

Dear Families,

I am sending this from a sunny Bournemouth where I have been furthering my own learning – you’re never too old! This is my last HT Round up of the term as next week will be our termly Sway recapping all our wonderful achievements!

#### Attendance Overview

Number of Pupils	445	95%	On Target
Overall Attendance 2025/26	94.3%	92-94%	Needs Improving
Attendance for the last 5 days	95.1%	91%	Cause for Concern

#### Assemblies

On Monday, Mrs Scarlett discussed with the children what it means to be neuro-diverse as part of Neuro-diversity Week. It was a great opportunity to explore our pupils understanding of others and how **Respect** and **Kindness** along with Tolerance of others (a Fundamental British value) make our community a better place.

On Thursday Willow Class shared their learning with families and the school. It’s a great opportunity for our children to display **Courage** in front of such a large audience and they shared their learning about habitats, comparisons between London and Brasilia, and their story writing. They have linked their learning together with stories including Superworm and Katie in London. They also read us diary entries about their trip into Newbury Town Centre and performed their fantastic friendship dance.

Today was Red Nose Day and it was lovely that so many children came to school supporting this charity. We had a very busy and fun packed assembly today, with Mr Taylor sharing some very funny jokes and our Choir performing one of their songs from the VIAM concert. Thank you to all those who donated for their **Kindness**. If you haven’t managed to yet then you can still donate via the QR code below or here: <https://tinyurl.com/mhr6823t>



#### Trips/Sports

The Winchcombe School were very privileged to be asked to be mascots for Newbury Town FC on Saturday afternoon for their home match against Wargrave. They led the team out onto the pitch before kick-off and then had the opportunity to come on at half time to have their own penalty shoot-out before they were presented with team scarves, sweets, and a little photo opportunity in the club house! It was a great experience for them all with thanks to Connie and Olivia for stepping in as last-minute substitutes, to Alex for taking on the penalties in goal and to Miss G for organising it! We look forward to hearing all about it in school!



On Tuesday, we took 42 children to compete in the annual Primary School Cross Country event at Newbury Showground with around 1600 children taking part from years 3-6.

Our children showed great team spirit and resilience on what was a warm, sunny afternoon! First home for the school in years 3/4 were Bethany and Thomas and in the year 5/6 races they were led home by Maya and Harry. The staff were incredibly proud of the team and how they supported each other during and after the races, showing **Courage** and **Respect** to all attending. A big thank you to the staff and the parent helpers who made this possible - we cannot attend these events without your help.



On Wednesday, Mrs Papier, Miss Stringer and I had the pleasure of taking 23 children from the Key Stage 2 Choir to Wembley Arena to take part in Voice in a Million 2026. It has been many years since our choir has participated in an event of this scale and being in the arena with them was truly impressive. The children sang and danced beautifully, representing our school with great pride.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the families who supported this event, as well as those who came along to watch—we hope you thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A special congratulations goes to Maia in Year 4, whose banner won our school competition and who had the wonderful opportunity to go on stage, alongside two other Winchcombe pupils, as part of the parade.



### **Last Day of Term 27th March**

School finishes for the Easter holidays on 12.05pm on Friday 27th March. A sandwich bag can be ordered for PPG (pupil premium grant / free school meals) children and children who received UFSM (universal free school meals - Year R to Year 2). The sandwich bag will be given to them to bring home. If you would like to order this, please go to School Grid and place your order this weekend.

If you have already placed an order for this lunch but your children are not PPG and do not receive UFSM, please cancel the order on School Grid to avoid being charged.

If your working circumstance have changed you may be eligible for Free School Meals; check here if you think this might be the case: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/36469/Apply-for-Free-School-Meals>

Additionally, please be aware that there is no Phoenix Club after school on Friday 27th March.

### **FOWS**

FOWS will once again be selling Wonder bars at the end of term with lots of fantastic prizes to be won. Please make sure to visit the stall for your year group in order to 'be in it to win it'. FOWS do a wonderful job of raising vital funds for our school – thank you as always for your **Kindness** and support.

### **Parents Evening**

We look forward to welcoming our families to Parents Evening on Wednesday and Thursday next week, please make sure you arrive promptly as the whole evening runs to time!

## Gates Opening and Closing Time

I would like remind all families that in the morning, the gates open at 8.30am, with classroom doors opening at 8.35am. The gates will be closed promptly at 8.45am, when class registers are taken. If arriving after 8.45am, children need to enter school through reception.

## Word of the Week

Each week in assembly we share a new word, sound it out, spell it and discuss the meaning. As such it is always a regular feature on my HT Round up so that you can help support us over the following week. Some ideas could be to: spot phonics patterns put the word into a sentence, define the word, look it up, draw a picture of the word or ask them to explain how they have used it in class.

## Next week's word is: lurk

### Foundation Sentence STEMS

 I can see...	 I think ...
 I like ...	 I don't like ...

### KS1 Sentence STEMS

The answer is ... because ...	I think ... because ...
I can prove I am right because ...	I learnt the word ... It means ...
I agree/ disagree with you because ...	I learnt how to ...

### Y3/4 KS2 Sentence STEMS

#### Checking

Can you please clarify what you mean?



#### Builder

I agree and would like to add ....

Listening to X, I would like to add ...

Building on that idea, I think ...



#### Challenger

I disagree with you because ...

You mentioned X, but what about?

To challenge what you said...

I understand your point of view – have you thought about?



### Y5/6 KS2 Sentence STEMS

#### Checking

Can you please clarify what you mean?



#### Builder

I agree and would like to add ....

Listening to X, I would like to add ...

Building on that idea, I think ...



#### Challenger

I disagree with you because ...

You mentioned X, but what about?

To challenge what you said...

I understand your point of view – have you thought about?



#### Justifying

I know this because ...

I would like to explain ...

I believe that ... because ...



## Upcoming Dates

### March

25<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening face to face

26<sup>th</sup> Pine Class Assembly 9am

26<sup>th</sup> Y3 Cinema trip

26<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening face to face

27<sup>th</sup> End of term 2 12:05pm

27<sup>th</sup> FOWS Wonder Bar Sale

### April

13<sup>th</sup> Start of School

13<sup>th</sup> PHSE launch

16<sup>th</sup> Spruce Class Assembly

23<sup>rd</sup> Cedar Class Assembly

24<sup>th</sup> FOWS Break the Rules Day

28<sup>th</sup> Book Fair (28<sup>th</sup> Apr to 1<sup>st</sup> May)

30<sup>th</sup> Chestnut Assembly

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Your Headteacher,

Matt Percy