

— Summer 1 2025 —

# Newsletter

*A newsletter contributed to by the staff and children of  
Witchampton and Pamphill First Schools*



*Lunch time fun.*

## **INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:**

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School Improvement Plan:  
Outdoor area development

Fiver Challenge - read  
more about it!

Wraparound care- what  
next?

Highlights and  
achievements

Stay safe around school

## **Message from Mrs Staddon**

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another bustling half term, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful experiences and achievements that have enriched our school community. The energy and enthusiasm of our children continue to inspire us all, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights with you. Our recent trip to Crichel Estate was a true delight. The children's eyes sparkled with curiosity as they explored the grounds, soaking in the beauty of nature and learning about the local environment. It's moments like these that remind us of the importance of outdoor learning and the lasting impact it can have on our children's understanding of the world around them.

Speaking of exploration, our visit to Kingston Lacy was nothing short of magical. Linked to our fascinating topic work on Egyptians, this excursion brought history to life for our eager learners. The children were captivated by the ancient artefacts and the stories they told, fostering a deeper appreciation for cultures and civilisations of the past.

# Message from Mrs Staddon

Our Year 4 children recently participated in a Sports Festival at St Michael's School, showcasing their athletic prowess and team spirit. It was heartwarming to see them cheering each other on, embodying the values of sportsmanship and camaraderie that we hold dear.

In a touching tribute to our nation's history, we commemorated VE Day with a series of special celebrations. The children's engagement with this significant event was truly moving, as they gained insights into the sacrifices made by previous generations and the importance of peace.

Across our school community, we've been placing a special focus on relationships and the art of noticing. It's been wonderful to observe how this emphasis has strengthened bonds between children and staff alike, creating a more nurturing and attentive environment for all.

Now, I have some exciting news to share! It gives me great pleasure to announce that Miss Lois Gale has been offered a permanent position. Her dedication and passion for teaching have made a significant impact, and we're thrilled that having trained with us she has been offered a job already. Well Done Lois. Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Dimmick. We hope to have her back to say goodbye to the children and staff, before the end of term.

As we look forward to the half-term break, I hope you and your children will have the opportunity to enjoy the sunny weather that's been gracing us lately. It's the perfect time to explore the outdoors and create lasting memories together.

Speaking of outdoor activities, our Fresh Air Club has been a resounding success. It's been wonderful to see children embracing the great outdoors, engaging in physical activities, and developing a love for nature. The benefits of fresh air and exercise on their wellbeing and learning are truly remarkable.

The sweet melodies of ukuleles have been filling our classrooms recently, as our budding musicians continue to develop their skills. It's a joy to see their confidence grow with each strum, and we're excited to see how their musical journey unfolds.

I'm also delighted to share that our new Buddy Bench at Pamphill has been a fantastic addition to our playground. It's heartwarming to see children using it to foster friendships and support one another, embodying the caring spirit of our school community.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the horizon. Our Leeson House trip is coming up after the half-term break, promising an adventure-filled experience for our children. We're also eagerly anticipating our visit to Launceston Farm, which I'm sure will be another memorable outing.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we're planning transition meetings to ensure a smooth progression for all our children. More details will be shared soon, but please rest assured that we're committed to making these transitions as seamless as possible.

Lastly, I'm thrilled to announce that we have exciting plans in the works for outdoor development and enhancing the quality of playtimes. We believe in the power of play and outdoor learning, and these improvements will further enrich our children's school experience.

As always, I'm immensely proud of our children and the entire school and wider community. Your continued support and engagement make our schools a truly special place. Here's to a restful half-term break and the promise of more adventures to come! Warmly, Mrs Staddon

# School Improvement Plan 2024-5

Mrs Staddon

## Outdoor play development

Project 1 (Witchampton only)

Project 2 (Witchampton and Pamphill)

### Project 1

To increase access to members of the public to the play areas and using funding to develop these further. Please share the survey link widely in the community.

<https://forms.gle/LnEJu8MDXUnQV1M8>

### Project 2

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

One reason schools are carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

- Average screen time per day is six hours.
- Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.



Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom

Many of you will have heard me talk previously about OPAL, which we have successfully adopted at Hayeswood and Colehill.

