

Newsletter

Issue 5

2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy and successful week in school, with lots to celebrate!



Today we enjoyed our **Harvest Festival**. A huge thank you to everyone who donated food. It was wonderful to talk to the children about where their donations will go and how they can help other people during difficult times. Alongside celebrating our farming traditions and the harvest itself, it gave us an important opportunity to celebrate **kindness, generosity, giving and sharing**.



There has been lots happening outdoors too. At **Forest School**, children have been delighted to create tiny 'fairy fires' under Mrs Homewood's careful supervision, learning how to light and tend them safely. Meanwhile, bulb planting is under way in our **Edible Playground**, ready for the months ahead.



Our **INSET day** on Monday focused on making the 'invisible' parts of learning visible. Staff are increasingly modelling their thinking aloud, helping children hear the decisions, strategies and problem-solving that sit behind successful learning. You can support this at home too by simply talking through your thinking during everyday activities, from preparing dinner to deciding what to wear based on the weather.

Next week promises to be equally exciting, with **puppet workshops for Years 3 and 4 on Monday and Years 5 and 6 on Tuesday** through our work with **Play to the Crowd**. We are delighted to be able to provide these opportunities to develop creativity, performance and engagement with the arts.

Finally, I am delighted to share our **parent survey feedback poster** from the summer survey in this week's newsletter. Thank you to everyone who shared their views with us. Your feedback really does help us as we continue to develop and improve our school.

Parent View - Summer 2026

WHAT FAMILIES VALUE

98% say their child feels safe
97% say their child is happy
91% value the range of subjects

Standout strengths

- Warm, caring staff
- Strong community and family feel
- Outdoor learning, Forest School and grounds
- Inclusive, welcoming culture

KEY FINDINGS

Communication is the clearest theme

Parents want more consistent updates about learning and progress.

80% agree the school lets them know how their child is doing.

81% agree they are aware of the curriculum.

Parents also highlighted access for working families, behaviour, academic challenge, clubs and screen use.

OUR ACTION POINTS

1

Consistent class updates

Weekly teaching communication across all year groups.

2

Improve parent consultation

Ensure parents are aware that meetings can be booked in addition to parents evenings.
Offer full hybrid online or face-to-face meeting schedule with slots running until 5:30 or 6:00pm.

3

Plan ahead for families

Share event details earlier (at least 2 weeks notice) so parents have time to make arrangements.

4

Strengthen follow up

Review curriculum information, behaviour communication and follow-up when concerns are raised.

5

Review wider opportunities

Explore club variety, Forest School frequency, screen use and communication for Nursery families.

Thank you for helping us to keep improving Oliver's Battery Primary & Nursery School together.



It was lovely to recognise the children in assembly today who, throughout the week, have caught the eye of the adults in school for being Ready Respectful and Safe.

Date	Friday 2 October 2026
 Butterflies	Teddy, Emma, Huw and Percy have worked so hard this week in phonics. They have shown that they are ready to learn in our sessions on the carpet and thought carefully about our letter rhymes and how to hold a pen or pencil when forming their letters. Well done, you should be very proud!
 Ladybirds	Micah has made a real effort to show he is ready during class inputs. He has been noticed for sitting beautifully and listening well. This has been particularly noticeable in History, as he stood out for remembering details about Saint Patrick and King Alfred! Tommy Unsworth for trying really hard with his phonics and being respectful, putting his hand up and waiting to be asked for his answer.
 Bumblebees	Elsie has been working hard particularly in maths. She has shown that she is ready to learn and is starting to work independently. Louis has really impressed us this week with his positive attitude towards his learning. He is listening well and is working hard on his handwriting and spelling. Layla has shown her readiness to learn and listens so well to advice about her writing. She always works hard and listens well.
 Hares	Piper, Mia, Everlyn, Connor and Leo. This group of children have worked incredibly hard in Maths this week! They have been practising their times tables and using reasoning to solve problems. Some tasks were tricky, but they persevered, kept thinking and showed a fantastic attitude towards completing their work independently. Well done to you all — we are so proud of your determination!
 Foxes	Tommy and Ruby have both settled in fantastically to Foxes and Oliver's Battery. Tommy has been working so hard at his writing, taking such care with his letter formations. Ruby has shared so much of her previous Romans learning with us with her favourite Boudicca song and mosaics, showing enthusiasm and consideration with her new class. We are so pleased to have you two as a part of our community.
 Heron	Danny for his fantastic improvement in handwriting size and his growing engagement in maths. His hard work and positive attitude have really impressed me. Evie M for sharing brilliant ideas in our English lesson around personification and for always giving things a go. Her willingness to learn from mistakes and challenge herself is a wonderful example to her classmates. Well done Danny and Evie!
 Kingfishers	Jayden, William and James worked <i>brilliantly</i> together today, showing real collaboration as they planned and wrote a vivid setting description. They shared ideas, built on each other's suggestions, and produced imaginative sentences full of detail. A special well-done to Orla , who chose super adjectives like <i>lush</i> and <i>fragrant</i> to bring her setting to life — fantastic vocabulary choices that created a really clear picture for the reader.



