

Vermont News 5 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all our children and families after the May half-term break. I hope you all managed well during the recent heatwave and enjoyed some time together.

Now that we have returned to school, the weather has taken another turn, so please ensure that children come prepared for all weather conditions each day.

Over the half-term holiday, we had new carpets fitted in Turtles and Elephants, and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of new furniture. The children have already expressed how much they love their refreshed learning spaces, and I hope they have been telling you all about them at home.

We have a busy and exciting half term ahead as we begin the countdown to summer. There are lots of learning opportunities, activities and events planned, and we look forward to sharing them with you over the coming weeks.

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,

Kelly & The Vermont Team

Missing Coat

One of our children has misplaced thier plain black coat. Please can you check that your child has not accidentally brought it home. If you do find it, please return it to reception. Thank you

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! ★

Headteacher's Award



Lucas W - Crocs - For your politeness and role model behaviours. Well done, we are so proud of you!

Attendance



Each week we celebrate attendance. Our target is 93%

Our whole school attendance this week was 88%

Our class smashing attendance targets this week are: Turtles

Attendance HERO (Here Everyday Ready On Time)

Turtles 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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Headteacher: Mr Ben Penfold

Year 6-7 Transition Information

24th 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 12×12 . 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
- 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

English - Reading

A Kind of Spark follows Addie, a determined girl who wants her community to better understand autism and learn from mistakes made in the past. Through Addie's journey, pupils will explore themes of acceptance, courage, empathy, and standing up for what is right.

Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet is a funny and heartwarming story about Omar, a boy whose imagination sometimes gets him into tricky situations! As Omar settles into a new school, the story explores friendship, family life, and the importance of being yourself, with lots of humour along the way.

We are excited to share these stories with the children through reading, discussion, writing, and creative activities across the half term.

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)



June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RSE Curriculum

As part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum, pupils at Vermont School will be taking part in age-appropriate Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) lessons during this half term.

These lessons are designed to support pupils' personal development, wellbeing and understanding of healthy relationships in a safe, supportive and respectful environment. The content taught will always be appropriate to the age, developmental stage and individual needs of the children within each class.

Topics may include:

- Friendships and positive relationships
- Respect, kindness and personal boundaries
- Keeping safe online and offline
- Families and different types of relationships
- Growing up and understanding changes to the body (where age appropriate)

Our RSE curriculum is delivered in line with the Department for Education guidance and is fully aligned with our school PSHE and RSE policies, which can be found on the school website.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the curriculum further, please contact the school office and a member of staff will be happy to support you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Donna Vokes
PSHE Lead

Art

Both KS1 and KS2 Art will focus on the work of Stephen Wiltshire and the theme of *Patterns in the City*.

These units explore observation, drawing, architecture, pattern, and perspective through the study of Wiltshire's detailed cityscape artwork. Pupils will learn about Stephen Wiltshire as an autistic artist and explore how his unique strengths and memory skills influence his work, providing meaningful opportunities to celebrate neurodiversity, creativity, and individuality.

Across the unit, pupils will:

- explore buildings, shapes, and patterns in the environment
- develop observational drawing skills
- experiment with perspective and detail
- create their own cityscape artwork inspired by Wiltshire
- reflect on place, community, and identity through art

KS1 will focus on:

- identifying shapes and patterns in buildings
- exploring repeating patterns in cities
- developing simple observational drawing skills
- experimenting with line, detail, and simple perspective
- creating their own cityscape artwork inspired by local environments

The emphasis in KS1 is on exploration, noticing details, and building confidence in mark-making and drawing through practical and engaging activities.

KS2 will build on these skills through:

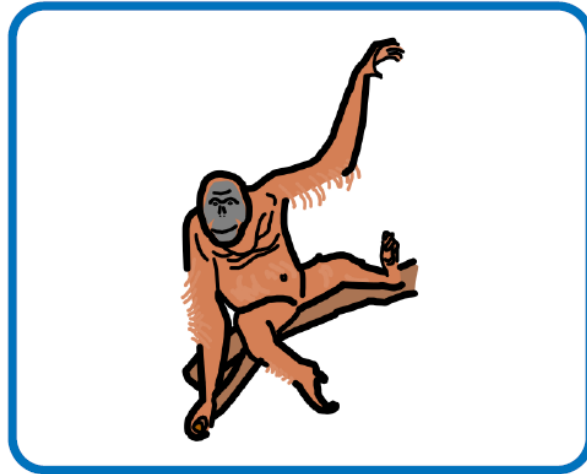
- more detailed observational drawing
- one-point perspective
- architectural sketching
- panoramic cityscapes
- refining drawings with precision and detail

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).

