

April 2026, Spring Term 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

And here we are at the end of another “eggcellent” term and what a term it has been! The children have continued to work hard and there have been so many wonderful events and celebrations!

Thank you!

To start with, I would like to thank you all for your support and positivity towards our schools. Our reception numbers, for September 2026, are set to be ten which is the largest entry cohort for several years. In addition to this, we have welcomed six new children this academic year across the school, many of whom have had our school recommended to them by existing parents and children. Thank you for this and for welcoming our new families so warmly; it's wonderful to see our schools thriving in this way.

Throughout the term there have been some wonderful events....



Inter-house events

Pancake races

The children all enjoyed the opportunity to compete in their teams, ably led by their team captains. The children had to flip their pancake whilst running across the playground and back, carefully handing the pan and pancake to the next team member. There was lots of noise, a lot of dropping of pancakes but most importantly oodles of fun! The older children supported and encouraged the younger members of their team well and all children participated fully.

Science afternoon

The children were given the opportunity to work in their teams, taking on four different challenges organised by Mr Cornish. Once again, the team captains supported their younger members very well, there was lots of team spirit and encouragement throughout the afternoon. The teachers were very impressed by all the children and the teamwork shown.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Higgs ran a guttering challenge, requiring the use of different lengths of guttering to transport a tennis ball from one side of the playground to the other. The focus here was on collaboration and communication. Mrs Greedy led an aerodynamic session where the children had to design and test a range of paper aeroplanes. Mr Cornish led “The Battle of the Beaks” looking at adaptations and Mrs McNamara was tasked with creating catapults with the children using lolly sticks and elastic bands. A great afternoon was had by all.

Charity Fundraising

Our Comic Relief Day, boosted by "Otheyy has Talent" (a catchier name than Otheyy and Middlezoy has talent) saw us raise £130 for charity. Over 75% of the children took an active part in the show, with an array of talents on display from football skills, basketball tricks, hula hooping, dancing, gymnastics, singing, guitar playing and not forgetting the crafting skills of Olivia! The staff and I were blown away by the enthusiasm and confidence of the children. Thank you to all who attended the event and for your support and encouragement of the children. We are already looking forward to next year's show!

World Book Day

In true Otheyy and Middlezoy style, the staff donned their best dressing up outfits alongside the children. The staff theme this year was 101 Dalmatians, with Mr Cornish taking on the role of Cruella Deville! Lots of fun was had throughout the day, with story writing, reading and the sharing of books. Dragons class participated in a live reading and football quiz with a huge number of other schools from around the country.



Mother's Day Celebration

The annual afternoon tea and celebration of Mother's Day did not disappoint this year. Another very well attended event where the children shared portraits, poems, songs and reasons as to why THEIR mum is simply the best! We hope you like the entry in the Gazette too- we did laugh at some of the reasons they loved their mums! Out of the mouths of babes as they say!

Thank you for supporting the afternoon and a huge thank you to Mrs Silver and the Unicorns Class team for working so hard to put on a lovely, celebratory event.



Bikeability

The year sixes took part in the Bikeability Road Safety Scheme just last week, a welcome break from all the hard work they have been doing in class! Thank you to Mrs Higgs and Mrs Nevard who supported the children and ensured that Middlezoy and Othery road users were not too traumatised! Well done to all who took part, they all achieved their level 2 accreditation and positive feedback was received about their behaviour and courtesy!

Darrell Wakelam

The children (and staff) simply love a Darrell day! This time, key stage two focussed on the local area with Phoenix Class creating a Burrow Mump themed piece and Dragons creating St Michael's Church. Unicorns made a unicorn shield for their classroom. The pieces will take pride of place in their respective classes.

We have already booked Darrell for October, when he will be offering some family learning sessions. More details to follow next term.

Easter service

Phoenix Class had the opportunity to lead the Easter Service, which they have done superbly under the guidance of Mr Cornish and Mrs McNamara. It is always wonderful to see the children volunteer to read in Church, in front of a large audience, and they really do relish the chance to do so. We even had to adapt parts to allow for more readers this year!

A special mention to Unicorns and their "eggceptional" Easter bonnet parade.

Zumba

A huge thank you to Mrs Nevard who has run the Dance lessons this term with a focus on all things Zumba. The music has blasted out across the playground (when the sun has shone) and from the hall on the greyer days but from wherever it plays, it is certainly infectious! The children have had an absolute blast learning routines and developing their fitness. The smiles, laughter and sheer enjoyment has brought absolute joy to Wednesdays! Mrs Higgs has been in her element during the afternoon sessions with Phoenix and Dragons classes. I'm not sure how we will make athletics match it next term, but we'll give it a go!