Top Table

The children chosen for the top table this week are:

Michaelle T – Hares, Andi E – Foxes, Maya NB - Herons

Housepoints – these are announced each week in assembly				
	 Oak	 Maple	 Birch	 Rowan
Points this week	177	234	203	185
Leaderboard	4th	1st	3rd	1st

Pumpkin Trail – Monday 19th October

We are really looking forward to our Pumpkin Trail again this year! Last year's creations were fantastic, and it was lovely to see so many families enjoying the trail together.

If you would like to take part, please bring your pumpkin to school first thing on **Monday 19th October (and not before, please)**. Cones will be placed around the trail, so simply choose a cone and leave your pumpkin beside it.

The children will enjoy seeing the pumpkins during the school day, before the trail opens to families after school. Our wonderful PTA will also be selling hot chocolate, drinks and snacks to raise funds. There is absolutely no obligation to buy anything, but your support is always appreciated.

Pumpkins can be taken home at the end of the trail, from around 4.15–4.30pm, or collected from the top playground on Tuesday 20th October. Please do remember to collect yours.

We're holding the trail earlier in the week as Year 5 and several staff will be at Ferny Crofts later in the week, and we don't want them to miss out!

We can't wait to see all your wonderfully creative pumpkins!  



Request for Wood

Inspired by her weekend at the Forest School conference Mrs Homewood has a request for thick wood slices/stumps that would be good for making mini saw horses. She is also on the look out for Elder Wood for Forest Crafts.

Parents Meetings

This week we sent out instructions for booking your child's parents meeting. If you have any problems booking a slot please contact the school office and a member of the admin team will be happy to book these for you. These appointments are a good way to check on your child's progress.



Fun Food Sessions

Little Food Explorers are running Fun Food Sessions for children aged between 4 and 11 in Winchester. Children will learn, not just facts, but how to take charge of their own health, one meal at a time. For more information go to: www.littlefoodexplorers.org.

Thank you all for your continued support and hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully



Miss Vittle
Headteacher

Dates for your diary - [new events in Blue](#) [Just Nursery Dates in Green](#)

ALL DATES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE TOO 😊 Just click here: [School Calendar](#)

Parents Evenings	Tuesday 13 th October 3-6pm
Parents Evening	Wednesday 14 th October 2:30 – 5:00pm
Pumpkin Trail 3.30pm	Monday 19 October 2026
Year 5 trip to Ferny Crofts	Wednesday – Friday 21 – 23 October 2026
End of Autumn 1	Friday 23 rd October
Start of Autumn 2	Monday 2 nd November
Autumn Disco	Wednesday 4 November 2026
Flu Vaccines	Thursday 5 November 2026
Year 6 trip to Calshot	Tuesday – Friday – 10 – 13 November
School Photographer – Individual photos	Thursday 19 November 2026
MHST Emotion Regulation Workshop	Tuesday 1 December 2026 9 – 10.30am
Wreath Making Workshop	Friday 11 December 2026
INSET DAY	Friday 12 February 2027
INSET DAY	Friday 25 June 2027
INSET DAY	Monday 28 June 2027