolphins: Ilvia W and Evie  
Pandas: Riley and Freya  
Snow Leopards: Ronnie and Andrew



### Half Term Value - Respect

This half-term, our worship focus is Respect. We are exploring what it means to show respect to ourselves, to others and to our environment. As part of this focus, we believe that truly respecting our children means listening to their voices and valuing their opinions. That is why we have been using our worship time to complete the school Rewards Survey. By asking children for their feedback, we are ensuring they have a direct say in how their hard work and positive behaviour are recognised and celebrated.



### End-of-Year Reports

On Friday 10th July, we will be issuing end-of-year reports for all year groups electronically via Arbor. This is a formal opportunity for us to share your child's attendance and attainment, as well as celebrate their efforts and progress this year. Parents/carers will receive an email with their child's report attached. If you would like to discuss your child's report in more detail, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher. Thank you for your continued support, engagement and partnership throughout this year.

### Staffing Update



At the end of this term, we will be saying a big thank you and goodbye to two of our lunchtime supervisors, Mrs Lilly and Miss Webber. We thank them both for their kindness and support. They have been a fantastic help to the children and we will miss them both.  
We will be welcoming Ms Cooper to the lunchtime supervisor team from September.



### Rewards Survey for Parents and Carers

We would love to hear your feedback on our school rewards system to ensure it continues to motivate and celebrate the children effectively. Your insights help us shape a positive, encouraging environment where every child can thrive. Please take a couple of minutes to share your thoughts with us in this brief survey.

[Link to survey.](#)

### Have your Say: The Big Future Survey!

The Children's Commissioner for England, Rachel de Souza, has launched a national survey called The Big Future to find out exactly what it is like to be a child or young person in England today. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to share their voices, thoughts, and experiences. The Commissioner will be taking these views directly to the Government to help make life better for children across the country. The survey is completely anonymous, quick to complete and can be filled out by children independently or with help from an adult.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey with your child by clicking the link here: [Take The Big Future Survey.](#)

### Nurse Drop-In Session

The School Nurse will be hosting a drop-in session on Thursday 16th July in the afternoon. If you would like any support or advice from the School Nurse please contact the school office to book your appointment.

## Free Cricket

Dorset Cricket are inviting children to an exciting celebration of women's cricket this summer as they take on Hampshire in their Women's Showcase Game on **Friday 31st July 2026**.

Ahead of the match, they're hosting a **FREE Girls' Skills Activation Morning** for girls aged **8–15 years**, giving them the chance to step onto the outfield, develop their cricket skills and be coached by professional players and some of the local heroes of women's cricket.

To make the day even better, **all Under-18s can attend the Showcase Game for FREE**, making it the perfect opportunity for families to stay and watch some of the region's best players in action.

## Event Details



**Date:** Friday 31st July 2026



**Venue:** Canford Magna Sports and Social Club



**Ground opens:** 11:30am



**Skills Activation registration:** 11:45am



**Skills Activation:** 12:00pm – 1:00pm



**Open to:** Girls aged 8–15 years

The Skills Activation Morning will feature fun cricket games, skills and activities in a welcoming environment for players of all abilities. Alongside the session, there will also be a variety of stands and activities celebrating everything Dorset Cricket. Whether they're already playing cricket or trying it for the first time, this is a fantastic opportunity for girls to be inspired, meet role models and experience the excitement of representative women's cricket.

To register for the FREE Girls' Skills Activation Morning, please complete the registration form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/HRaZm89q5Q>

## **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/carers 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 Giraffes!



#### **Class Weekly Attendance** **for Week beginning 6th July 2026**

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Elephants     | 86.9% |
| Giraffes      | 97%   |
| Dolphins      | 87.6% |
| Pandas        | 95%   |
| Snow Leopards | 95.7% |
| Whole School  | 92.5% |

### **\*\*New Dates\*\***

**Dates for your diary**

**What's on this week**

**Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th July**

Year 4 Leeson House Residential Trip

Thursday 16th July

**\*\*Nurse Drop ins (afternoon)\*\***

**Tuesday 21st July**

**\*\*Diamond Worship 9:00am (By Invitation)\*\***

**Wednesday 22nd July**

Last Day of Term

Year 4 Leavers' Service in St John's Church 1:45pm  
(Everyone is welcome)

**Tuesday 1st September**

**INSET Day - No children in school**

**Wednesday 2nd September**

**INSET Day - No children in school**

**Thursday 3rd September**

**Children in years 1 -4 return to school**

**Tuesday 8th September**

**Reception children start school**

**Wednesday 23rd September**

**Flu Vaccinations**