



Newsletter 38

17th 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 Friday 10th July, our Snow Leopards gathered with children from other local schools at Wimborne Minster for a special Year 4 Leavers' Celebration. The theme for this year's service was "On the Rock," focusing on the strong foundations the children have built during their time with us and how these will support them as they take their next steps.

Before the service, the class worked hard to decorate paper bricks, writing down the key things and people that have helped them learn and grow at school. We stuck these together to create a fantastic class display. It was a joyful, memorable afternoon and a perfect way to celebrate our Year 4s. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school!

Dolphins had a fun afternoon travelling back in time on Wednesday to enjoy a traditional Victorian 'Punch and Judy' show. They laughed so hard at all the jokes and enjoyed the silly moments of being squirted with water, the crocodile eating everyone up and some very questionable parenting choices shown by Punch.



I accompanied the Snow Leopards on their highly anticipated residential trip to Leeson House this week, and what a brilliant time we had! The children loved exploring the beautiful grounds and put their map reading and teamwork skills to the test during a fast-paced orienteering challenge. They got hands-on with nature during a pond dipping session, identifying all sorts of fascinating creatures. The children showed immense courage and determination on the walk to Dancing Ledge, pushing through the tired legs and supporting each other until we were rewarded with the spectacular coastal views. Here are some quotes from the children:

"I really liked the smuggler's game and the walk." Thomas

"It was a once in a lifetime experience, it was unforgettable!" Matilda

"The food was really good, especially the breakfast and the dessert." Isaac

"We got to explore so much, Leeson House and nature." Maria

"We didn't get much sleep, but it was so much fun!" Hannah



We had a special visit from the library this week to launch the Summer Reading Challenge! They got us all excited to dive into some amazing books over the school holidays. You can sign up for free at your local library to track your reading and earn brilliant rewards. Let's see how many books we can read this summer!

We warmly invite you to join us for our Year 4 Leavers' Service at St John's Church on Wednesday 22nd July, at 1:45 pm. We would love for you to be there as we come together to celebrate our children's wonderful journey through our school.

Best wishes
Miss Michelle Prince
Headteacher

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

Elephants: Mollie and Sophie
Giraffes: Bradley and Reuben
Dolphins: Freddie LW and Amelia
Pandas: Alice and Harry
Snow Leopards: Poppy and Matilda



Half Term Value - Respect

In worship this week, we explored the theme of **respect** and how to value each other's opinions, even when we don't agree. We looked at St Peter's advice to "Show proper respect to everyone," (1 Peter 2:17) and talked about how some questions don't have a single "right" or "wrong" answer. The children also played a "thumbs up, thumbs down" game to practise choosing respectful words. It was a wonderful reminder of how listening and speaking kindly helps us build a supportive school community.



Please bring a bag for books!

Starting Monday, we will begin sending home the children's completed exercise books. As there are a significant number, please ensure your child brings a suitable bag each day next week. We will distribute these throughout the week to ensure the load is manageable.

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.](#)

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](#).

Attendance



Well done Giraffes!



Class Weekly Attendance **for Week beginning 13th July 2026**

Elephants	83.8%
Giraffes	96.7%
Dolphins	90.3%
Pandas	96.3%
Snow Leopards	96.4%
Whole School	92.6%

****New Dates****

Dates for your diary

[What's on this week](#)

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)

2026/27

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