

Vermont News 8 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term, we have continued to focus on improving teaching, learning and support for all pupils at Vermont School.

We have introduced a more consistent structure to lessons across the school, helping pupils and staff clearly understand the learning journey and classroom expectations. Staff have been working closely together through coaching, learning walks and our Teaching and Learning Working Group to continue developing classroom practice. It has been fantastic to see a growing enthusiasm and positive “buzz” around teaching and learning across the school.

Behaviour systems and routines continue to strengthen, resulting in calmer classrooms and improved engagement in learning. Attendance has also continued to improve, and we are grateful for the support families provide in helping pupils attend school regularly.

We have introduced a new assessment system, B Squared, which will help us better track small steps of progress and identify gaps in learning more effectively. Alongside this, we have reviewed EHCP provision across the school to ensure pupils receive the right support in the classroom.

Pupils continue to benefit from enrichment opportunities, including forest school, which supports confidence, resilience and teamwork. We are looking forward to developing this provision further next academic year.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. We are proud of the progress being made and look forward to continuing this journey together.

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,

Kelly & The Vermont Team

Reminders

Some key reminders:

- Children's clothes should all be clearly labeled with thier name so they can be returned to the right child if removed

- 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER
FOR PARENTS/CARERS

NO ITEMS FROM HOME
 ARE TO BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL.

 We have seen another increase in Lego figures, play sets and other toys coming into the classroom.

 These items are causing increased distraction and dysregulation in the classroom.

 **NO TOYS OR PERSONAL ITEMS FROM HOME SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL.**

Any items brought in will be removed and returned at the end of the day.



 **WE DO NOT WANT CHILDREN UPSET IF ITEMS GET BROKEN.**

 **GLASS ITEMS ARE STRICTLY NOT PERMITTED IN SCHOOL UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

 We really need your support with this so we can maintain a calm, safe and focused learning environment for everyone.

★ THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION! ★

Attendance



Each week we celebrate attendance. Our target is 93%

Our whole school attendance this week was 93%

Our class smashing attendance targets this week are: Rhinos, Pandas, Orangutans and Elephants

Attendance HERO (Here Everyday Ready On Time)

Rhinos, Pandas, Orangutans and Elephants are our HERO classes this week! They 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.

Headteacher's Award



Lennon C - Pandas - For making excellent choices and great progress. Well done, we are so proud of you!

Liam N - Oragutans - For exceptional resilience and making amazing choices. Well done, we are so proud of you!

SATs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-national-curriculum-tests-and-results-information-for-parents/2025-key-stage-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

Date	Test
Monday 11 May 2026	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 12 May 2026	English reading
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Maths papers 1 and 2
Thursday 14 May 2026	Maths paper 3

Year 4 Multiplication Checks

Some of our year 4 pupils will take part in the Multiplication Tables Check in June, which checks how quickly and accurately they can recall their times tables up to 12×12 . It is a short online

check with 25 questions and helps school identify who may need extra support. There is no pass or fail, it is simply to support your child's learning.

Please see the government leaflet for more information and ways you can help at home.

http://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/690cb4ebb5e5a06aefd46b58/Multiplication_tables_check_information_for_parents.pdf

Important dates September 2026 -July 2027

INSET days

- 1st September 2026
- 22nd January 2027
- 25th June 2027
- 19th, 20th and 21st July 2027

Structured conversation days

- 2nd and 3rd September 2026
- 12th April 2027

Our Learning

In English this half term, our children are exploring themes of kindness, empathy and understanding difference through the texts *We Are All Wonders* and *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

Across these units, learning centers on understanding perspective, recognising emotions, and reflecting on how our actions affect others. Through shared reading, discussion and reflection, children consider the experiences of others and develop their ability to express their thoughts in a respectful and thoughtful way.

This learning supports pupils' understanding of the protected characteristic of Disability and links closely to British Values, particularly mutual respect and individual liberty. Pupils explore the importance of inclusion, celebrating individuality, and standing up for what is right, helping them to build empathy and positive relationships within our school community.