Orangutans



Last half term, students have been enjoying exciting horse-riding sessions at Pink Mead. Riding horses has been a fantastic opportunity to develop confidence, balance, and teamwork while spending time outdoors. During the sessions, riders learned how to care for the horses, practise riding techniques, and safely guide their horses around the arena. Everyone showed great determination and enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see their skills improve each week.

The experience has been both fun and educational, helping students build new friendships and create lasting memories.

A big thank you to the staff and instructors at Pinkmead for making these sessions so enjoyable and rewarding.

We look forward to more horse-riding adventures in the future!





Turtles



Turtles class had the most exciting surprise waiting for them on their return to school, a newly decorated classroom! We are so lucky to have had new carpet installed throughout our room, a new wet floor area and a cosy new rug to sit on. It has made our room a lovely, calming place to be and focus hard on our learning. We absolutely love the changes to our room and have been very respectful to our environment by making sure we are extra thorough with our tidying up

and taking our shoes off. We even remind the adults who visit our room to take their shoes off too!

The new term has meant a change in our enrichment provision and a return to swimming! We loved our first session back in the water this week and remembered our water safety rules really well. We got to play our favourite game, the sharks are coming, where the adults are hungry sharks and we are the fish trying swim away from them, we can't wait to play again next week.

Our new focus text is 'The Family Book' by Todd Parr and it has inspired some really great conversations. We have been working hard to remember our full stops and capital letters in our writing without Miss Nancy having to remind us, and are doing really well at remembering!

We have been really engaged with our new history unit and thinking about the concept of exploring and being an explorer. We thought about all the different places in the world we might like to go to and explore and by the sounds of it, it would be a fantastic adventure! Turtles have made a brilliant start to the final term and continue to impress the adult seach and every day with how far they have come.

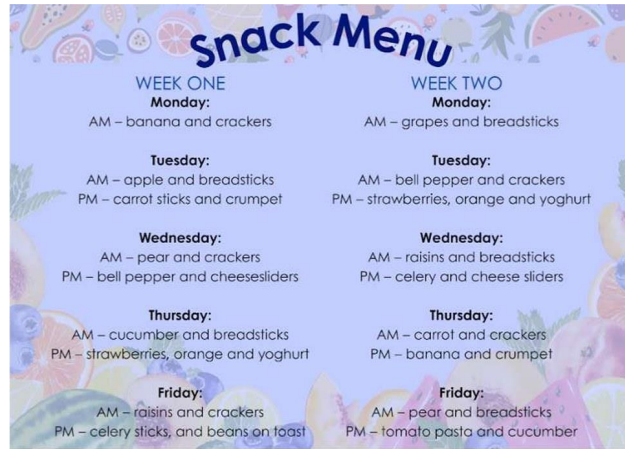






Health and Wellbeing

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.

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

Spotlight UK are partnered with Merlin Magic Wand and we have been provided with over 4500 free tickets (we can apply for more if needed too) to all of the Merlin attractions including Thorpe Park, Legoland, Chessington, Alton Towers, Sealife, London Eye, Shrek's Adventure, London Dungeons and more to give out to children and their close family members who meet the criteria below.

If you have any children who have not had tickets before and meet the criteria please feel free to forward the link to the families to apply for tickets

<https://forms.gle/TrazGdCCtwpzdUXH9>

To be eligible for a Magical Day Out, the child you're applying for must meet both of the following requirements:

Age Requirement

- Must be at least 2 years old and no older than 18 at the time of application

Current Circumstances

The child must currently be experiencing one or more of the following:

- Living with a serious or long-term illness
- Has a registered disability

- Lives in a permanent or temporary care home
- Currently in foster care
 - Please note: If the child is in foster care, we may require documentation dated within the past 12 months.
- Has been recently adopted
 - Please note: The adoption must have occurred within the last 5 years.
- Affected by domestic violence or abuse
- Has a parent or legal guardian who is terminally ill
- Has a sibling, parent, or legal guardian who has recently passed away
- Be a registered young carer