



NEWSLETTER

Friday 5th September

Welcome to the Autumn term of 2025

Firstly I would like to say I hope everyone had a lovely summer and were able to enjoy some time spent with family and friends.

There have been some changes to our set up this year. We had a very tricky year last year with some classes over-stretched with pupil numbers. To address this we have created more physical capacity in the school by moving Cello class into the FE building and adding a new class in the main school—Harp class. This has bought us some breathing space for a short time as we have brought all of the classes back down in size to around eight pupils per class.

We look forward to working with parents to achieve the best outcomes that we can for your child. We are a very dedicated hard working team of people who go above and beyond for your child on a daily basis. Please appreciate that we do our best but that does not mean we are perfect and mistakes happen.

Thank you in advance for your support. When we work effectively together it helps achieve the best outcome for the children.

Sean



HOUSEKEEPING

Class Dojo is our preferred communication method - make sure you can access this app.



Evidence for Learning is the app that we use to record your child's progress - this information generally comes out near the end of a half term so make sure you can access.



School Transport

It is parental responsibility to cancel school transport directly with the transport team if not required—whether it is for the morning, afternoon or whole day. If you do not have their contact numbers, please request them from your driver and passenger assistant.

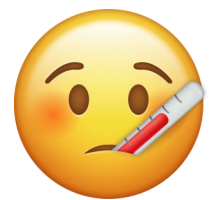


Please do not ring/text during unreasonable hours, i.e. between the hours of 8pm—6.45am (remember—texts may send loud notifications).

Please be ready at the time you have been given by the transport team. They are only obliged to wait for three minutes.

Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness or appointments, please let us know via dojo or a telephone call as soon possible —preferably before 8am.



Class Dojo messages can be left at any time and we will pick up telephone messages left before 8am in the morning.

Parents' co-operation means that we are able to adjust our staffing accordingly to suit class attendance. This task is carried out by 8.15am each day.

Lunches

Please ensure you have registered your child's school lunch choice by 8.50am—that is the cut off time for parents. **If they are absent from school, remember to cancel the lunch you have ordered for that day by 8.50am.**



We suggest you go through the menus from weeks one to three (which will change termly) and order at the beginning of each term. Once done, you do not have to think about it again for a while!

Each morning we endeavour to check to see who has not ordered a lunch to ensure those students are catered for then, if able, ask them what their choice would be.

We also have been given a deadline which doesn't give us much time after students' arrival to sort out missing lunches.

Correspondence

We apologise if we overlook anything that has been sent in via school bags. If you have put any reply slips, money, letters etc in your child's bag, please let us know by Class Dojo. Although we endeavour to check all children's bags each day as they arrive, we are finding it more difficult to do so. With the amazing amount of pockets that are now being manufactured into school bags (they average around seven per bag!), sometimes things get missed which creates difficulties.



NEW FACES!

We have a number of new students who are starting with us this week and we wish them all best on their new journey.

Drum



Elana



Jack



Tiger



Zachary

Tambourine



Jacob

Triangle



Delilah



Emir

Trumpet



Elliott

Harp



Panashe



Ashley Griffith—Harp class teacher

Ashely has recently moved from Slough having taught in a special needs school for some time there. She brings with her a wealth of experience and we look forward to helping her settle in to not only a new school, but a whole new classroom that's been created!



Caitlin Moseley—University Student

Caitlin is a Southampton university student studying for her BSc in Education and Psychology. She will be gaining experience working in classes and with Sharon Portsmouth (Family Support Practitioner) for a year before returning to complete her studies.



Lily

Lily O'Meara & Lola Tatlock

It's a "Welcome back!" to Lily and Lola.

Some parents may recall these two Andover College students gaining work experience at our school last year.

We are thrilled to say they enjoyed it so much they are now returning as Health and Social Care day release apprentices. So we will be having the pleasure of their enthusiasm for four days a week. Lily will be in both Tambourine and Drum classes and Lola will be in Maracas.



Lola

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK

Charlotte, Drum - 6 yrs old



BIRTHDAYS BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK END...

Shristi, Oboe - 11 yrs old

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS OF THE WEEK



sing	dance	cooking	work	toys

CONGRATULATIONS!

We had two staff weddings over the summer.



Cerys Grainger (now Cerys Grainger-Gilbert) was married to Dan on 4th August at the Wickham Estate at Botley, followed by a reception sampling the estate's own vineyards' wine! They were of course accompanied by Cheddar (the school therapy dog) who was a very well-behaved ring bearer and

not at all distracted by the petals dropped by the flower girls (as if we would ever doubt it!)

Paul Toms ran away to Gretna Green to marry his wife Jane on 24th July! Paul explained they had family all over the country, and getting everyone in the same place at the same time was going to be too complex so ... they decided to marry in secret. We just think it was all very thrilling and romantic!!



AUTUMN TERM 2025

SEPTEMBER

- 16th Flu Immunisations (Yrs R to 17yr olds incl.)
- 17th Mars House Trip—Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm
- 19th Jeans for Genes Day (dress down)

OCTOBER

- 10th **INSET DAY (WHOLE SCHOOL)**
- 23rd Parents' Evening
- 24th **INSET DAY (FE students only—not Cello)**

