



Weekly newsletter

admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs V Fenemore

Friday 19th September 2025



Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been another fantastic week at school, full of learning, and exciting events!

We were delighted to welcome our Early Years Adviser, Katy Vallance, to school this week. Katy spent time in our newly refurbished nursery space and was incredibly impressed by the learning environment we've created. She praised the layout, the quality of resources, and the calm, welcoming atmosphere. Our Early Years team has worked so hard to get everything just right, and it's wonderful to receive such positive feedback.

We are so proud of what we've achieved and love sharing the space with visitors — especially as more families come to see what we offer. We've also been running a number of settling-in sessions for our new nursery children. It's such an exciting time for our youngest learners, and we're already seeing happy, confident faces coming through the door!

This week we hosted our first Grandparents' Lunch of the term, starting with Year 5 and Year 6. The dining hall was filled with laughter and conversation as grandparents joined us for a delicious home-cooked meal. For many, it was a chance to see inside the school for the first time in a while and to enjoy a precious moment with their grandchildren. A huge thank you goes to Kealley and Rachel in the kitchen for preparing such a lovely meal. We received so many positive comments from grandparents, who praised not only the food but also the warm and welcoming atmosphere. It was a real community moment, and we're so grateful to everyone who helped make it special.

We're now looking forward to welcoming Year 4 grandparents next week — we're sure it will be another wonderful event!

Our brilliant Year 6 pupils have taken on a major responsibility this week as they began preparations for our annual Christmas Raffle. As part of their project, they have written and sent out over 100 letters to local businesses and national companies, kindly asking for donations to support our fundraising efforts. A big well done and thank you to Year 6 — we can't wait to see what exciting prizes they help secure!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We've had so some lovely positive comments from this week and we just want to say how much we appreciate your encouragement. It means a great deal to the team, who work so hard to make school a positive place for every child.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs V Fenemore

Harvest

Dear Parents/Carers,

We will be holding a harvest service at All Saints Church on Friday 24th October at 2pm.

All parents are invited to join us at the church where we will perform harvest songs and hymns together.

Children are invited to bring a small donation for the Winkleigh food store that can be presented at the service. This could be anything from a tin to pasta to fresh vegetables. No glass please – we don't want any breakages!

Children may be collected from **school** immediately after the service in the usual way.



Harvest service

Friday 24th October 2025



Diary dates

Upcoming week

Week beginning: 22.09.25

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 2, Year 5, Year 6
- Year 2 Gardening session (Wellies needed)
- Violin club with Miss McLean (3.30pm-4.30pm)
- Craft club with Mrs Stapley (3.30pm-4.30pm)

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)

Wednesday

- PE kit: Year 4, Year 6
- Y4 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
- Y5/6 Tag Rugby event at Winkleigh (those involved will receive information)
- Deadline for booking family breakfast

Diary dates

This half term

These dates are provisional and subject to change.

Upcoming events

Wb
29.09.25

30.09.25 Grand Opening of Foundation Stage unit
01.10.25 Y3 Grandparent lunch
02.10.25 Tempest individual & sibling photos
03.10.25 Family breakfast
03.10.25 Autumn Crafts Nursery Stay and Play
03.10.25 Owls Cake Sale

Wb
06.10.25

07.10.25 Y3 Farmwise trip
08.10.25 Y4 Eden Project trip
08.10.25 Y2 Grandparent lunch
10.10.25 Y1 Rosemoor trip
10.10.25 Y1 Cake Sale
10.10.25 Bags to school collection

Wb
13.10.25

13.10.25 FOWs AGM 2pm – All welcome
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
17.10.25 Just One Tree day – Wear green
17.10.25 – Y2 Cake Sale

Wb
20.10.25

20.10.25 Garden day (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.

Trips & Activities

Year 5/6 –River Dart Activity Centre – 12.09.25

On Friday last week, the Year 5s and 6s enjoyed a fantastic day at the River Dart Activity Centre. We are so proud of the resilience shown by everyone on the day! The children tackled lots of challenges, from high beams to the climbing wall. They also enjoyed the long zip wire and the high ropes!