At Pamphill and Witchampton we have been busy creating our own version of this **EPIC (Explore, Play, Imagine and Create)**

Initially, we need storage. We know without properly stored, child accessible materials this project will not be successful. We have found a shed which is perfect for our space, wood quality and reasonably priced. If anyone knows of anyone who might want to sponsor a shed, please let us know!

This will be a two year project but we are kick starting it with den building. After half term we will, therefore, be collecting equipment donations, so please start looking out for the following:

- Tarpaulin
- Ropes
- Bungee cords
- Bed sheets/Blankets
- Pegs

# School Improvement Plan 2024-5

Mrs Staddon

## Key Priorities for next term

1. Witchampton shed and storage containers
  2. Pamphill - clearing area to the side of the hall, to open up the whole area front, side and back at playtimes for the children.
  3. Sprucing up paintwork, gardening at both
- Help with any or all of these would be greatly appreciated.



## **‘When the Adults change, Everything changes’ Paul Dix**

### A brief summary...

- **Consistency:** A unified and consistent approach from all adults in the environment is crucial for creating a safe and predictable space for children. This consistency should extend to expectations, responses to behavior, and the application of routines.
- **Relationships and Care:** Children respond best to adults who genuinely care about them and demonstrate this care visibly. Building positive relationships based on trust and empathy is fundamental to fostering positive behavior.
- **First Attention for Best Conduct:** Adults should consciously focus on acknowledging and reinforcing positive behaviors to encourage their repetition. What adults pay attention to is what they are likely to see more of.
- **Relentless Routines:** Establishing and consistently maintaining clear routines provides structure and security for children, minimizing opportunities for misbehavior.
- **Scripting Difficult Interventions:** Preparing and using consistent, emotionally neutral language for addressing challenging behaviours can help adults remain calm and manage situations more effectively.
- **Restorative Practices:** Instead of solely focusing on punishment, the book emphasizes repairing harm and rebuilding relationships after incidents of misbehaviour.
- **Visible Kindness and "Deliberate Botheredness":** Adults should actively demonstrate kindness and show that they notice and care about the children, fostering a sense of belonging and value.
- **Moving Beyond Outdated Punishments:** The book critiques traditional sanctions like detentions, whole-class punishments, and public shaming, arguing that they are often ineffective and can be damaging to relationships and a child's sense of self.
- **Understanding the Root Causes:** Poor behaviour is often a symptom of underlying issues. Adults need to look beyond the behavior itself to understand and address the unmet needs of the child.

We have worked hard on each aspect mentioned above and we are pleased to now be seeing increasingly positive impacts of this relentless consistency.

# Highlights and Achievements

On Thursday 8th May at Pamphill we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of victory in Europe at the end of the second world war. We started with a short assembly and talked to the children about VE Day, what it means, and why it is important. The children were then mixed up into three groups across the classes and preschool, giving them the opportunity to work together with different children and it was a joy to see the older children helping the younger ones with the trickier activities. The children then visited 3 activities: making a rosette, making a thank you card which included thinking about who they would want to thank and why and decorating red, white and blue cupcakes. At the end we all met up to eat our delicious cakes and listen to some reflective music.



Austin at Witchampton, is up to his tricks again! You may remember last newsletter saw him running for comic relief. This time he has collected food for Wimborne Food Bank following a burglary which meant their stocks were low. He has also agreed to volunteer there during the holidays. What a superstar, showing us all the way to better living for all!

Witchampton CE First School celebrated VE Day together on Thursday 8th May with our staff, families and community and what a magnificent VE Day celebration we had! We listened to the nostalgic tunes of the 1940s as we stepped back in time for a truly special afternoon.

Our talented Year 4 poets shared their heartfelt words, two of our Year 4's Joseph and Oscar were named winners of the VE Day Poetry competition hosted by Wimborne Town Council and were honoured to read their poems on the Minster Green after school. Everyone enjoyed delicious treats, baked by our families and community. It was absolutely wonderful to welcome our Little Owls and community members who joined in the festivities. Thank you to everyone who attended and celebrated with us!



# Highlights and Achievements

## Exciting Bird Ringing Experience in Owls Class

On Friday morning, the Owls had an incredible opportunity to see nature closehand. We were fortunate enough to witness the baby Blue Tit chicks from the nest site in our school grounds being ringed.