Parents' Meetings

Thank you to all who attended the recent parents' meetings. If you did not manage to attend, but would like an update on your child's progress, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment to speak with your child's teacher.

PTA

The PTA continue to work hard to help raise money to support as many of our requests as they possibly can. This term, they ran the smartie tube challenge raising a total of £ 135.45, thank you to all who took part with this fundraiser. They are currently busy organising a family Easter Bingo on April 9th, please support this if you can.

They have supported with coach costs for class trips, purchased leavers' hoodies for year 6 and contributed towards the costs of the residential including the coach travel.

Each year, the PTA gift the children an Easter Egg which is always a well-received treat.

Thank you to the committee for their on-going support and tolerance of our demands and requests.



One Site

In terms of remaining on one site, the plan is to continue with this. The children really do benefit from being together, as proven with our shared assemblies each week, singing practices, whole school celebrations and our in- house events such as science afternoon and pancake races. More about those later!

Minibus

Following a recent review, the Local Governing Board had initially taken the difficult decision to stop the minibus service at the end of the summer term, due to increasing costs for maintenance, fuel and staffing.

However, after further consideration of local need, we are pleased to confirm that the bus will continue to run between the two schools for the next academic year.

We would like to be open in sharing that the school does not receive any additional funding for this service. All costs are met from the main school budget, which does have an impact on the resources we are able to provide elsewhere.

We also recognise that many parents were supportive of the original decision, and we appreciate the understanding shown as we continue to balance the needs of all families.

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to speak with us and share their views. Your support and understanding are very much appreciated

Changes to the Residential Trip

This year's residential to Kilve will be the last residential for the combined year 5 and 6 cohorts. In future years, only the year 6 cohort will go on the residential trip each year. In Summer 2027, the trip will be for year 6 only (current year 5). The current year 4 cohort, will attend their own residential during the Autumn term 2027, with a focus on team building ahead of a busy year. This decision has been made to allow the children to still attend one residential trip whilst helping to reduce the costs to the parents, carers and school. As before, Miss Braithwaite will give you plenty of notice of the cost and a payment plan will be offered to cover the whole amount.

Westmoor Reservoir Community Collaboration

A message from Kier...

Kier, along with its client the Environment Agency are pleased to be working with Othery Primary School as part of the EA's Southlake project, delivering a range of educational and community initiatives.

Younger pupils (Reception–Year 2) will be invited to design a logo for our project lorries, with the winning entry displayed on site and vehicles. Alongside these activities, we will provide a monthly "Southlake Update" to keep parents informed about upcoming works, traffic management, safety measures, and project progress.

Whereas pupils in Years 3–6 will take part in an interactive STEM workshop exploring how reservoir construction links to real-world maths, including material transport, load calculations, and environmental considerations.

It is important to note that Kier recognises that parent and guardians may have concerns around increased construction traffic near the school. There will be strict mitigation measures in place once the hauling of stockpile materials begins. These include.

- Driver briefings on speed limits,
- School drop-off and pick-up awareness,
- No-idling policy,
- Clear signage near school routes.

Where possible, haulage will be coordinated to avoid peak school times, and any concerns raised will be investigated immediately. Our approach is preventative, transparent, and responsive, ensuring the safety of pupils, parents, and the wider community while maintaining a positive connection with the project.

To receive updates about the project please email: kelly.j.cowling@kier.co.uk

And the usual reminders....

Uniform

Once again, a request to ensure that all uniform is clearly named so we can reunite it to the rightful owner. Please remember that there is no requirement for the children

to wear the jumpers with our logo on. As lovely as these jumpers and cardigans are, the children do grow constantly, I really do appreciate how costly this can become. We do have some spare uniform, in very good condition, so please ask at the gate or in the office if there is anything you need for your child/children.



Please ensure your child/children have a waterproof coat in school each day and as the weather improves (hopefully) sunhats, pre-applied sunscreen and refillable water bottles would be very much appreciated.

On PE days, children may wear blue or black tracksuit bottoms and should bring their school jumper with them. There should not be any alternative colour tracksuit bottoms, jumpers or sweatshirts worn for PE days. Although we are seeing less, there are still a few examples coming through the gates. Earrings and jewellery should not be worn to school on Wednesday (PE days) or Thursday for Phoenix class who go swimming. We really do appreciate your support with this.

Attendance

Our combined attendance figure for both schools currently stands at 95.7 %. Children whose attendance is below 90% are deemed as "persistently absent." Whilst we understand that much of the attendance is due to illness, some is due to lateness and holidays! We do ask that holidays are not taken in term time as this can greatly impact the progress of the children.

