



Weekly newsletter

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs V Fenemore

Friday 12th September 2025



Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

We've had a brilliant start to the new school year, with our first full week packed with smiles, energy, and plenty of hard work from the children. It's been wonderful to see how quickly everyone has settled back into school routines — classrooms are already buzzing with learning and laughter.

Although the weather hasn't always been on our side, the children have still managed to get outside every day for playtimes or track time. We're keen to make the most of our outdoor spaces, including the garden, as often as possible — rain or shine! If your child is in Key Stage 1, please make sure they have a pair of wellies to keep in school. This allows them to enjoy the garden safely, even when the ground is a little muddy.

This week we were delighted to welcome staff from two local schools who came to visit and learn more about our Early Years provision. It's always such a proud moment to show visitors the fantastic work happening in our classrooms — from purposeful play to the nurturing, inclusive environment we're building every day. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and it's lovely to see our team's hard work recognised. We are looking forward welcoming everyone to our grand opening on the 30th September!

This week saw the first trip of the academic year. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils had an unforgettable day at the River Dart Activity Centre. From high ropes to team challenges, they threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm, courage, and brilliant teamwork. These kinds of trips are not only fun but also help develop resilience, collaboration, and confidence — and the children didn't disappoint. A huge thank you to the staff who supported the trip and to the children for representing our school so well. We're looking forward to an exciting term ahead, with lots more to come — trips, visitors, and opportunities for learning across the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm wishes,

Mrs V Fenemore

Executive Headteacher's Update *continued*



Parents/carers are invited into school to view our new Early Years Unit (including Under 2s, Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage One Pod on Tuesday 30th September for our Grand Opening including a drink and light refreshment.

Diary dates

Upcoming week

Week beginning: 15.09.25

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
- After school clubs start (running for 5 weeks, no enrichment clubs wb 20.10.25)
- Violin club with Miss McLean (3.30pm-4.30pm)
- Craft club with Mrs Stapley (3.30pm-4.30pm)

Tuesday

- PE kit: Owls, Year 3, Year 4
- Running club with Mr Walter & Mr Slocombe (12-12.30pm)
- Gardening club with Mr Walter (3.30pm-4.30pm)

Wednesday

- PE kit: Year 2, Year 4, Year 6
- Y5/6 Grandparent's lunch 12.30pm-1pm

Thursday

- PE kit: 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

Diary dates

This half term

These dates are provisional and subject to change.

Upcoming events

Wb 22.09.25	<p>24.09.25 Y4 Grandparent lunch</p> <p>26.09.25 Y5/6 Tag Rugby event with local schools at Winkleigh</p>
Wb 29.09.25	<p>30.09.25 Grand Opening of Foundation Stage unit</p> <p>01.10.25 Y3 Grandparent lunch</p> <p>02.10.25 Tempest individual & sibling photos</p> <p>03.10.25 Family breakfast</p> <p>03.10.25 Autumn Crafts Nursery Stay and Play</p> <p>03.10.25 Owls Cake Sale</p>
Wb 06.10.25	<p>07.10.25 Y3 Farmwise trip</p> <p>08.10.25 Y4 Eden Project trip</p> <p>08.10.25 Y2 Grandparent lunch</p> <p>10.10.25 Y1 Rosemoor trip</p> <p>10.10.25 Y1 Cake Sale</p>
Wb 13.10.25	<p>15.10.25 Open morning for prospective Reception 2026 Parents</p> <p>15.10.25 Y1 Grandparent lunch</p> <p>16.10.25 Stephen Shield Cross Country event – Torrington</p> <p>17.10.25 Just One Tree day – Wear green</p> <p>17.10.25 – Y2 Cake Sale</p>
Wb 20.10.25	<p>20.10.25 Garden day (wellies required)</p> <p>22.10.25 Owls Grandparent lunch</p> <p>21.10.25/22.10.25 Parents' evenings</p> <p>24.10.25 Harvest service (2pm – All Saints Church, Owls-Year 6)</p> <p>No enrichment clubs this week.</p>

Trips & Activities

Whole school – PSHE Day – 08.09.25

On Monday, the whole school took part in a special PSHE day. We were delighted to welcome Nadia Gorton, a 'Cultural Champion' who spent the day with us. Nadia shared her Jamaican heritage and helped the children learn more about Jamaica, its traditions, and the importance of celebrating cultural diversity. The children were fascinated by her stories and asked lots of thoughtful questions. They particularly enjoyed smelling the 'Jamaican Chocolate' sample!

Alongside this, each class took time to focus on mental health and wellbeing. The children explored activities linked to teamwork, resilience, and understanding our emotions, helping them to think about how we can support both ourselves and others. These sessions encouraged reflection and gave everyone a chance to develop strategies for managing their feelings.

