

Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

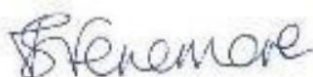
What a great week it has been at Winkleigh this week. We were very pleased to host six other local schools at our tag rugby festival last Friday. Thank you to Mr Walter for organising and Mr Saltearn for refereeing. We were delighted to come away with a win based on four points' difference!

Year 1 have been exploring the village this week, sending off their carefully crafted postcards. On Wednesday, we welcomed grandparents of Year 3 children to a delicious roast lunch. We are looking forward to hosting these for Key Stage One in the coming weeks. Today saw our first family breakfast and open morning of the year. Thank you to all who attended, all money raised goes towards our trips and residential fundraising.

The absolute highlight of the week was our Grand Opening on Tuesday. A huge thank you to all staff that have made it possible to open our Under 2's provision. Thank you also to everyone who attended. We were very proud to welcome so many parents, councillors, advisors and governors to see our fantastic provision. Our Year 5s and 6s did a great job of welcoming everyone.

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards,
Mrs V Fenemore



Under 2s Grand Opening

Tuesday 30th September

Catch up on BBC Radio Devon here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002jrm0> (2hrs 10mins)

Thank you so much for a lovely afternoon. It was a privilege to see the new classrooms and outdoor space for the children. We are lucky to have this wonderful setting in our area. Congratulations to you all and thanks for all you do to make sure our children benefit from such a warm and nurturing environment.



Such a fantastic opening to an equally fantastic setting for all ages! Really loved the new layout and overall environment for the children, I just know it will help that transition from nursery to school so much easier for my little one. Fab afternoon, thank you to all involved.



I love all the natural resources and the way the spaces are set up.

The pod looks really good and I like the flexibility for teaching different groups.



Diary dates

Upcoming week

Week beginning: 06.10.25

Weekly deadlines	- Lunch deadline – midnight the day before - All sorts – 8.30am the same day - Early birds – 3pm the day before - Bus changes – 2.30pm to email each day, phone after this time. - Gate opens 08.45-08.55 each day. Email admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk to make changes.
Monday	- PE kit: Year 5, Year 6 - Violin club with Miss McLean (3.30pm-4.30pm) - Craft club with Mrs Stapley (3.30pm-4.30pm) - Y1 Church Visit
Tuesday	- PE kit: Year 3, Year 4 - Running club with Mr Walter & Mr Slocombe (12-12.30pm) - Gardening club with Mr Walter (3.30pm-4.30pm) - Y3 Farmwise Educational Visit
Wednesday	- PE kit: Year 2, Year 4, Year 6 - Y2 Grandparent's lunch 12.30pm-1pm - Y4 Eden Project Visit – collect at 4pm
Thursday	- PE today: Owls, Year 1, Year 3 - Tag rugby with Mr Saltearn & Mr Jarad (3.30pm-4.30pm)
Friday	- PE kit: Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 - Y1 Rosemoor Visit - FOWs Bags to School Deadline - Y1 Cake Sale

Diary dates

This half term

These dates are provisional and subject to change.

Upcoming events

Wb
13.10.25

13.10.25 FOWs AGM 2pm – All welcome

13.10.25 Flu Vaccinations

15.10.25 Open morning for prospective Reception 2026 Parents

15.10.25 Y1 Grandparent lunch

16.10.25 Stephen Shield Cross Country event – Torrington

16.10.25 Primary Sports Silent Disco

17.10.25 Just One Tree day – Wear green

17.10.25 Y2 Cake Sale

Wb
20.10.25

20.10.25 Garden day – all classes (wellies required)

22.10.25 Owls Grandparent lunch

21.10.25/22.10.25 Parents' evenings

24.10.25 Harvest service (2pm – All Saints Church, Owls-Year 6)

No enrichment clubs this week.

