Oliver's Battery
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Austen Avenue
Winchester SO22 4HP
Telephone: 01962 869496
Email: admin@oliversb.com

Headteacher: Miss Sarah Vittle B.Ed (Hons)

Newsletter

Issue 8
23 October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

has been a really successful and enjoyable week, full of learning, adventure and community spirit.





We started the week with our Pumpkin Trail, which was even bigger and better than last year. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make it such a special community event. I am sure there was lots of fun at home as families worked together to create their fantastic pumpkin designs, and it was lovely to see so many people come together to enjoy the trail. A huge thank you to our PTA for providing delicious hot chocolate, and thank you to everyone who chose to make a donation using the QR codes. It is wonderful to have an event that is free for everyone to attend and enjoy, with the opportunity to donate if you wish.

This week, children have also enjoyed collecting and decorating autumnal items, making the most of conkers, autumn weather and opportunities to learn outdoors. Whether during Forest School or in other lessons, pupils have shown great enthusiasm and engagement, despite the rain at times!





Our Year 5 pupils have also spent time on their residential visit to Ferny Crofts. I was fortunate to spend two days with them and can honestly say how incredibly proud I am of each and every one of them. As part of our work to establish our school values, we have been talking about being **curious in learning, courageous in challenge and united in community**. The children at Ferny Crofts demonstrated all of these qualities every day. They approached new experiences with curiosity, challenged themselves to step outside their comfort zones and supported one another throughout every activity. It was wonderful to see the encouragement, kindness and teamwork on display, and I know you must be incredibly proud of them too. A huge thank you to Miss Zwinkels, Mrs Waghorn, Miss Langridge, Mrs Bordoli and Mrs Lincoln who took time away from their own families to look after, support and care for the children of Heron's Class.

As we reach the end of the half term, I would like to thank our children, families and staff for all their hard work and support. I hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable break. In assembly this morning, I reminded the children of the importance of getting plenty of sleep, having fun and recharging ready for Autumn 2. We have lots of exciting learning ahead as we begin the lead-up to Christmas.

Attached to this newsletter are some half-term activity ideas for each year group. We hope you enjoy them and look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break. **Have a wonderful half term!**

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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 23 October 2026
Butterflies 	**Connie!** -Connie, you have worked so hard on learning to write your name since starting school. Each day you have been practising to form your letters and can now write every sound in your name. We are so proud of you!
Ladybirds 	Well done to **Bertie and Xander** for their fantastic work in Maths! We have been learning about 3D shapes and they did a brilliant job during our shape scavenger hunt. They were also kind and helpful, supporting their friends to identify different shapes. Well done to **Vesper** for her fantastic participation in Phonics! She consistently tries her very best, joins in enthusiastically and uses her loud, clear voice when practising her sounds. It is wonderful to see her confidence and enthusiasm for learning.
Bumblebees 	**Freddie** always listens so well in lesson time and works hard to apply new learning in his work. Freddie's kind and caring nature makes him a role model in the class. Well done Freddie. **Douglas** has been working hard and is following instructions well. He has been trying so hard with his writing and has impressed us with his resilience and determination. **Reuben** has really impressed us this week with his fantastic work in RE and Science. He is enthusiastic about all of his learning. Well done Reuben!
Hares 	**Hares**-A huge well done to all of you! Hares have shown their fantastic collaboration, thoughtful discussions and enthusiasm during our Stone Age activities. You shared ideas, supported one another and immersed yourselves in life in the Stone Age.
Foxes 	This week, **Frances** has been recognised for her fantastic effort with her descriptive narrative writing. She wrote some detailed, imaginative ideas which produced a great piece of writing. She has also shown maturity with change and I was proud to observe how she handled a situation. Well done Frances and keep up the great work!
Herons 	**Herons** have been having a superb time in The New Forest on their Ferny Crofts Residential Trip. They have been curious to learn and keen to challenge themselves in new situations. All of Heron's have worked hard together to look after, encourage and support their class mates. Well done Heron's!
Kingfishers 	This week **Jack, Noah, Henry, Max and Samuel** have been recognised for their continued enthusiasm for Football and their commitment to the team. Despite facing a challenging season, the boys have continued to attend training, support one another and represent the school with positivity and resilience. Their teamwork, sportsmanship and willingness to keep trying, even when results have not gone their way, have been a fantastic example to others. Well done, boys, for your excellent attitude and perseverance.



Top Table

The children chosen for the top table this week are:

Matthew A-K – Ladybirds, Ilana H – Bumblebees, Finley D – Foxes, William B - Kingfishers

Housepoints – these are announced each week in assembly				
	Oak	**Maple**	**Birch**	**Rowan**
Points this week	**312**	**283**	**183**	**318**
Leaderboard	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**	**1st**

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Well Done

A big congratulations to Alfie in Year 4 who this week received a certificate from Winchester Beacons after he raised £48.22 for them at our Summer Fair selling his bracelets – well done Alfie on a fantastic achievement!



PTA News

Hugh congratulations to Helen, Dylan's mum who won our Baking Competition.

Time to Dance -The school disco is on **Wednesday 4th November**, with **KS1 at 3.30pm** and **KS2 at 4.30pm**. More details will follow soon!

Get into the festive spirit!

Join us for the PTA's **Wreath Making Workshop on Friday 11th December**. Enjoy some festive crafting and create your own wreath. Book now to secure your place.

Change of Menu



The kitchen will be providing a special menu for Firework Day – Thursday 5 November. The choices will be:
Pork Hot Dog or Pizza Pinwheel with whizz bang chips, bbq beans and corn on the cob followed by a Strawberry Sparkler Sundae.

Winchester Food and Basics Bank

Winchester Food and Basics Bank have now launched the Holiday Lunch Scheme. This scheme aims to provide food to cover five lunches per child per week during the holiday period – enrolment closes on Sunday 6 December and collections will be available from Monday 14 December. For more information and to enrol go to: **https://winchesterfoodandbasicsbank.co.uk/holiday-lunch-scheme/**

Direct 4 Logos - Our school uniform shop will be closed from 2pm today, Friday 23 October and will re-open on Monday 26 October.

Thank you all for your continued support and hope you have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 2 November.

Yours faithfully

Miss Vittle
Headteacher

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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

End of Autumn 1	Friday 23 October
Start of Autumn 2	Monday 2 November
Swimming Lessons start – Year 3	Tuesday 3 November
Forest & Edible Playground starts for Year 1	Tuesday 3 November
Autumn Disco	Wednesday 4 November 2026
Flu Vaccines	Thursday 5 November 2026
Year 6 trip to Calshot	Tuesday – Friday – 10 – 13 November
Anti-Bullying Week 1	16 November
School Photographer – Individual photos	Thursday 19 November 2026
Forest & Edible Playground starts for Year 2	Tuesday 24 November
MHST Emotion Regulation Workshop	Tuesday 1 December 2026 9 – 10.30am
Year 1&2 Christmas Nativity Performance	Thursday 10th December
Wreath Making Workshop	Friday 11 December 2026
Rock Steady Performance	Monday 14th December 1pm
Year R Christmas Song Performance	Monday 14th December 3pm
Nursery Christmas Song Share	Tuesday 15th December 2:45pm
Christmas Lunch and Jumper day	Thursday 17th December
Carols, Choir & Sing-a-long	Thursday 17th December 3pm
End of Term	Friday 18th December
INSET DAY	Friday 12 February 2027
INSET DAY	Friday 25 June 2027
INSET DAY	Monday 28 June 2027