

Vermont News 13 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this chapter, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank all of our parents and children for working so closely with us here at Vermont School to achieve the very best for every child. Your support, encouragement and partnership have made a real and lasting difference. When school and home work together, children truly thrive and that is something we have seen every single day.

I will miss every single member of our school community. Vermont School is a very special place because of the people within it : our dedicated staff, our supportive families and, most importantly, our wonderful children. I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved together as a school. I am proud of our committed staff body and the teamwork that underpins all we do. Most importantly, I am incredibly proud of the progress our children continue to show. They work hard every single day, demonstrate resilience, and approach their learning with enthusiasm and determination. They are a credit to you and to our school.

Thank you for the privilege of being part of this community. I wish you all the very best for the future.

Have a great half term and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

If you have any thoughts, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to share them with us at tellus@vermontschool.co.uk.

With best wishes,

Louisa & The Vermont Team

Reminders

Some key reminders:

- Children should refrain from bringing personal toys into school. This is because we do not want them getting lost or broken as this causes a lot of upset. Thank you.
- Children should bring plastic water bottles only, metal water bottles are not permitted in school. Thank you.
- With the wet weather forecast to continue, could children come into school with a spare change of clothes and a pair of wellington boots, where possible. Thank you.

Attendance



Each week we celebrate attendance. Our target is 90%

Our whole school attendance this week was 88%

Our class smashing attendance targets this week are: Elephants

Attendance HERO (Here Everyday Ready On Time)

Elephants are our HERO class this week! Elephants will enjoy cakes today to celebrate their attendance. Well done!

You will receive an email every **Friday** with your child's **attendance percentage**. This is to help keep you informed and up to date on your child's attendance throughout the school year.

This year, we are placing a strong focus on attendance, as we know how important it is for every child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. Please know that our Attendance Lead, **Sian**, is here to offer support and guidance if you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance.

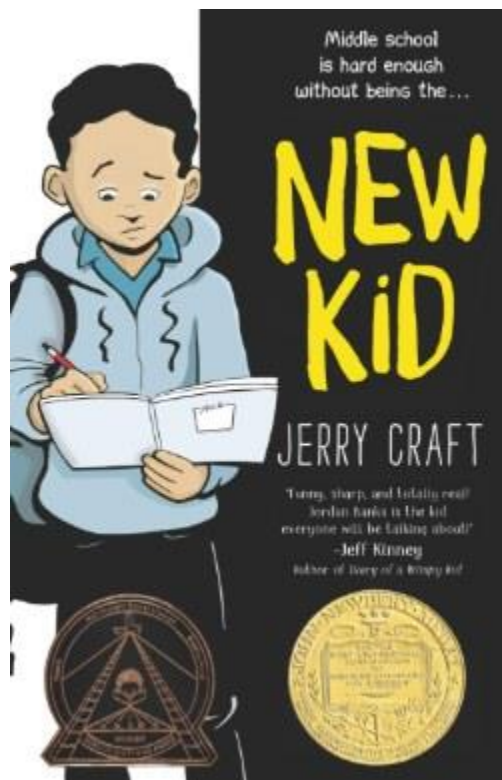
Parents Voice

Kellie Bright, best known for her role in EastEnders, has launched 'Post SEND', a new storytelling project that gives voice to real experiences of SEND. The project invites people to share short, honest reflections by post, with no pressure to write perfectly or in detail, and submissions can be made anonymously. By gathering these personal stories, Post SEND aims to build a powerful collective picture of SEND life.

Read the full article to find out more about the project and how to take part.

<https://www.netmums.com/child/child-health/kellie-bright-launches-powerful-send-project-and-wants-families-to-get-involved-so-real-voices-are-heard>

Our Learning



In English we are reading *New Kid* by Jerry Craft.

It is a friendly, relatable graphic novel about a boy named Jordan who starts at a new school and learns how to fit in while staying true to himself. Through colourful illustrations and humour, it explores themes like friendship, confidence, and understanding differences. Children are really enjoying the book.

Geography

This term in Geography, children are learning all about *Southampton as a city by the sea*. They are exploring the city's rivers and coastline, discover how the port works, and learn why ships, trade and travel are so important to Southampton. Through maps, photographs and hands-on activities, pupils are building a strong understanding of their local area and how it connects to the wider world, developing curiosity, confidence and pride in the city they live in.