R.E

This half term, our children will be exploring the meaning and symbolism of candle flames through creative and reflective activities.

They will be encouraged to express their own responses to a candle flame in imaginative ways, using art, discussion, and storytelling. Through these experiences, the children will begin to recognise how a candle flame can connect to their own lives, whether it represents feelings such as warmth, comfort, hope, or remembrance.

We will also help the children understand that a candle flame can act as a symbol, reminding us of important people and special events. In simple and meaningful ways, they will explore how light can represent memories, celebrations, and moments of reflection.

As part of our learning, the children will be introduced to how candle flames are used in different traditions, including Hanukkah and Advent. They will learn that candles can have special meanings in these celebrations, helping people remember important stories and values.

We look forward to sharing their thoughtful and creative responses with you as the term progresses

Science

This half term, pupils have been developing their scientific understanding through an exciting focus on light, before moving on to forces in the coming weeks.

So far, children have been exploring the basics of light and dark, learning to identify different light sources and understand how light helps us to see. They have investigated how shadows are formed and enjoyed creating their own using torches and everyday objects. Pupils have also explored how light travels and how shadows can change, developing their ability to explain these ideas using scientific vocabulary.

As we move into the next part of the half term, pupils will begin learning about forces. They will explore pushes and pulls through practical activities, before developing their understanding of how forces affect movement, including gravity and friction. Through investigations and hands-on learning, pupils will begin to understand how different forces can act on objects and influence how they move.

Across the school, there continues to be a strong emphasis on practical enquiry, discussion, and developing scientific thinking, helping pupils to explain their ideas clearly and confidently.

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).

Pastoral



This week, Zola has had lots of fun with the children, from sitting in assembly to enjoying a walk down the lane. Zola has also loved having plenty of cuddles. The children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Zola this term.





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



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

- 1st June 2026 - INSET day
- 13th July 2026 - Year 6 Leavers Assembly (more details will follow)
- 16th July 2026 - Sports day
- 17th July 2026 - Summer Fayre (more details will follow)
- 20th, 21st and 22nd July 2026 - INSET days

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.

Online gaming and You Tube

We would like to draw parents' and carers' attention to some recent online trends that may appear child-friendly at first glance but contain themes that are not suitable for younger audiences.

One example is The Amazing Digital Circus, a popular animated series currently circulating on platforms such as YouTube. While its bright visuals and cartoon style may appeal to children, the content includes darker psychological themes, unsettling imagery, and moments of distress that are more appropriate for older viewers. It is not specifically designed for young children, and unsupervised viewing may lead to confusion or anxiety.

In addition, a new trend within the game Minecraft has emerged, often referred to as "Chinese water torture." Despite the name sounding abstract or historical, this trend involves players creating scenarios intended to simulate distress or discomfort. These themes can be inappropriate and may expose children to ideas or situations that are not age-appropriate.

We encourage all parents and carers to remain vigilant about the content children are accessing online. Many platforms use algorithms that may recommend videos or trends without considering a child's age or sensitivity. Taking time to review, discuss, and guide children's digital experiences can help ensure they are engaging with safe and appropriate material.

If you have any concerns, consider exploring parental controls, setting viewing boundaries, and having open conversations with children about what they encounter online.

Staying safe online

General Online Use:

When using the internet, primary-aged children should be careful not to share personal information such as their full name, address, school, or passwords. They should only visit



SHOLING VALLEYS

SPRING FAYRE

SATURDAY 16TH MAY

11.00am - 3.00pm

Craft Stalls

Games

Children's Activities

Refreshments.....and more

Location

Sholing Valleys Study Centre, Station Road
Southampton SO19 8FP



Monkey Bizness Soft Play

Thursday 14th May & Monday 18th May
6:15pm - 8:15pm -

234 Empress Rd, Southampton SO14 0JW

FREE SPACES



Please book via email - activities@spotlightuk.org

For more information visit the events calendar on our website
book.spotlightuk.org Reg Charity 1129258