Wb
27.10.25

Half term

Wb
03.11.25

05.11.25 Y3 Exeter Trip (Drop (8.30-8.45am) and collect (4pm) Eggesford station)

05.11.25 Nursery Grandparent lunch

05.11.25 RNLI visit (in school) – Y4 and Y6

07.11.25 Y5 Morwellham Quay Visit

07.11.25 Y3 Cake Sale

07.11.25 Start of Remembrance art exhibition (running until Nov 14th)

Open Morning

For prospective parents of Reception children 2026



Come and see our amazing environment! Learn more about our approach, curriculum and enrichment.

We can't wait to meet you!

Wednesday 15th October
9am-11.30am

Contact admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk to book a personalised tour during this time.

Primary school admissions (for September 2026) opens on 15th November

Class news

Nursery – Hedgehogs, Foxcubs & Squirrels – Mrs Stapley

Dear Families,

We've had such a busy and exciting week in nursery!

Here are some of the wonderful things we've been exploring together:

- The children have loved finding out all about squirrels – where they live, what they eat, and how they gather food for the winter.
 - We even pretended to be squirrels hiding our own "nuts" around the garden!
- Autumn is here! We enjoyed collecting apples and talking about how they grow. The children noticed their different shapes, sizes, and colours. Some apples were used for counting games, and others for apple printing patterns.
- We've been spotting patterns all around us – in our clothes, in nature, through puzzles and in the classroom.

Below is a song we have enjoyed singing together.

Have a wonderful weekend.

The Nursery Team

Climb the Tree(to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Climb, climb, climb the tree,

Quickly as can be,

Find a nut and nibble it —

Crunchy as can be!



We have loved exploring outside this week!



Class news

Owls (Reception) – Miss Batstone & Mrs Rowcliffe

This week in Owls:

We explored numbers to 6, practising addition and subtraction within 5, learning number bonds, and using the part-part-whole model. The children compared numbers using 'greater than' and 'less than,' discovered zero as an absence of something, and met number 6 through counting and subitising dice patterns.

In guided reading, we increased our sessions to three times a week using non-word books. The children focused on developing their decoding skills, reading with prosody (expression and fluency), and building comprehension, which has boosted their confidence as early readers.

In English, we explored We're Going on a Bear Hunt, concentrating on the repeating patterns. The children enjoyed joining in with the phrases, developing their oral storytelling, rhythm, and sequencing skills.

In topic, work linked to The Little Red Hen, the children learned about grain and its life cycle. They also had hands-on experience making bread, exploring where our food comes from and how it is produced, linking story themes to real-life learning.



Year 1 – Mrs Roberts

What a busy and exciting week we have had in Year 1! In English, we finished our story sequence on The Everywhere Bear. The children were very excited as the bear chose his very first adventure – a weekend visit to one of our families! We can't wait to welcome him back on Monday and hear all about what he has been up to before he sets off on his next journey. We have now started a brand-new Curious Quest sequence inspired by an animation from the past – Button Moon. The children have been inventing their own characters, imagining them made out of everyday objects they might find at home. In Maths, we have been comparing numbers. The children learned to use the language more than, less than and equal to, and explored the symbols $<$, $>$, $=$. In Science, we carried out an experiment to test different materials to see if they were waterproof or not. The children enjoyed making predictions and talking about what they discovered. Our highlight this week was our village walk. The children spotted many local landmarks as we made our way to the Winkleigh Post Office, where they posted their postcards. Looking ahead, next week we will be visiting Winkleigh Church as part of our RE learning about What Christians believe God is like and Christian places of worship.



Class news

Year 2 – Mrs Keast

This week in Year 2 the children have continued to work with focus across all subjects. The improved weather has allowed us to spend more time outdoors, which has supported both learning and play. In English, we have been developing our story writing, using No-bot as inspiration. We have been paying close attention to punctuation and re-reading our work carefully to make improvements. In Maths, we have concluded our unit on place value. Next week, we will begin addition and subtraction within 100. We have also placed emphasis on number formation, particularly ensuring that two-digit numbers are recorded correctly and consistently. Remembering what each of the digits represents. Our Geography lesson introduced Ordnance Survey maps and their symbols. We studied a map of Winkleigh and worked to understand the meaning of the symbols shown. In Art, we have been exploring the use of oil pastels. We have considered how these materials can add depth of colour and texture to our work. Next week we have our Grandparents' lunch coming up on Wednesday. **Due to a timetabling change, PE will now take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.**