Enrichment Activities

Enrichment

All children at Vermont take part in Enrichment. This is part of our core curriculum offer. We rotate the enrichment activities every half term so that classes get a wide a varied curriculum offer. Enrichment is part of the normal school day and are carefully planned to help children build confidence, manage emotions, develop communication skills, and engage with learning. These activities also help meet the support set out in a child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Activities within our community

Some of our children have enjoyed spending time out and about in our local community, taking their learning beyond the classroom walls. These visits are always a valuable opportunity to build independence, confidence and real-life experiences.

Our trip to the local library was a wonderful success. The children explored a wide range of books, spent time reading together and spoke beautifully with library staff. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm for stories and their excitement about choosing new books to enjoy. Visits like this help to foster a lifelong love of reading and show the children that books can open doors to so many new worlds.

We also had great fun at the indoor soft play area, where the children developed their physical skills, coordination and teamwork. They supported one another, showed excellent turn-taking and demonstrated positive behaviour throughout the visit. Most importantly, they had lots of smiles and laughter along the way!

We are incredibly proud of how our children represent Vermont School when they are out in the community. They consistently demonstrate respect, kindness and excellent manners, and they are a true credit to our school.











Headteacher Award



Bentley A- Crocs

For being a fantastic role model, well done, we are so proud of you

Pandas



The Pandas have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks! We are so proud of the dedication and positive attitudes everyone has shown, especially with our SATs preparation.

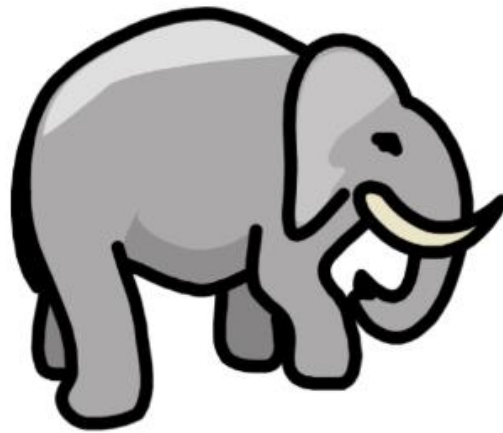
The children have been focused, determined and supportive of one another as they practise their skills in reading, maths and grammar. Alongside our hard work, we've also made time for some fun and creativity! We enjoyed making delicious pancakes together, carefully following instructions and measuring ingredients.

The children showed great teamwork (and patience!) while cooking. In our creative time, we've been designing colourful patterns using Hama beads. This has helped us develop concentration, fine motor skills and perseverance and the results have been fantastic!

We were also very proud to complete our Puzzle of Positivity. A big focus for us recently has been learning how to take turns, listen to each other and work together as a team. The Pandas are becoming excellent collaborators, showing kindness, respect and encouragement in everything they do. Well done, Pandas — keep up the amazing effort!



Elephants



We've had another busy and enjoyable week in class! The children had a wonderful time making pancakes with Mr Darren, showing great teamwork and independence as they mixed, cooked, and of course tasted their creations.

We also introduced a new class game, Red Light, Green Light, which was lots of fun and a great way to practise listening and self-control. Some pupils enjoyed a special cooked breakfast with the pastoral team, providing a lovely opportunity to relax and chat together.

To finish the week, we created thoughtful goodbye posters for Miss Louisa, sharing kind messages and happy memories. We are so proud of the kindness, enthusiasm, and teamwork shown by everyone!







Health and Wellbeing

We have introduced a new snack menu in-line with our mission to be a Healthy High 5 School. These are the snacks we will provide to all children every day.

snack Menu	
WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO
Monday: AM – banana and crackers	Monday: AM – grapes and breadsticks
Tuesday: AM – apple and breadsticks PM – carrot sticks and crumpet	Tuesday: AM – bell pepper and crackers PM – strawberries, orange and yoghurt
Wednesday: AM – pear and crackers PM – bell pepper and cheesesliders	Wednesday: AM – raisins and breadsticks PM – celery and cheese sliders
Thursday: AM – cucumber and breadsticks PM – strawberries, orange and yoghurt	Thursday: AM – carrot and crackers PM – banana and crumpet
Friday: AM – raisins and crackers PM – celery sticks, and beans on toast	Friday: AM – pear and breadsticks PM – tomato pasta and cucumber



The dates and contacts bit

The best way to speak to us about your child:

If you would like to talk about your child's learning please use the home school communication book. Our phone lines are open from 08:30 to 16:00 Monday to Thursday and until 15:30 on a Friday and we commit to responding to your calls and emails within 2 working days.