The day ended with a whole-school assembly, where classes came together to share their learning and reflections. It was a positive and inspiring start to the new term.



Jamaica sounds amazing.



It is important to have a growth mindset.

I enjoyed the hula-hoop game working with my table as a team.



We talked about 10 things we can do for our mental health.



Class news

Nursery – Hedgehogs, Foxcubs & Squirrels – Mrs Stapley

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a brand-new nursery year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are as excited as we are for the year ahead.

This week has been all about settling in and helping the children feel comfortable and confident in their nursery environment. The children have been exploring their new classrooms, meeting their teachers and friends, and beginning to get used to our daily routines. We are so proud of how well they are already adjusting!

A very warm welcome to our new families who are joining us for the first time – we're so pleased to have you as part of our nursery community. It's been lovely getting to know both the children and parents, and we look forward to sharing this exciting journey together.

Highlights from this week:

- Exploring the indoor and outdoor play areas
- Learning each other's names through circle games
- Sharing stories about our summer holidays
- Practicing our daily routines, such as snack time and tidy-up time



Looking ahead:

Next week we'll continue to focus on building friendships, developing independence, and introducing some of our first topic activities. Thank you for your support in making the first full week such a positive experience for the children. Please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any questions or would like to chat about how your child is settling in.



With warm wishes,
The Nursery Team

We have enjoyed
exploring the
garden and using
the steering wheels.



Class news

Owls (Reception) – Miss Batstone & Mrs Rowcliffe

The Owls have settled fabulously into their very first week of school! We have enjoyed exploring new routines and catching up with old friends. In phonics, we learnt the sounds s, a, t, and p, and practised forming them in our cursive handwriting. The children have been very enthusiastic about recognising and using these sounds – a brilliant start to their learning journey. In maths, we explored the composition of numbers to 3 through games, songs, and practical activities.

This week also marked our first PHSE Day. We welcomed Nadia, who shared stories about Jamaica, the Windrush, and the Caribbean. The children were fascinated to learn about different cultures and asked thoughtful, curious questions.

As part of our focus on positive mental health, we talked about “what and who makes us happy.” The children shared some wonderful ideas, from playing with friends to spending time with family, showing their kindness and care.



Year 1 – Mrs Roberts

This has been our first full week in Year 1, and the children have settled brilliantly into their new routines. In English, we have been learning about Simone Biles, exploring why she is such an inspirational person. The children discovered that she is the most decorated female gymnast of our time and used this knowledge to write some fantastic facts about her. We also made our own gold medals inspired by her achievements. These wonderful pieces of work will soon be going up on our corridor display for everyone to enjoy. In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of place value within 10. The children practised sorting objects in different ways – and even sorted themselves into groups! We have also been using equipment outdoors to practise counting forwards and backwards within 10, which helped make our learning active and fun. In Geography, we discussed what it means to be a geographer and asked questions about our local area. We also looked at Winkleigh on a map and talked about what makes our village special. In Science, the children investigated everyday objects and the materials they are made from, helping them to distinguish clearly between an object and its material. Finally, we enjoyed our first Forest School session with Mrs Rowcliffe, making the most of our outdoor space and embracing the weather as we explored.



Class news

Year 2 – Mrs Keast

We have had a fantastic first week back in Year Two. The children have quickly settled into their new classroom, enjoying the fresh learning environment and beginning to follow our routines. On Monday, we started with PSHE day, which gave us time to think about our mental health and how we can work well together as a table team.



In English, we have been learning about inspirational people, focusing on Dolly Parton. The children enjoyed discovering more about her life and achievements, and they began writing about why she is such an inspiring figure. They have loved watching Dolly sing and some of the songs have been sung in class with enthusiasm!

In Maths, we launched our work on place value with the book *How Big is a Million?* The children were amazed by the illustrations, especially the final page showing a million stars. It really helped everyone to understand just how big a million is and sparked some excellent mathematical discussions. We linked this to Dolly's estimated \$500 million fortune! We will be focusing on our weekly spellings from next week. Letter-join has been used daily and the children are now very enthusiastic about developing their handwriting!



Year 3 – Mrs Bourner

The Year 3 children have really thrown themselves into their learning this week and are thoroughly enjoying our new topics. It was lovely to start the week with our PSHE day on Monday where the children learnt about life in another country, and thought about feelings and emotions.

In maths, they have been thinking about place value, representing numbers and counting in multiples. They have enjoyed using manipulatives and online tools to represent numbers in different ways. In Geography, the children have begun the new topic of 'Extreme earth' and have been asking and answering questions related to the composition of the earth in order to find out more.