We have sent out attendance letters as we are required to inform parents of their child's attendance level, even when due to authorised sickness. Please be assured that sickness is recorded as such; unauthorised absence is given when no reason is given for an absence or when leave for days off or holidays does not meet the criteria to be granted an exception. We will be meeting with our Attendance Officer for Somerset County Council next term to discuss our attendance. For your reference, our attendance policy can be found on our website.



Please enjoy the class best bits below! Thank you for your continuing support, we hope you all have a restful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 20th April.

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery Team

A few events occurring during the holidays that may be of interest....

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST

7 - 10 April
13 - 17 April

HUISH PARK 9:30 - 15:00

EASTER HOLIDAY CHILDRENS CRICKET COACHING

FROME YMCA
9th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4
Softball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7

PERROT HILL SCHOOL, CREWKERNE
7th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4
Softball & Hardball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7
8th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6
Hardball Cricket School Yrs 7, 8, 9

WESTON COLLEGE
14th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4
Softball & Hardball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7
15th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6
Hardball Cricket School Yrs 7, 8, 9

WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
14th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 2, 3, 4
Softball & Hardball Cricket School Yrs 5, 6, 7
15th April
Softball Cricket School Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6
Hardball Cricket School Yrs 7, 8, 9

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, SCCC TAUNTON
10th April
All Round Cricketer School Yrs 2, 3, 4
All Round Cricketer School Yrs 5, 6
Blast Batting School Yrs 7, 8, 9
16th April
Specialist Bowling - PACE, School Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10
All Stars Mini Cricket, School Yrs R, 1, 2

Lifestyle Fitness.

Activity Camps

Multi-sports and activities for 5-12 year olds.

Book today

Multi-Sports fun including: Football, basketball, cricket, rounders, daily swimming and bounce activities.

Lifestyle Fitness® in partnership with Huish Episcopal.

Lifestyle Fitness® Langport
Wincanton Road, Langport, TA10 9SS

Swim England

Wild Academy Minibeasts

Tues 7th April 2026, 10am-12:30pm

Book online: events.secretworld.org

Last chance to book!

Secret World Wildlife Rescue

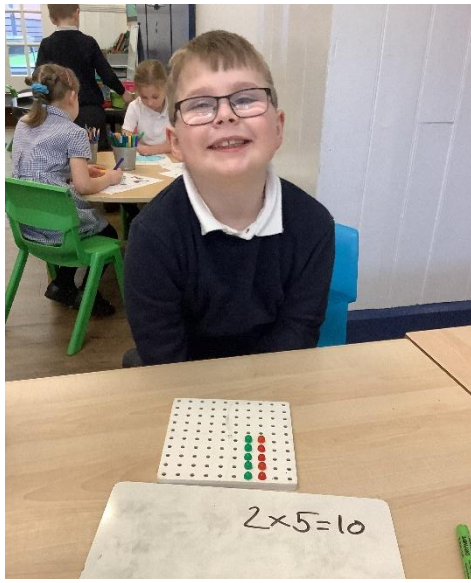
Unicorns Class

What a busy spring term Unicorn Class have had! The children continue to astound us with their hard work and achievements - they should all be very proud of themselves. Our reception children are now confident readers and writers, our Year 1's are demonstrating their increasing independence, whilst our Year 2's are becoming self-driven, motivated and resilient individuals, showing that they are almost ready for the challenges that KS2 will provide. Apart from reading, writing and number there has been an abundance of memorable activities taking place, ensuring that learning is both informative and fun. These experiences include activities around British Science Week, World Book Day, Mother's Day, hatching chicks, Chinese New Year and our Easter Assembly at Othry Church.

We wish you all a super Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term!

Mrs Silver, Mrs Greedy, Mrs Hale, Miss Lester and Miss Harris





Phoenix Class

Phoenix Class have had an excellent term and have certainly packed a lot of learning in! We worked hard and all showed improvement across the curriculum. They particularly enjoyed working on their DT project of mechanical cars. In English we really enjoyed reading 'There's a Pharaoh in our Bath' and wrote our own chapter of the story. We also produced lots of lovely work based on the book 'Lights on Cotton Rock' from poetry to a newspaper report and they can all be proud of their end results.

In Maths we have focussed on Length, Perimeter, Area, Fractions and Decimals and it's great to see a lot of children's confidence growing in these areas. Please can everyone keep practising their times tables over the holidays – especially Year 4!

In Science, we looked in depth into animals and their habitats, writing a minibeast information book as a class and exploring environmental impacts. We also thoroughly enjoyed a carousel of activities for our Science Afternoon. In History we studied Ancient Egypt – from their beliefs to theories on how they built the pyramids. In Geography, we looked at the Water Cycle and Rivers, learning about the features and the impact of floods and droughts.