Year 5 and 6 worked really well together and it was a fantastic team building activity, they were in mixed class groups and loved spending the day together.

Thank you to all parents/carers for getting your children to school early and collecting late!

Well done Upper Key Stage 2!

Mr Slocombe, Miss McLean, Mr Saltearn, Miss Jones, Mrs Gent



I enjoyed the mega zipline.



I liked the high ropes and the zip wire which went across the river.

The highlight of the day was the zipwire across the river.

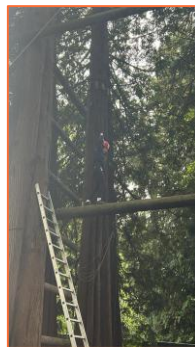
I enjoyed the zip wire on the highropes.



Trips & Activities

Year 5/6 –River Dart Activity Centre – 12.09.25

Photos continued



My favourite part
was the tunnels!



I loved the high
beams, I got to
the top!

The zip wire was
so fast!

The high ropes
were so much fun.



Grand opening

Tuesday 30th September

You are invited to...



*Winkleigh Primary School Nursery &
Under 2s Grand Opening*

*Tuesday 30th September
3pm*



Drinks & Light refreshments



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,

This week in the nursery we have been exploring the theme of families and enjoying the beautiful story Owl Babies by Martin Waddell.

What we've been learning:

Story time: The children loved listening to Owl Babies, a tale about three little owlets waiting for their mummy to return. We talked about how the owls felt—sometimes worried, sometimes brave, but always caring for one another.

Families: We have been sharing who is in our own families and celebrating how every family is special and unique. The children enjoyed drawing self portraits and talking about people who are important to them.

Feelings & belonging: We've explored feelings of comfort, love, and reassurance, just like the owlets waiting for their mummy.

Creative fun: The children made owl crafts using feathers, paint, and collage materials. We also practised moving like owls. Below is an owl themed song we have been enjoying each day!

Reminders: Make sure children are sent in with a bag containing all their changing essentials i.e. nappies, wipes, nappy sacks and plenty of spare clothes. Only trainers or shoes that children can move freely in and that they can manage to take off and put on independently. A drinks bottle containing water. Thank you for your continued support.

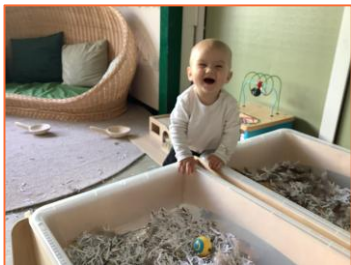
Have a wonderful weekend.

The Nursery Team

Owl song (twinkle, twinkle little star tune)

Wise old owl up in the tree,
Looking down at you and me.
Flap your wings and give a hoot,
Glide around without a toot.
Wise old owl up in the tree,
Sing a little song for me

We have loved exploring in the paper this week!



Class news

Owls (Reception) – Miss Batstone & Mrs Rowcliffe

This week, the Owls have been developing their mathematical understanding through an exploration of the “five-ness of 5.” The children reflected on how 5 is one more than 4, practised careful counting, and ordered numbers from 1 to 5 with growing confidence. In English, we continued to enjoy a range of stories and books. The children made predictions about what might happen next and discussed the events, characters, and settings with interest and enthusiasm. In topic work, the children created baby owls and explored the difference between nocturnal and diurnal animals. This sparked thoughtful discussion and enabled them to make meaningful connections between their creative work and the wider world. During Leap into Life, the Owls practised moving, jumping, and balancing. These activities supported physical development while also encouraging focus, coordination, and perseverance. Throughout the week, the Owls reflected on our school values of respect, resilience, and kindness, demonstrating these in both learning and play.



Year 1 – Mrs Roberts

The children are settling brilliantly into their new routines and are really enjoying the space in the KS1 area. It is lovely to see them mixing with their Year 2 peers whilst also enjoying a focused learning space.

