

# Vermont News 15 May 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

This week, we have been unbelievably proud of our children. Some of our pupils completed their SATs and approached them with such maturity, resilience and determination to do their very best. Regardless of the outcome, you should all feel incredibly proud of yourselves!

The rest of the school adapted brilliantly to the changes in routine and timetables throughout the week. It has also been wonderful to see so many children enjoying off-site learning opportunities and school trips. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing all about their adventures, experiences and the exciting things they have been learning beyond the classroom.

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](mailto:tellus@vermontschool.co.uk).

**With best wishes,**

Kelly & The Vermont Team

## Reminders

### Some key reminders:

- Children's clothes should all be clearly labeled with their 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! ★**

**Headteacher's Award**



**Oliver A** - Tigers - For showing resilience and determination during your SATs. Well done, we are so proud of you!

**Caiden A** - Pandas - For showing resilience and determination during your SATs. Well done, we are so proud of you!

**Kayden- Lee C** - Pandas - For showing resilience and determination during your SATs. Well done, we are so proud of you!

**Lennon C** - Pandas - For showing resilience and determination during your SATs. Well done, we are so proud of you!

**Boo R** - Pandas - For showing resilience and determination during your SATs. Well done, we are so proud of you!

**Charlie B** - Pandas - For helping a friend in need with compassion and kindness, we are so proud of you!

## Attendance



Each week we celebrate attendance. Our target is 93%

Our whole school attendance this week was 92%

Our class smashing attendance targets this week are: Pandas

### **Attendance HERO (Here Everyday Ready On Time)**

Pandas are our HERO class 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.

### **INSET and key dates for this year**

- 19th May 2026 - Year 6 Transition session at Polygon
- 20th May 2026 - National Numeracy Day
- 1st June 2026 - INSET day
- 9th June 2026 - Year 6 Transition session at Polygon
- 16th June 2026 - Year 6 Transition session at Polygon
- 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

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Email: [info@polygon.southampton.sch.uk](mailto:info@polygon.southampton.sch.uk)



Headteacher: Mr Ben Penfold

Year 6-7 Transition Information

24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Lisa Bufton and I am the Transition Lead at The Polygon School. I am very pleased to introduce myself as one of the members of staff who will be supporting your child as they move from Year 6 into Year 7.

We understand that transition to secondary school can feel both exciting and worrying for young people and their families, particularly within an SEMH setting. Our aim is to make this process as supportive, gradual and positive as possible. To help your child become familiar with the school, staff and routines, we have planned a number of transition activities across the year.

Please find the key dates and information below:

Wednesday 11th March – Target Review Day

Tours of the school for parents/carers at 10:00am and 2pm.

This is an opportunity to meet staff and look around the school.

Tuesday 19th May (11:00am–12:20pm) Engagement sessions at Polygon School, supported by feeder school staff. Transport provided by feeder schools.

Tuesday 9th June (1:00pm–2:25pm)

Engagement sessions at Polygon School, supported by feeder school staff. Feeder schools will drop off and parents/carers collect.

Tuesday 16th June (1:50pm–3:15pm) – Engagement Sessions

Engagement sessions at Polygon School, supported by feeder school staff. Feeder schools will drop off and parents/carers collect.

Wednesday 1st July (11:40am–1:00pm)

Lunch provided at Polygon. Parents/carers to drop off and collect children.

These sessions are designed to help pupils build confidence, meet key adults, experience different subjects and begin forming friendships before September.

If you have any questions, concerns or information that would help us support your child's transition, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to The Polygon School and working together to ensure a smooth and successful start to Year 7.

Kind regards,

Lisa Bufton

## 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  $12 \times 12$ . 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](http://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/690cb4ebb5e5a06aefd46b58/Multiplication_tables_check_information_for_parents.pdf)

## National Numeracy Day – Wednesday 20th May

On Wednesday 20th May, our school will be celebrating National Numeracy Day with a range of exciting and engaging maths activities across the school!

The day is all about helping children to build confidence with numbers while showing that maths can be fun, practical, and part of everyday life.

Throughout the day, pupils will take part in interactive maths lessons designed to encourage teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity, practical measuring challenges, outdoor counting activities, and fun puzzles that will get everyone thinking.

## Important dates September 2026 -July 2027

### INSET days

- 1st September 2026
- 29th 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.

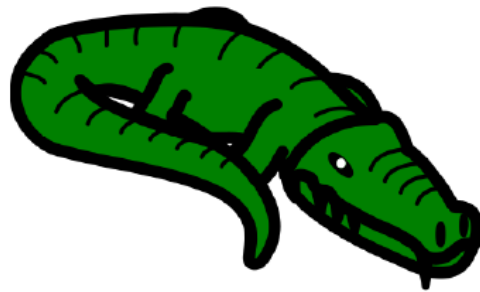
Across the school, there continues to be a strong emphasis on practical enquiry, discussion, and developing scientific thinking, helping pupils to explain their ideas clearly and confidently.

## 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).

## Crocs



This week in Crocs Class we have been very busy with lots of exciting learning activities!

In Science, we explored the topic of friction. We investigated how different surfaces affect the movement of objects and talked about which materials create more or less friction. The children enjoyed testing and predicting what might happen during our experiments.

In Cooking, we created our own delicious snack platters. The children practised important skills such as preparing food safely, making healthy choices, and arranging their snacks carefully. Everyone loved tasting their creations!