Year 3 – Mrs Bourner

Year 3 have worked well to complete their 'Lord of the Ocean' stories as part of our English work this week and it's been wonderful to read their own versions, seeing how they link to our original class text. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their artwork this week, using a range of different media and techniques to create pictures linked to our studies of Frida Kahlo. In Geography, they have used maps and atlases to locate volcanoes around the world. They have learnt about the Pacific ring of fire and made links between tectonic plates and the location of volcanoes. They also enjoyed using their iPads to research these volcanoes in more detail. It was wonderful to see the children's faces on Wednesday as they welcomed their grandparents in for lunch. Thank you to everyone that was able to come along, we hope you enjoyed it as much as the children did.

Have a lovely restful weekend Year 3, ready for our first school trip on Tuesday next week!



Class news

Year 4 – Mr Walter

This week, Year 4 have started a new English sequence around the book Poetry Pie by Roger McGough. We have enjoyed listening, unpicking and performing the different types of poems found within this text. A particular favourite was titled 'Alternative Santa'! Where Amazon and eBay were used in the new digital age. In maths, we have also moved onto our new learning sequence focussing on addition and subtraction. We have been able to retrieve the different ways we could represent addition and subtraction whilst developing our knowledge of subject specific vocabulary. This week's science lessons led to some interesting debate around the question 'If the bottle has no liquid in it, is it empty?' before conducting an experiment to see the gases that are released from a sponge. In geography, we have identified and labelled the four layers of the rainforest; detailing the animals that live their alongside the weather conditions and sunlight levels. We are looking forward to seeing this for real at the Eden Project next Wednesday. Thank you to all who came to see us at our open morning this week. We look forward to welcoming Mr Richards (PGCE student teacher) to our class next week and sharing all of our fantastic learning.

Have a great weekend!



Year 5 – Mr Saltearn

A busy week in Year 5!

In English, we have been working really hard to create our own fact file about astronaut Michael Collins including all the features we had learnt. It was great to see the effort all the children put in to their pages. ***I wonder if you can share some facts at home?***

In Maths, we have continued our learning about addition and subtraction and have been solving multi-step problems. Well done Year 5, this is a tricky concept to master.

This week in Geography, we have been learning about the 5 types of mountains. The children have enjoyed continuing their art project and have been adding textures to their tiles ready to paint next week.

It was great to see some of Year 5 being fantastic role models at our Grand Opening.

Have a great weekend Year 5!



Class news

Year 6 – Miss McLean

Year 6 have written some incredible stories this week based on Beowulf. They created their own characters before describing them and building a whole story about them. We finished the sequence with some editing practice.

In maths, we have recapped the long, written method of multiplication and have started to move on to look at short division. Next week, we will use this knowledge to support us in learning the long division method. In art this week, the children have started using their stitching skills to begin making their fabric collages. They have each chosen a piece of art that they are inspired by and are trying to replicate it in fabric.

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 6 had an important role in the running of the grand opening of our school's new Under 2s provision. They were a credit to our school and brilliant role models to the younger children.

Have a wonderful weekend!



SPORTS NEWS

Tag rugby

Last Friday afternoon, we welcomed children from Bow, St Giles on the Heath, Ashwater, Halwill and Shebbear to a tag rugby tournament for ten members of our Year 5 & 6 cohort. Everyone played in four matches throughout the afternoon with the main focus being about participation as this was our first sporting tournament of the new academic year. **Our team did fantastically well winning three and drawing one of their games. This meant that overall, our team won the event on try difference, which is a wonderful way to follow up from the 'Red Roses' win on Sunday.** I would like to

thank the schools for arranging transport to us, parents for coming along to spectate and Mr Saltearn for referring all of the matches. Well done to all who took part, a fantastic way to continue our sporting journey once more.



Well done Isla, Olivia, Bobby, Chester, William, Archie, Grace, Lenni, Charlie and Quinn!