In English, we began our *Curious Quest* concept week. The children were amazed to discover a letter in our class portal (the birdhouse in our tree) from Professor Klump, who explained that he needs their writing to power his Big Dream Machine. The children were excited to help and came up with imaginative inventions, and write their very own codes (sentences) to make those invention work all whilst remembering to use capital letters and full stops in their sentences. In Maths, we continued consolidating our understanding of place value within 10 through practical activities such as number matching and representing quantities using counters and ten frames. In Science, we explored the properties of materials, using words such as *hard*, *soft*, *shiny*, *smooth*, *waterproof*, *flexible* and *absorbent* to describe them. In Art, the children created circular natural artwork in the style of Andy Goldsworthy, using only resources they found outdoors. We have certainly finished off another exciting week of discovery and learning in Year 1!



Class news

Year 2 – Mrs Keast

Year 2 have had another busy week of learning. In English, we have been enjoying the story No-Bot. The children have found it very funny. Alongside the humour, we have been focusing on key vocabulary and exploring word meanings. We are also focusing on our handwriting. In Maths, our focus has been on numbers to 100. We have been working hard on partitioning numbers and thinking carefully about tens and ones. The learning has linked to the text '100 Birds'. The children have enjoyed exploring how numbers can be partitioned in flexible ways, and they have been eager to share their strategies during discussions.

In Science, our investigations have continued as we tested different types of plastic. The children thought about whether plastic would be a suitable material to use for house building and offered some thoughtful reasons for their ideas. Using a pipette and water to test for absorbency was fun and stimulated lots of discussion. **Looking ahead to next week, on Monday afternoon we will be gardening instead of our usual PE. Please ensure your child brings a named pair of wellies in school (if we don't have a pair here already). Please also remember a water bottle and a coat each day.**



Finally, every child has been given a Times Table Rock Stars login, which also provides access to our free trial of Numbots. The children are excited to use these and will also be able to access this in school.

Year 3 – Mrs Bourner

In Year Three this week the children have continued to focus on place value in maths. They have looked at adding and subtracting 1, 10 and 100, thinking about how the numbers change as we add and subtract. In English we have moved onto our new teaching sequence; 'Lord of the Forest.' The children have enjoyed listening out for new, powerful words within the book. They have begun to look at direct speech as well as think about nouns and verbs found within the story. In Science, the children began investigating rocks this week, learning the names for different types of rock as well as looking at how they look and feel similar, or different. We thoroughly enjoyed our time outside in the garden on Thursday and it was lovely to see the children working so well together as a team. Please can children be reminded to bring their star reader books as well as their library books to school with them every day.



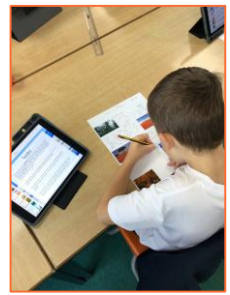
Class news

Year 4 – Mr Walter

Year 4 are really proud of the work they completed in English for our inspirational people sequence focusing on the work of Marie Curie. We have now moved onto a sequence focusing on The Great Kapok tree. This week, we have discussed the dilemma and resolution whilst introducing the use of prepositional phrases. In maths, we have worked on the representations of numbers up to 10,000 using a number line to both show and estimate various numbers. We have enjoyed looking at the glockenspiel in music, following on from learning the key vocabulary. In geography, we identified the different biomes of the world, researching information about the climate that each one has. It was interesting to find out which animals live in certain parts of our world. In RE we identified the different Gods and Goddesses in Hinduism. We were able to discuss what they represented before thinking about what we would like to represent if we were a deity. **We look forward to our**

grandparents lunch next week.

Have a good weekend!