In French we learnt about animals and their habitats and virtually toured around some Parisian Squares. In Computing we have been editing photos in a variety of ways some to very comical effect. In Art we looked different viewpoints and created some very creative 'dream' sequences.

In RE, Mrs Brown has continued their learning of Judaism, from the story of Moses parting the Red Sea to Passover celebrations. In PSHE, they have been learning about keeping safe and rights and respect through a variety of role-play activities.

Wishing you all a fabulous Easter break and see you in the Summer Term!

Mr Cornish, Mrs Brown and Mrs Hall



Dragons

Dragons Class have had another wonderful term and have all been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum. On Fridays, the children have the opportunity to work with Mrs Brown who teaches their art and DT. This term, their DT project was to create a three-course meal then to design and create a recipe book. It is fair to say that Mrs Brown was a little apprehensive about this task but I am delighted to report that the children have, once again, shown there is no end to their talents. A delicious meal was prepared and eaten by them all, comprising of quinoa stuffed peppers, tuna pasta bake and pineapple Eton mess. I was luckily enough to try the first two courses of their culinary delights (and lived to tell the tale). Unfortunately, there was no pudding left but I am told it I would have enjoyed it had they remembered to leave any! They certainly seemed to love the cooking and eating elements!



Year 6 have continued to apply themselves fully to their morning sessions, they really are trying their absolute best and I simply cannot ask for anything more. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach this wonderful bunch again this year and I know they will continue to work hard during the remainder of their time with us, July is certainly coming around too quickly!

During the afternoons, Years 5 and 6 have spent a lot of time on the Chromebooks this term, learning how to create vector drawings on Google Drawings and learning how to make 3-D models using the program Tinkercad. They have all worked hard in these lessons and have produced some great drawings and models. In our history lessons, the children have learnt about Crime and Punishment from the Romans to the present day, they even experienced some examples of the hard labours that they used in the Victorian prisons. During our geography lessons, the children have learnt about the economic activity of the U.K, gaining a better understanding of how the economy works and what can impact it. Within science lessons, we learnt about living things and their habitats, gaining a better understanding of reproduction and life cycles of plants and animals, as well as how to classify plants and animals based on their characteristics. Our recent trip to Secret World linked well to both our science topic as the children used what they knew about the characteristics of animals to try and identify evidence of them.



Upcoming Dates

Monday 20th April – Start of Summer Term 1- gates open at 8:30am.

Wednesday 22nd

29th

6th

13th

**Yr 3 and 5 Girls Football Sessions at
YTFC**

Thursday 23rd April – Year 3 and 4 Swimming (weekly sessions)

Tuesday 28th April – Speak Out, Stay Safe NSPCC Workshops

Thursday 30th April – Year 6 Treasure Hunt @ Huish

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday Monday

Thursday 8th May – David Attenborough Day celebrating his 100th birthday- details to follow

Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May SATs testing for Year 6 - Breakfast club from 8:00 a.m.
Monday to Thursday - further details to follow

Wednesday 13th May – Unicorns Class visit from Animals2U

Tuesday 19th May – Phoenix class visit to Coates Willow Centre

Friday 22nd May – End of Summer Term 1

Monday 1st June – INSET DAY

Tuesday 2nd June – Start of Summer Term 2

W/c 8th June- 12th June – Phonics Screenings

Tuesday 9th June – Unicorn visit to Lyme Regis

Friday 12th June- proposed Sports Afternoon- tbc

Tuesday 16th June – Yr 5/6 Rounders at Huish 4pm

Wednesday 1st July – Year 6 Transition Day to Huish - from 10am

Whole School Transition Afternoon

Monday 13th July – KS2 Performance at Othery Village Hall - details to follow

Tuesday 14th July – KS2 Performance at Othery Village Hall - details to follow

Tuesday 21st July – Leavers' Assembly at Othery Village Hall - details to follow

Wednesday 22nd July – **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 3rd September Start of Autumn Term 1 - (Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd INSET days)

Keeping Children Safe Online

In such a rapidly changing world, keeping up to date with the latest online games, platforms and crazes can be a challenge. To support you with this, there is a dedicated page on our website which, along with the links below, give some good guidance and advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://nationalcollege.com/parents>

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The Internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- **1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- **2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- **3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS**

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age limit.
- **4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- **5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP**

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- **6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- **7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- **8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- **9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- **10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

 **National Online Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Image of the mobile app available for download. All other images are illustrative. Content as of the date of capture: 16.06.2020