Well done Year 3 on a fantastic start to life in Key Stage 2! Have a well earned rest this weekend but don't forget that we will be having our spelling test on Monday!



Class news

Year 4 – Mr Walter

In our first full week back, Year 4 have settled brilliantly! In English, we have been gathering the facts and information about Marie Curie who is our inspirational person of choice. We have carefully planned out our biography layout, thinking about the key features that should be included. In maths, we have represented numbers up to and past 1,000 in different ways. Partitioning numbers using varying resources. On Monday, we enjoyed PHSE day our class focus was on developing a growth mindset.

Thank you Mrs Keast for organising a visit from cultural champion, Nadia. It was so interesting to hear all about Jamaica. On Wednesday, we swapped our PE lesson for a garden hour. This allowed us to develop teamwork in weeding and tidying up the garden in preparation for autumn. Have a great weekend!



Year 5 – Mr Saltearn

A fantastic first full week back in Year 5! We have been busy this week in English learning about the Civil Rights movement and Harriet Tubman. We have been thinking about why she was an inspirational person and have started to draft our writing to explain this.

On Monday, we had our PSHE day and throughout the day we looked at how we can work effectively as a team and what makes a good team. The children enjoyed the team building games outside, challenging themselves to work with different people and different situations. This week in Geography we have been learning about the key features of a mountain and adding them to a diagram.

We also looked at how we classify a mountain and discussed mountains that we knew. This week, we started our art project and have been busy creating our clay tiles that we will use to make a 3D print on. On Friday, year 5 and 6 enjoyed their visit to River dart and we will share some photos with you next week. Have a nice weekend Year 5!



Class news

Year 6 – Miss McLean

Year 6 have had an incredible day today on their first trip of the year, joint with Year 5, to the River Dart Activity Centre. It was lovely to see how supportive the children were of each other in their groups and how much fun they had.

Year 6 have leapt straight into their learning in English about the Civil Rights Movement. We have learnt about some inspirational people including Martin Luther King Jr. and Harriet Tubman. They have produced some incredible poems titled 'Hope' inspired by Amanda Gorman's poem 'The Hill we Climb'.

We have started the year in maths with a short sequence recapping place value, looking at numbers up to 7 digits. Place value grids, number lines and part whole models have supported the children to multiply and divide by powers of 10 as well as to round any integer.

In music, we have started a sequence looking at jazz and swing music by looking at the song Hey Mr Miller. In geography, we have started our maps sequence and in science, have been looking at light and how humans see.

Have a brilliant weekend!



Art ambassadors



School ambassadors



Sport ambassadors

Enrichment clubs

Autumn 1

Monday (3.30pm-4.30pm)

In violin club, **Miss McLean** will be teaching how to hold a violin, play pizzicato and using the bow to perform some well-known tunes.

Monday (3.30pm-4.30pm)

Mrs Stapley will be running an after School Craft Club for children in Years 1–3, where pupils will have the chance to explore a variety of creative activities such as painting, collage, model-making and seasonal projects. The club will encourage children to develop their imagination, coordination and problem-solving skills in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Tuesday lunchtime (12-12.30pm)

Mr Slocombe & Mr Walter are looking forward to developing our next cohort of cross country runners! Join them on Tuesday lunchtimes to develop cardio vascular fitness, skills and to take part in the annual Stephen Shield event in Torrington.

Tuesday (3.30pm-4.30pm)

Mr Walter is excited to announce that our Gardening Club will be running again this term! The club is open to children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who would like to:

- Learn how to grow plants and vegetables
- Help look after the school grounds
 - Enjoy being outdoors
- Create activities to link with the community
- Understand minibeasts, plants and nature

Thursday (3.30pm-4.30pm)

Our KS2 Tag Rugby Club, run by **Mr Saltearn & Mr Jarad**, is open to all pupils who want to learn the exciting, fast-paced game of tag rugby in a safe and friendly environment. Each week we will play fun skill games, focusing on fundamental skills of the game and explore the game of rugby.



Join our team!

Nursery Teaching Assistant

31.25 hours per week Monday – Friday term time only (38 weeks per year)

£12.85 - £13.05

Exciting opportunity to join Winkleigh Primary School Nursery Team asap as we have extended our Nursery provision to include children from 9 months of age.

We are passionate about our provision and we are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and inspirational Nursery team member. You will work effectively as part of our excellent team and build positive relationships with all members of our community. We are looking for applicants who are dedicated to making a difference to children's lives and to ensure every child has the opportunities they deserve.

More details available at:

<https://www.winkleigh.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Staff+Vacancies&pid=183>