Year 5 – Mr Saltearn

A great week in Year 5! This week we have finished our sequence in English about inspirational people and the Civil Rights and have created a piece of writing that illustrates why Harriet Tubman is an inspiration. We have started to look at our new book, Great Adventures, and have been familiarising ourselves with the text and making inferences based on the cover. Yesterday, we investigated how we tell which tense a piece of writing is written in and how we know this. In Maths, we have been learning about rounding numbers to 100, 000 and explaining our reasoning behind our answers. We have also been identifying mistakes and offering advice in examples to further our understanding. In Geography this week, we have been learning about how mountains are formed and have created a diagram illustrating how tectonic plates can form a mountain and how high a mountain has to be. Last Friday, Year 5 and 6 went on our joint trip and took part in a range of different activities, it was fantastic to see everyone encouraging each other and working together as a team across the two year groups. Have a great weekend Year 5!

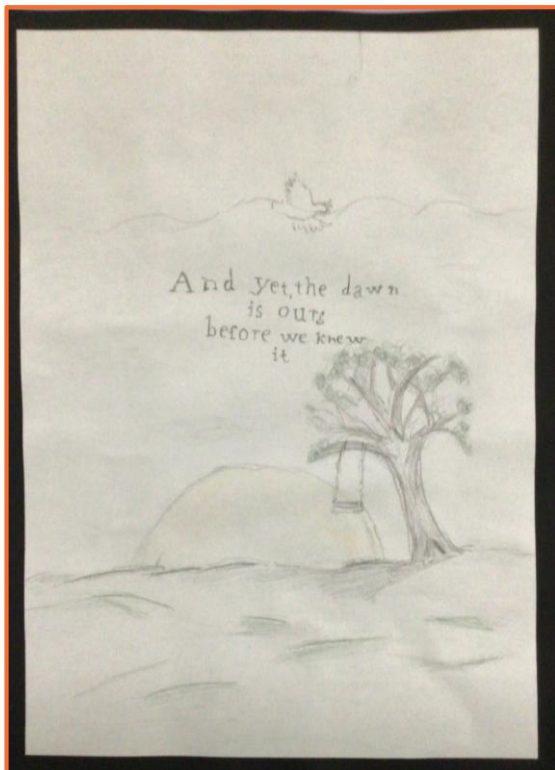


Class news

Year 6 – Miss McLean

Year 6 have launched into their next English sequence based on the story of Beowulf. We have read the story, discussed some of the rich vocabulary and considered what techniques the author Kevin Crossley Holland has used to create tension throughout it. In maths this week we finished our sequence on place value and have started looking at the four operations. The children tackled some tricky questions with their excellent resilience to begin the sequence. Next week, we will look more at factors, multiples, prime numbers and square numbers. In Science, the children carried out an investigation to prove that light always travels in a straight line. In geography, they learnt how to read an OS map using 4- and 6-figure grid references. Music involved learning a new song with a South African influence, a catchy tune and some movements to match the character. Finally, in PE we started our tag rugby sequence by practicing the core skills needed in a game. In hockey, we practiced some controlled passing and attacking techniques.

Have a lovely weekend!



By Maeve as part of Year 6's English sequence around Freedom Bird. Well done Maeve, a super piece of work!

Friends of Winkleigh Primary School updates

FOWS HALLOWEEN DISCO



31ST

OCTOBER 2025

6-9PM



VILLAGE HALL, WINKLEIGH



£1.50 ENTRY

ALL AGES WELCOME
(PRE SCHOOL AND UP)



SWEETS, DRINKS,
AND HOT FOOD
AVAILABLE

* ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
BY A PARENT OR CARER

WINKLEIGH BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

WITH BBQ & SAM'S CIDER BAR

WINKLEIGH SPORTS
CENTRE

FRI 7TH NOV 2025

ALL PROCEEDS TO
WINKLEIGH PRIMARY
SCHOOL



Friends of Winkleigh Primary School updates

AGM for FOWs



**Monday, 13th October
at 2pm
at
Winkleigh School**



Our next **Bag2School** collection
has been arranged for

Friday 10th October at 9am

at Winkleigh Primary School

Please fill a bin bag (or bags!) with your items and leave under the covered area by the school doors, on the morning of the **10th October 2025 at 9am**.

Men's, ladies' and childrens clothing, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, bras, jewellery, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, household curtains, household towels, household bedding all accepted.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

Thank you!

www.bag2school.com