Austen Avenue
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Headteacher: Miss Sarah Vittle B.Ed (Hons)

Newsletter

Issue 9
6 November 2026

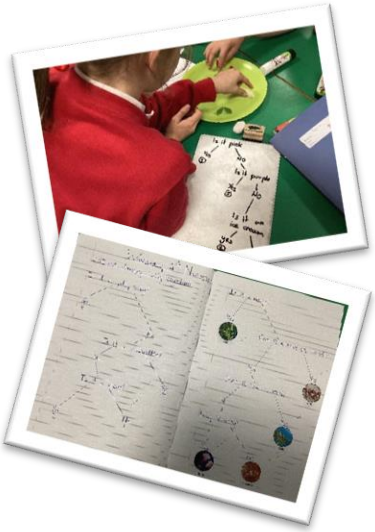


Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after half term. We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for another exciting half term of learning. It was lovely to hear that some families made use of the suggested half term activities linked to this term's learning. We'd love to know whether you found these useful, as it's something we could continue to provide before future holidays.



One of the things we value highly at Oliver's Battery is bringing learning to life. This week, children have taken learning beyond the classroom, from hunting for minibeasts in Nursery and Forest School to Year 6 pupils using classification keys to identify and organise animals after practising with everyday objects. Real-life experiences help make learning meaningful, memorable and fun.



A special well done to Year 3 for their first swimming session this week. Many children showed great courage as they stepped into the pool, truly demonstrating our value of being *Courageous in Challenge*.

Next week, we wish Year 6 a fantastic time at Calshot Activity Centre. We're looking forward to hearing all about their adventures.

Congratulations to our football teams, who represented the school brilliantly at Colden Common this week. Their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship made us all proud.

Thank you also to our PTA for a fantastic Autumn Disco. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying time with friends and making special memories.



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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 6 November 2026
Butterflies 	Well done **Joey!** This week you have blown us away with your independent learning during our Explore and Learn time. You have worked so hard on using our sound mats and writing boards to practise your letters and sounds and showed a great level of creativity when you created your very own number block characters to 8!
Ladybirds 	Well done to **Hussain** for consistently making good choices and always showing kindness towards others. During Forest School, he has shown great curiosity when exploring the outdoors. He was also very helpful when working with his friends to find bugs and move the tyres. Keep it up, Hussain!
Bumblebees 	**Kitty** has really impressed us this week with her enthusiasm for learning and the energy she brings to the classroom every day. As well as being ready to learn she is always ready to show kindness and understanding to others.
Hares 	**Oliver P and Vincent** have shown great curiosity this week. Both boys showed a keen interest in exploring our new English text 'The Wild Robot'. They were curious to find out how events had happened and were excellent at sharing their knowledge of the meaning of words.
Foxes 	**Scarlett** has been on fire in English this week. Her attention to detail with predicting our text was amazing, showing such careful, curious and thoughtful thinking. She has also worked hard building detail into her expanded noun phrases which have really impressed me. Well done Scarlett, your efforts do not go unnoticed!
Herons 	We are so proud of all of year 5 for showing such courage and a real sense of unity at Ferny Crofts before half term. You all challenged yourselves, stepped out of your comfort zones and supported one another brilliantly. This week, **Ada B and Adam** have shown fantastic curiosity about space, asking thoughtful questions such as why Neptune's four rings cannot be seen in photographs and why Venus is the hottest planet when it is not closest to the Sun.
Kingfishers 	**Alice and Zofia** have been recognised for the curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. They have both included the phrase "I wonder…" in their explanations and written work, showing a thoughtful approach to learning and a desire to explore in greater depth. Well done Alice and Zofia!



Top Table

The children chosen for the top table this week are: Bonnie S, Frances W, Tommy S and Matilda L – all Foxes Class.

Housepoints – these are announced each week in assembly				
	Oak	**Maple**	**Birch**	**Rowan**
Points this week	**161**	**252**	**194**	**245**
Leaderboard	**4th**	**2nd**	**3rd**	**1st**

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Christmas Performances and Celebrations

As we look ahead to Christmas, we wanted to explain some changes to our festive performances this year.
We know that performing can be exciting, but for some of our youngest children standing on a stage in front of a large audience can also feel overwhelming. With this in mind, we have created a more gradual progression of performance opportunities as children move through the school.
Nursery children will share Christmas songs with their grown-ups in the familiar surroundings of the nursery. Families will be invited to join in the singing and enjoy a festive celebration together.
Year R children will perform Christmas songs on the stage in the hall for family members. Each child will receive three tickets for the performance and children will wear Christmas jumpers and festive accessories.
Our **Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity** will see Year 2 children taking the speaking roles while Year 1 children perform the songs and dances.
Finally, **Carols Around the Tree** will be led by Key Stage 2, with Key Stage 1 also joining in. This year's event will focus entirely on singing, with opportunities for the audience to join in as well.



We hope families will understand that these changes have been made with the children at the centre of our thinking. By gradually building confidence and performance skills throughout their time at school, we can ensure that festive celebrations remain a positive, enjoyable experience for every child. We look forward to sharing these special moments with you over the coming weeks.

Christmas Events – Dates for your Diary

Friday 4 December	– Beauty and the Beast Panto (at school)
Wednesday 9 December	– Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play dress rehearsal
Thursday 10 December	– Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play performance to parents (9.15am)
Friday 11 December	– PTA Wreath Making Workshop in the evening
Monday 14 December	– Year R Christmas Song performance for parents/carers (3pm)
Tuesday 15 December	– Nursery Christmas Songs for parents/carers (2.45pm)
Thursday 17 December	– Christmas Jumper da and Christmas Lunch
	– Carols and Choir on the decking at 3pm.
Friday 18 December	– Last day of term – NO Early Morning Club

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Children in Need Day

We will be celebrating Children in Need Day in School on **Friday 13 November.** Children are invited to come into school dressed as Pudsey (ears etc) for a donation of £1 which will go to Children in Need.

Thank you!

We have received a letter of thanks for our Harvest Festival Donations:

On behalf of the Winchester Food & Basics Bank, I would like to thank you and your school for your recent Harvest food donation. Your generosity has come at a particularly important time as we prepare for our Christmas School Holiday Lunches programme.

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



Year 6 trip to Calshot	Tuesday – Friday – 10 – 13 November
Anti-Bullying Week	Monday 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
Beauty and the Beast Pantomime (R-6)	Friday 4 December 2026
Year 1 & 2 Christmas Nativity Performance	Thursday 10 December 2026- 9.15
Wreath Making Workshop	Friday 11 December 2026 evening
Rock Steady Performance	Monday 14 December 1pm
Year R Christmas Song Performance	Monday 14 December 3pm
Nursery Christmas Song Share	Tuesday 15 December 2:45pm
Christmas Lunch and Jumper day	Thursday 17 December
Carols, Choir & Sing-a-long	Thursday 17 December 3pm
End of Term	Friday 18 December
No Early Morning Club	Friday 18 December
INSET DAY	Friday 12 February 2027
INSET DAY	Friday 25 June 2027
INSET DAY	Monday 28 June 2027