If you have any concerns, thoughts, ideas, please share them with us at tellus@vermontschool.co.uk.

INSET and key dates for this year

- 27th February 2026
- 13th April 2026 - Structured conversation day
- 1st June 2026 - INSET day
- 20th, 21st and 22nd July 2026 - INSET days

Upcoming Dates

- Last day of term 13th February
- Half term 16th - 20th February
- 23rd February - first day back after half term
- 27th February - INSET day

Road Safety

We would like to kindly remind everyone to please drive slowly and carefully in the school car park and on the surrounding roads. The speed limit is 5mph.

These areas can become very busy with children, families, and staff moving about, and taking a little extra care helps keep everyone safe. We appreciate your patience, awareness, and cooperation in following speed limits and being mindful of pedestrians at all times.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for our whole school community.

Mobile Phone Safety

Mobile phones are becoming an everyday part of children and young people's lives, bringing many benefits for learning, communication, and staying connected. However, it's important that phones are set up safely and appropriately for a child's age and stage of development.

Parental and adult controls are a key tool in helping to keep children safe online. These controls allow adults to:

- Limit access to age-inappropriate websites, apps, and content
- Set screen-time limits and downtime

- Approve app downloads and in-app purchases
- Monitor or restrict contact with unknown users

Most smartphones and tablets include built-in parental control settings, and mobile network providers also offer filters that can block adult or unsuitable content. Taking time to set these up when a child first gets a phone can make a big difference.

Locking down phones to age-appropriate content doesn't mean removing independence, it's about creating a safe digital environment. Controls can be gradually adjusted as children grow older, helping them learn to manage technology responsibly while still having appropriate safeguards in place.

Alongside technical settings, open conversations are just as important. Encourage children to talk about what they see online, who they communicate with, and to ask for help if something makes them feel uncomfortable. Reminding them not to share personal information and to think carefully before posting or messaging can help build good digital habits.

By combining parental controls, age-appropriate settings, and regular conversations, we can help children enjoy the benefits of mobile technology while staying safe and supported.

Roblox

We have been informed of a pop-up message appearing within Roblox that encourages children to download an external app called Pollybuzz (sometimes shown as Pollyfuzz). Although the app appears harmless at first—asking simple questions and creating an AI “friend”—it has been reported that, after initial use, it begins to display extremely inappropriate and unsafe content, including references to suicide, self-harm, and pornography.

We advise that conversations with your child regarding:

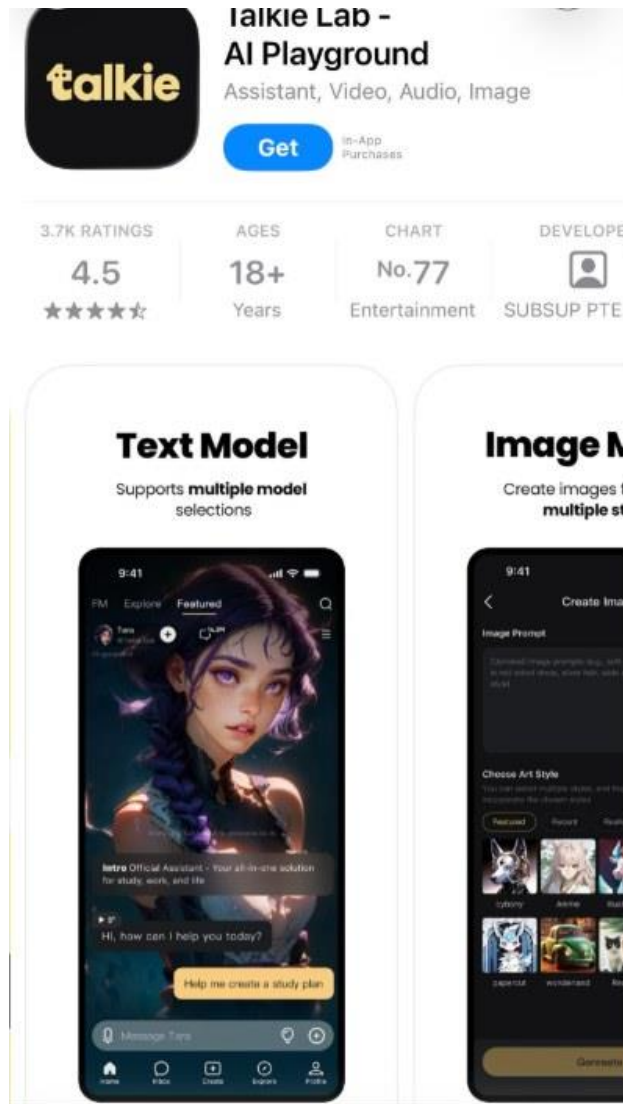
- Not to click on pop-ups or download anything that appears while they are playing games.
- To tell a trusted adult immediately if they see or experience anything online that makes them feel worried, confused, or uncomfortable.

