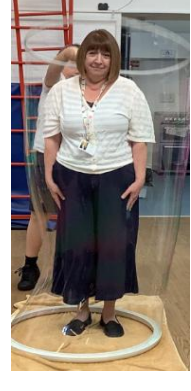




MAY NEWSLETTER 2025



This term has been a whirlwind of learning, activities and trips. We came back to school at the end of April and were lucky enough to enjoy a visit from Spark2 who delivered two science workshops to each class. They will be visiting again to bring their VR experience to us.



Bikeability

Our year 6 children took part in an intensive day's training for Bikeability earlier this term. The children fine-tuned their skills on the playground and then practiced on the roads around Othery. All that took part achieved their level 2 badge. The children were complimented on their wonderful behaviour and manners. Was it ever in doubt?



Thank you again to Ella and Tonia Maisey, who responded immediately to my SOS phonecall for a spare bike!

Drama averted!



VE Day- 80th Anniversary

One of the highlights has to be our VE Day celebration day. The children and staff all looked phenomenal with a mix of Forces being represented as well as land girls and farmers. We even had our own Spit Fire on site for the day. This was all finished off with a sprinkle of glamour too!

In school, we all observed the two-minute silence at midday, the children never fail to amaze me with the respect they show during these moments. It is so important that the children understand the significance of the day and that we ensure the message is shared with future generations.

Following lunch, we made our way to the Village Hall, where the children performed songs and recounted the significance of VE Day. I was so delighted to see so many of our parents, carers and villagers there. Thank you so much for coming to support the event and for helping to give our celebration such a community feel.

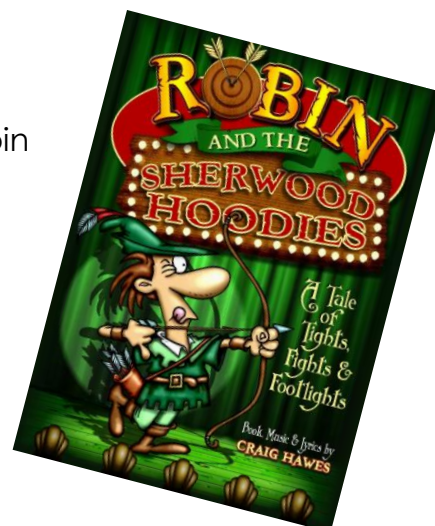
A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA and the additional helpers on the day. The hall looked absolutely beautiful and the cream tea was a huge success. The work that goes on behind the scenes, to organise an event like this, should not be underestimated- thank you all.



Key Stage 2 Production

The secret is out and the much anticipated KS2 Production has been revealed! This year's show is Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies. Further details regarding costumes will come home at the start of next term, please do not buy anything yet (they are very keen!).

Our performances are detailed on our dates page and we will send further details about how to book tickets nearer the time.



Year 6

Our fabulous children in Year 6 worked incredibly hard throughout SATs week and Mrs Brown and I are immensely proud of the determination and resilience each of them demonstrated. Thank you to the PTA for funding the cost of the Year 6 Breakfast Club during the week, to ensure that the children were fuelled up and ready to face the day ahead. They certainly demolished an unprecedented amount of waffles, pancakes, hot chocolate and chocolate spread! Thank you to Mrs Brown for supporting with the provision and going above and beyond to ensure they were all fed and watered!

Year 6 Surprise Treat

As a special reward and to mark the end of their testing week, this year we visited Pizza Express in Taunton. The children had the opportunity to make and eat their own pizzas. Thank you once again to the PTA for funding this trip and to Mrs Higgs for accompanying the children and me.



Outdoor learning

The first group of children from year 3 have enjoyed their sessions of outdoor learning with Mrs Hall.

These have included:

- Wooden weaving
- Basic First Aid
- Fire-lighting Skills

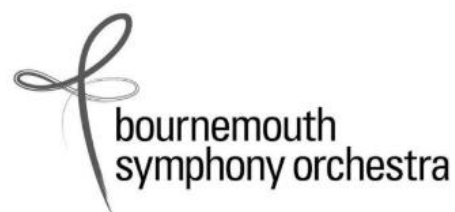
They have enjoyed popcorn, hot chocolate and s'mores.

Next term, the remaining year 3s will have the opportunity to take part in these activities on a Wednesday afternoon.



