



Autumn Weekly Bulletin 03

Friday 18th September 2026

Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13: 31-32

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful start to the term, and great to see so many children settling so quickly into their new classes and routines. Pupils are continuing to engage well in lessons, showing enthusiasm for their learning and a positive attitude, across the school. Our younger children have also started learning through our new phonics programme, Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS), and we are already seeing them respond enthusiastically to the clear and structured approach.

You may also find that your child comes home talking about penguins, bears and meerkats, and if you're lucky, they may even demonstrate the poses! This is because all classes are now taking part in Kinetic Letters, an approach to handwriting that focuses on developing the core strength, posture and fine motor skills children need in order to write fluently and confidently. The programme is already proving popular with pupils, and we are excited to see the impact it has on their handwriting development. More information can be found on our school website, and later this term we will also be running information sessions for parents.

One of the things we value most at Wool Primary & Pre-School is the strong partnership we have with our families. We regularly receive messages from parents asking how they can best support their child's learning at home, and we are always grateful for this shared commitment to helping our children thrive. Home learning is one of the keyways in which families can support learning beyond the classroom. While it can certainly help reinforce academic understanding, it also provides children with opportunities to practise important skills such as independence, organisation, perseverance and resilience. It allows them to revisit and apply learning from the classroom, and many children take great pride in sharing their efforts and achievements with the adults at home.

Over the coming weeks, classes will begin setting home learning tasks that are appropriate for each year group. However, the most important expectation for all children remains regular reading, ideally every day. Reading together provides invaluable opportunities for developing vocabulary, comprehension and a lifelong love of books. Just as importantly, it offers precious time to cosy up with a trusted adult and enjoy a story together. With younger readers, taking turns to read can help build confidence and fluency. Even if your child is not yet reading independently, spending time reading aloud to them and talking about the pictures, characters and what might happen next in the story can have a hugely positive impact on their language and literacy development.

In addition, children in Years 1 to 6 will continue to receive weekly spellings. Following feedback from parents, staff will now be sticking weekly spelling test mark sheets into homework books so that families can see how their child has got on and celebrate their progress. Children may also be given additional home learning linked to their English, mathematics or wider curriculum topics. Teachers will communicate clearly when tasks are set and when homework books should be returned to school.

Thank you in advance for your support with home learning. By working together, we can help children develop both the knowledge and the learning habits that will serve them so well throughout their education. Each family is different and some prefer to carve out some time for home learning tasks at the weekend whilst others like to do this during the school week. Whatever you decide to do we would just encourage you to establish a routine as this really helps children as they get older. As always, if you have any questions about home learning or how best to support your child, please do speak to your child's teacher.

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Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the diary dates included in this week's bulletin. We know how helpful advance notice can be for busy families, so we have tried to be proactive in sharing a number of key events and activities planned for the term ahead. Please take a few moments to review the upcoming dates and add them to your calendars where possible.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Griffiths



Benedict's Law

You may have heard about Benedict's Law, which has led to new national guidance designed to strengthen allergy safety in schools. Introduced following the tragic death of Benedict Blythe from an allergic reaction, the guidance places a greater emphasis on training, emergency preparedness and clear procedures to support children with allergies. From this academic year, all schools are required to increase vigilance in this area, and we would like to ask for your help in ensuring you keep Arbor details up to date for your child and inform the school of any allergy diagnoses or changes to medical needs. Please also see the attached poster regarding a change to what we ask you to do if you want to send in a treat on your child's birthday.

Best Seat in the House

The Best Seat in the House is awarded to pupils who have gone above and beyond to earn Track It Lights points throughout the week.



Attendance

Attendance figures for this week are:

Reception: 96.1%

Year 1: 97.8%

Year 2: 100%

Year 3: 100%

Year 4: 98.6%

Year 5: 95.5%

Year 6: 94.1%

Whole School Attendance: 97.4 %

Notification of a child's absence must be reported to the school office on each day of absence.

A phone call or email must be received by the school office prior to 09:00 giving the reason for absence.

Attendance monitoring takes place regularly in school and a termly inspection is carried out by Dorset Council. If your child's absence drops below 90%, you will receive a letter expressing concern.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 29th September – Monday 5th October – Scholastic Book Fair (in the school hall)

Thursday 1st October – Flu Immunisation Team in school – Please see Arbor communication or speak to the school office for further information

Thursday 1st October – Skylark Class Leeson House parent/carer information meeting – 14:30

Wednesday 7th October – Harvest Festival Service at the Church - 14.15 -15.00 – parents welcome to attend

Thursday 8th October – Open morning for prospective families - 9.15am to 11.30am

Thursday 15th October- SEND Parent/carer/teacher meetings for 08:30 – 16:30 – further information to follow

Tuesday 20th October - Parent/carer/teacher meetings – 15:20 – 17:30 – further information to follow

Thursday 22nd October - Parent/carer/teacher meetings – 15:20 – 17:30 – further information to follow

Sunday 25th October – Bovington Together Harvest Festival 2pm – 4pm @ Bovington Memorial Hall

Friday 23rd October – INSET Day – School closed to pupils

Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October – Half Term

Monday 2nd November- Return to school

Monday 23rd November – Individual and family photographs

Monday 23rd November – Owl Class Brenscombe parent/carer information meeting – 14:30

Tuesday 8th December – Pre-school - Christmas Songs -10.00-12.00

Tuesday 15th December – KS1 – Nativity Performance -TBC

Wednesday 16th December -KS2 Christmas Service -14.15 (parents/carers welcome)

Friday 18th December – Last day of term – 13:15 finish time

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January – Christmas Break

Monday 4th January - INSET Day – School closed to pupils



Thursday 4th March – Yr 3/4 – singing project – Skylarks will be joining other primary schools in putting together a concert @ Lighthouse Poole

Monday 10th May – Friday 14th May – Year 6 SATS Week

Wednesday 26th May – Friday 28th May – Skylark class Leeson House residential trip

Wednesday 30th June – Friday 2nd July – Owl class Brenscombe residential trip