Roblox does offer a range of parental control settings, which can help reduce risks. Guidance on how to set these controls can be found on the Roblox Support page under Parental Controls. <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

The Talkie app

Talkie is not appropriate for children to access. The app allows unrestricted conversations with AI characters that may include mature themes, suggestive language, emotional manipulation, or

content that is not age-appropriate. Due to limited safeguards and the potential for exposure to adult topics, Talkie is better suited for older users and should not be used by children without strict parental supervision.



Thrive


The children at Vermont School are here because they have an education health and care plan which has social emotional and mental health as one of their primary areas of need. The Thrive approach is about having an understanding of neuroscience (brain development), children development and attachment theory.

We identify possible gaps in development and help to fill those gaps using a creative and playful approach. Thrive is preventative, reparative, pragmatic and easy to use.

Thrive Practice

Each and every one of our children will benefit from Thrive practice and we currently have two Thrive Licensed Practitioners in training at the school: Miss Louisa and Miss Alana. The changes that Thrive has brought about can already be seen in the language used with children and also in the activities that children take part in as all our pupils are already making fantastic progress.

Please take a look at our website - under curriculum for full details of what Thrive looks like at school. If you would like to find out any more about Thrive, please let us know at tellus@vermontschool.co.uk.




Embracing Thrive: a parent and carers guide

The Thrive Approach®
For over 25 years, Thrive has been working with schools, settings and organisations to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.
Thrive equips educators with training, resources and an award-winning online tool, so they can better understand children and young people's needs and provide targeted, effective support.
With its focus on building secure relationships and providing positive experiences, Thrive helps young people to feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

Building positive relationships
The connections children and young people have with the adults around them are key to their social and emotional development. Thrive activities focus on providing positive experiences and building trusting relationships. This helps young people to:

- Feel good about themselves and know that they matter
- Feel safe and secure in school
- Improve their emotional wellbeing
- Improve their capacity to be creative and curious
- Build their self-esteem and confidence to learn
- Recognise and manage their feelings
- Think before behaving in a certain way...and much more!

thrive 
Removing barriers to learning

How does it work?

Thrive equips educators with strategies and activities to help build young people's social and emotional skills, as well as develop their ability to manage stress and take on life's ups and downs.

The Approach is underpinned by neuroscience, attachment theory and child development research and is suitable for children and young people aged 0-25 years.

What difference does Thrive make?

Schools that have adopted the Thrive Approach have reported many benefits. These include calmer classrooms with fewer disruptions, improved attendance, reduced exclusions and higher achievements. To hear first-hand from settings already using Thrive, visit mythrive.uk/case_studies.

How will my child be involved in Thrive?

Your child will be profiled using Thrive-Online, an award-winning tool used to measure and monitor social and emotional development. Thrive-Online has behaviour and skills surveys that help staff to see where young people are in their development and identify any pupils who could benefit from additional support.

Thrive-Online profiling will be led by school practitioners who will:

- Assess classes, groups and individuals to see where they are in their social and emotional development
- Create targeted action plans to help pupils to manage their behaviour, build emotional resilience and become more open to learning
- Measure and report on progress over time

Find out more

There is lots more information on the Thrive website: thriveapproach.com.

"Thrive has helped my son tremendously. It has given him more confidence and also it has helped him to calm down in difficult situations. I can see a huge difference in him. He looks forward to his Thrive time."