The bird ringing scheme is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), and is aimed at monitoring bird populations and their health across the British Isles, and we felt privileged to be part of it.

Mrs Lloyd, who is passionate about ornithology and dedicates her time outside of teaching to monitoring local bird populations, brought along her bird ringing friend, John to help with the hatching to coincide with the emergence of green caterpillars—their primary food source—ensuring their young ones are well-fed and ready for life outside the nest.

This wonderful event not only allowed us to witness the joy of nature up close but also ignited our passion for learning more about the world of birds

A big thank you to Mrs Lloyd and John for this unforgettable experience and to Mrs Legge for taking photos and to Mrs Sweetmore for doing the important job of writing down the data to that will be sent to the BTO.








# Picture News

An overview of our conversations in assemblies this half term. These pictures formed the discussion for our assembly time once a week. The children are always incredibly keen to discuss and share, reflecting and challenging our own thoughts and ending with a prayer.

## Coverage Summer 1 2025



Week	News Story	Focus Question	British Value Link	Protected Characteristics	Bible Link Christian Value Catholic Social Teaching	UN Article
21st April	Singer, Ed Sheeran, has written a letter to UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, asking for more money to support music education in schools.	Should music be part of every school day?	Democracy	Disability	Psalm 150:1-6 Justice Option for Poor and Vulnerable 1 Corinthians	
28th April	Workers in Birmingham have been on strike (choosing not to work) since January because they don't think the way they are being treated, or their pay, is fair.	Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?	Mutual Respect	Sex	12:21-27 People of God Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers Luke 13:18-19	
5th May	The government has recently announced that a new theme park will be built in the UK, which is due to open in 2031.	What makes somewhere special to visit?	Individual Liberty	Disability	Kingdom of God Solidarity	
12th May	Three teenagers from Indore, India – Dhruv Chaudhary, Mithran Ladhania, and Mridul Jain have created a salt-powered fridge.	What everyday items could be changed to help others?	Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Age	Matthew 5:14-16 Gospel Common Good	
19th May	A vehicle once used by Pope Francis to wave and greet people—called a popemobile—is being turned into a mobile health clinic for children in Gaza.	Can donating something important be a powerful way to show you care?	Individual Liberty	Religion or Belief	2 Corinthians 9:7-9 God Option for Poor and Vulnerable	

## Key messages

### **Breakfast and Afterschool clubs at Witchampton**

As we approach the summer term, I wanted to share some important updates regarding our Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club offerings.

Firstly, I'm pleased to inform you that our Breakfast Club will continue to run throughout the summer term. This valuable service provides a safe and nurturing environment for your children before the start of the school day.

Regarding our Afterschool Club, we are excited to announce some new and engaging activities for the summer term. We have partnered with Shelley 360 Coaching to provide daily coaching sessions, covering a range of sports and activities. Additionally, we will be offering a weekly Science club on Mondays and a Football club on Wednesdays.

I cannot emphasise enough that we need to move from focusing on afterschool clubs as childcare and looking at these as enrichment if we want something sustainable. Therefore, whether or not you need childcare, I would encourage you to avail of skilled coaches.

I want to acknowledge that we have faced some challenges in staffing these clubs, as we have not received any applications from any of our recent advertisements.

Our existing dedicated staff have been going above and beyond to ensure the continuity of these services, and I am grateful for their commitment.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

### **Road safety**

Please refrain from parking on the zig-zag lines at Witchampton. This area is designated for the safety of our children, and parking there poses a significant risk to their wellbeing.

Additionally, I encourage you to utilise the car park at Pamphill when dropping off or collecting your child. Parking along the roadside can obstruct the flow of traffic and create hazardous situations.

Your cooperation in these matters is crucial for maintaining a safe and secure environment for our school community. Together, we can ensure the well-being of our children and promote responsible driving practises.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Behaviour Book Club** for parents and carers takes place every month. You can share the joining link of the next one with your families: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8122122222>  
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### **Fiver challenge**



Year 3 and Year 4 children at Witchampton are taking part in our very own 'Fiver challenge' Each child gets £5 They need to use this to fund a product or service which they 'sell' to parents and community. To do this successfully, they will need to think about the intended market, cost of materials, timescale, presentation of materials and their sales technique. Ideally, they will make a profit which will be donated to a charity of their choice and return the £5! Please come along and support them on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June between 3-4pm