In Art, we made beautiful frames using natural resources. We collected items from nature such as leaves, sticks, flowers, and stones to design and decorate our frames. The children showed fantastic creativity and imagination throughout the activity.

This week, we also welcomed a new pupil into Crocs Class. The children have shown wonderful kindness, patience, and understanding as they help him adapt to the routines and environment in our classroom. We are very proud of how warmly everyone has welcomed him into our class community.

Well done to everyone for another wonderful week of learning!





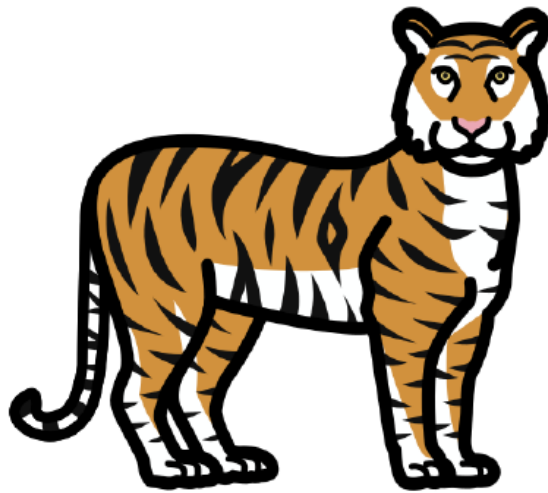








## Tigers



Tiger Class have had a fantastic week of learning!

In English, the children have been exploring diary entries. They enjoyed learning how to write in the first person, include thoughts and feelings, and describe events in order.

The class showed great imagination and produced some wonderful pieces of writing.

In Maths, Tiger Class have been learning about angles in shapes. They practised identifying right angles and explored the different angles found in a variety of 2D shapes. The children worked hard and enjoyed using their knowledge to solve problems and investigate patterns.

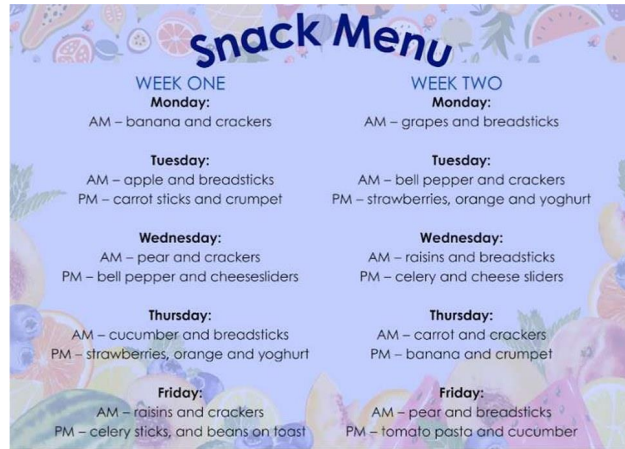
Well done, Tiger Class, for all of your hard work this week!





## 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.



### **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](mailto:tellus@vermontschool.co.uk).

## 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

websites that are suitable for their age and check with a trusted adult if they are unsure about something. It's important to remember that not everything online is true, so they should question what they see and ask for help if something seems confusing. Children should also tell an adult straight away if anything online makes them feel worried, scared, or uncomfortable, and always use strong passwords to keep their accounts safe.

### **Social Media Platforms:**

We encourage families to restrict the use of social media, however, if children do use social media, children should be encouraged to only connect with people they know in real life and avoid accepting friend requests from strangers. They need to think carefully before posting photos, videos, or comments, as these can be seen by others and may be difficult to remove later. Using privacy settings can help control who sees their content, and it's important to be kind and respectful when interacting with others online. If someone says or does something upsetting, children should not respond but instead block the person and report it, and always tell a trusted adult about what has happened.

### **News from around the city**



# May Half Term

Drop off your young people

### Southampton Culture Club for Kids: Story Worlds (6Ys-12yrs)

Tue 26, Wed 27, Thu 28 May  
9am-4pm  
SeaCity  
£35, £90 all three days



### Bugs in Boxes (4+)

Tue 26 May  
10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm  
Tudor House £6

### Tour for All:

#### Southampton Myths and Mysteries (6+)

Tue 26 May 11am  
Tudor House  
£10 (children FREE)

### Art for All: Clay Capybaras (5+)

Wed 27 May  
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm  
Art Gallery £8

### Art for All: Birds, Beetles and Butterflies with Watercolour (7+)

Thu 28 May  
10.30am, 1.30pm  
Tudor House £8



### Art for All: Make a Clay Stitch! (4+)

Thu 28 May  
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm  
Art Gallery £8



### Toddler Time:

#### Under the Sea (under 4's and friends)

Fri 29 May 10.30am  
SeaCity £6

### Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)

Fri 29 May  
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm  
Art Gallery £8



See our "What's on" brochure or venue websites for details on events and to book  
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com



# Next Week at Re:Minds 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May

No need to book for a support group, just check the events section of our Facebook group

With thanks to:



# Eating Disorder Advice Clinic



10:30am Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May

### About the Clinic

Book a private, 15-minute virtual appointment to speak with a specialist clinician from the CAMHS Eating Disorder Team for advice and guidance on:

- Eating disorders / disordered eating
- Changes in eating patterns
- Increased or concerning activity levels
- ARFID / relationship with food
- Any other concerns related to eating

To book your advice slot, please email:

info@reminds.org.uk