Parent

thrive
Removing barriers to learning



News from around the city

SOUTHAMPTON EL CONFERENCE



ELSA: 25 Years of Making a Difference

KEYNOTE CONFIRMED! **Adrian Faupel & Liz Herrick**

We are hugely excited to announce Adrian and Liz as our keynote speakers. As key Educational Psychologists involved in the introduction of Emotional Literacy support across our city, we can't wait for them to tell the story of the birth of the ELSA project, helping us consider the context, aims and principles of EL support 25 years ago and contemplate the parallels of our contemporary world.

£150 per person


- 4 for price of 3 for settings, trusts or clusters booking multiple spaces
- 30 ELSA tickets can be exchanged for tickets (0 tickets = 2 spaces)
- Lunch and refreshments included

PRICE MATCHED FOR 2026

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

PLUS FREE ON-SITE PARKING

BOOK NOW!
(click or use QR code)



'Think', 'Feel' and 'Do' Workshops

Whether it's learning about the research base behind ELSA, trying out / adapting / developing EL tools and approaches, or focusing on your wellbeing and resilience in work - there will be positive take-aways for all from our 3 workshops.

Time to 'Connect and Compare'

With 80-100 delegates, our EL conference provides a great chance to network with fellow ELSAs and wider education colleagues who share a our passion for all things EL.

...I really enjoyed all aspects of it...

...I learnt a great deal and came away with lots of ideas and resource ideas to use with my school setting...

...I loved the keynote speech, the baked potato and the opportunity to meet others...

...a very exciting day full of useful content and time to make connections...

Wednesday 15th April 2026
9:00am - 3:30pm
(Highpoint Conference Centre, Bursledon Road, Southampton, SO19 8BR)

jackie.holgate@southampton.gov.uk
ed.sayer@southampton.gov.uk

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
Southampton Psychology Service

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Hands on History: Castles and Catapults (6+)
Mon 16 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm
Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Introducing Acrylics - Winter Scenes (8+)
Mon 16 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Tour for All: Saxons, Vikings and Normans Walking Tour
Tue 17 Feb | 11am | Tudor House | £10 (accompanying children FREE)

Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)
Tue 17 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Great Fire of London Clay Scenes (5+)
Wed 18 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Bluey Inspired Pen Pots (3+)
Wed 18 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: K Pop Demon Hunters Clay Sculpture (6+)
Thu 19 Feb | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

NEW FOR 2025
Toddler Time: Characterful Dogs! (under 4s and friends)
Thu 19 Feb | 10.30am | SeaCity | £6

Hands on History: Awesome Egyptians (7+)
Fri 20 Feb | 10.30am, 1pm | SeaCity | £8

Junior Art School: Go Wild with Wool (7 - 13 years)
Drop off your young people
Fri 20 Feb | 10.30am - 3.30pm | Art Gallery | £26

CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS
(Age 6½ - 12 years)

Drop off your young people
Three days per week | 9am-4pm (drop off from 8.45)

SeaCity | £35 per day or £90 for all three days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days.

Cruise Adventures
Mon 16, Tues 17, Wed 18 Feb



See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



TESTLANDS FOOTBALL CAMP!

FEBRUARY HALF TERM
MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

BANISTER PRIMARY SCHOOL
ARCHERS RD., SOUTHAMPTON, SO15 2LS

UNLEASH YOUR FOOTBALL SKILLS AT OUR ACTION-PACKED, ALL-ABILITIES CAMP!
GET READY FOR FUN AND NON-STOP ACTION

LEARN NEW SKILLS OR PERFECT YOUR OWN
8:30AM START WITH MULTIPLE FINISHING TIMES

RUNNING FOR 8-13 YEAR OLDS

TESTLANDS.COM/FOOTBALLCLUB
[FACEBOOK.COM/TESTLANDSCVPS](https://www.facebook.com/testlandscvps)



TESTLANDS HOLIDAY CLUBS

FEBRUARY HALF TERM
MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

OASIS ACADEMY LORDS HILL
ROMSEY RD, SOUTHAMPTON SO16 8FA

LONG & SHORT DAYS
OFSTED REGISTERED
SIBLING DISCOUNT

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

FOOTBALL - NETBALL - BASKETBALL CAPTURE THE FLAG - DODGEBALL
ARTS & CRAFTS - INFLATABLES - DANCE - BUG HUNTS & MORE!

BOOK HERE



TESTLANDS.COM/HOLIDAYCLUB
FACEBOOK.COM/TESTLANDS/CF



OFSTED REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2002458