Orchestra Trip – KS1

Our children from Year 1 and 2 attended a wonderful morning at Westlands, where the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performed a number of classics including music from The Sound of Music and Harry Potter alongside other favourites and some jazz. They also worked together with other schools to rehearse and perform a song.



Noah's Ark Trip

Unicorns Class had a wonderful trip to Noah's Ark, the weather was glorious, and the children returned full of tales about meeting lots of animals including: giraffes, elephants and tortoises. The children told me about the opportunity to stroke a snake and hold a cockroach- they are clearly much braver than me!



Dragon's Class Residential

The residential is quickly approaching. Kit Lists have been updated and sent home; a copy of this is also available on the website. The trip will be led by Mr Cornish and Miss Booth this year and Mrs Higgs will also be accompanying the children. If you have any questions about the trip, please catch me on the gate or call/email the office and I'll be happy to speak with you.

Transition Afternoons

On Wednesday 2nd July, the children will all have the opportunity to spend the afternoon with their Teacher and LSA(s) for next year. Unicorn's Class will be joined by our new reception cohort, we are looking forward to welcoming them into our school.



Attendance Matters



I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the continued importance of good attendance at school. I would like to thank you all for your support in ensuring that your children attend school regularly. Our goal is to reach 97%, and we appreciate your support in helping us achieve this. Our current attendance is 95.6% for Othery and 95.8% for Middlezoy.

Regular attendance is essential for your child's progress and attainment. While 90% attendance may not sound too concerning, over the course of a school year, it equates to 19 days of lost learning – nearly four full school weeks. This level of absence can significantly affect your child's education, making it harder for them to keep up with their peers and achieve their full potential. Pupils with attendance below 90% are classified as 'persistently absent', which can have a serious impact on their academic progress and wellbeing.

Our attendance letters, for the year to date, will be coming out today. These do include authorised absence figures, which include illness, as these also count towards the overall attendance figures.

Donations of Uniform

As the end of the academic year approaches, please bear us in mind when sorting through any uniform. We are particularly looking for age 4-6 clothing but are happy to rehome other sizes too.

Winter coats

Although it seems a long way off, it is the time of year where coats are often sorted through. As these are always in demand come the Autumn Term, I have decided to organise a coat-swap rail, where coats can be donated but also taken. This will be on the playground each afternoon from June, weather permitting. Please feel free to donate or take a coat for your child if needed. Please ensure that any name is removed/cross-out to avoid any confusion.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody. In terms of keeping children safe, please don't think, 'What if I'm wrong?' Think... 'What if I am right?' If you have any concerns about a pupil, you should report this to a member of staff immediately. If you feel a pupil is at risk or a subject of abuse,

you must contact the Designated Safeguarding Team immediately. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Hayward and Deputy Designated Safeguard lead is Mrs Silver. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Nicola Mannion. If you are ever worried about a child or young person who could be in danger, please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or via email on childrens@somerset.gov.uk



Please take a look at our website for up-to-date information.

Wishing you all a fun-filled week, hopefully with a sprinkle of sunshine.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery staff team.



- **Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May (Half-Term break)**
- **Monday 2nd June – Inset Day**
- **Thursday 5th June - Yr 3/4 (Boys and Girls) Football Tournament Huish Academy 4.00pm – 5.30pm. Please let the office know if your child will be attending.**
- **Tuesday 10th June – Phoenix Class trip to The Newt**
- **Monday 23rd June – Year 6 to Huish -additional induction session TBC (9am – 11am)**
Monday 23rd June – Sports Day 1:30pm @ Middlezoy Village Hall– (preferred date, weather depending) Please note, there will not be a gardening club on this afternoon.
- **Wednesday 25th June – Friday 27th June – Okehampton Residential July**
- **Wednesday 2nd July - Transition Afternoon for all children in year R-5.**
- **Monday 7th July – KS2 Production – 1:45pm Afternoon Performance**
- **Tuesday 8th July – KS2 Production – 5pm Evening Performance**
- **Monday 14th July- Year 5 to Huish to watch Buggy Malone**
- **Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th Art with Darrell Wakelam**
- **Tuesday 15th – PTA KS2 Leavers’ disco 5pm – 7pm @ OVH**
- **Thursday 17th – PTA - Unicorns Disco 4:30pm – 6pm @ OVH**
- **Friday 18th – End of Year Reports**
- **Tuesday 22nd – Open afternoon for all parents and carers.**
- **Wednesday 23rd – Leavers’ Assembly at OVH from 2:00 p.m. - all welcome.**