

Vermont News 12 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move through another exciting and productive week, we are delighted to celebrate the continued progress, achievements, and growth of our pupils. Every day, we see our children developing new skills, building confidence, and demonstrating resilience in their learning journeys.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our pupils, staff, and families. Whether in the classroom, through enrichment activities, or in their personal development, our children continue to make positive strides and embrace new opportunities to learn and succeed.

At Vermont School, we believe that every achievement, big or small, is worth celebrating. This newsletter highlights some of the wonderful experiences, successes, and milestones that have taken place across our school community, reflecting our commitment to helping every child reach their full potential.

Together, we continue to create a nurturing environment where our children can grow, thrive, and achieve.

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

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



Harlow W - Turtles - For using your initiative and being so calm in a crisis. 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 91%

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

- 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

Handel Terrace
Southampton
Hampshire SO15 2FH
Tel: 023 80 636776
Email: info@polygon.southampton.sch.uk



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

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

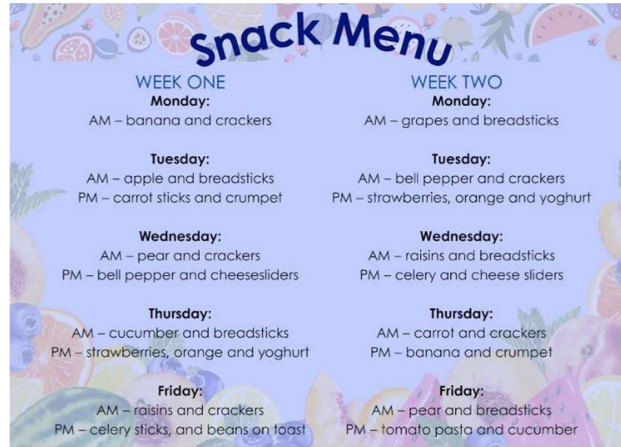
All children at Vermont take part in Enrichment. This is part of our core curriculum offer. We rotate the enrichment activities every half term so that classes get a wide a varied curriculum offer. Enrichment is part of the normal school day and are carefully planned to help children build confidence, 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).

City Catering Newsletter

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/S9kAUOODaqOo2h7m?ref=email>

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.

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
Scarlett's Smiles
Creating positive memories

Discounted Family Fun upto half price off



INCLUDING....

Ninja Warrior	Glo Golf	Bowling
Ice Skating	Flip Out	Donutting
Laser Tag	Soft Play	Paddle Boarding

Plus more as well as Days Out including
Chessington, Legoland
and more

Gold membership is available for all families. It is
£7.50 per person per year which gives you access to
a year's timetable of activities at up to 50% off and
then our charity funds the difference.

GO TO BOOK.SPOTLIGHTUK.ORG TO REGISTER



Spotlight UK's Ray of Hope Discounted Family Fun



INCLUDING....

Ninja Warrior

Glo Golf

Bowling

Ice Skating

Flip Out

Donutting

Laser Tag

Soft Play

Paddle Boarding

Plus more as well as Days Out including
Chessington, Legoland

Spotlight UK's Ray of Hope Membership is for children and families on Free school meals and children with a parent/carer in the armed forces or emergency services. It is £2.50 per person per year to register which gives you access to a year's timetable of activities at discounted prices and then our charity funds the difference.

GO TO BOOK.SPOTLIGHTUK.ORG TO REGISTER



Spotlight UK's Scarlett's Smiles Discounted Family Fun



INCLUDING....

Ninja Warrior, Ice Skating, Bowling, Cinema,
High Score Arcade, Swimming, Paddle boarding,
Flip Out, Rock Up in Whiteley, Clip n Climb,
Legoland, Chessington and more...

Spotlight UK's Scarlett's Smiles Membership is free and gives you access to a year's timetable of free and discounted activities and then our charity funds the difference

Criteria.....

Children in care, Young Carers, Children affected by loss, Children with disabilities, Families affected by Domestic abuse, Children with terminal illness, children who have a parent/carer with disabilities

Go to book.spotlightuk.org to register

This Week at Re:Minds

8-12th June

To book in for an advice clinic, please email info@reminds.org.uk.



With thanks to:



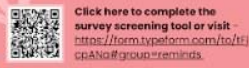
<p>10am Monday 8th June</p> <p>About the Clinic: Book a private, 10-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about support for your child's mental health, behaviour, attention, and day-to-day challenges. No payment or referral is required. About 10% of children's mental health including severe ADHD may be contributing to their needs.</p> <p>Appointments will be with Leanne Hibbit, Lead ADHD Nurse from CAMHS</p> <p>To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk</p>	<p>10.30am Tuesday 9th June</p> <p>About the Clinic: Book a private 10 minute, virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about support for your child's mental health, behaviour, attention, and day to day challenges for parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health, including where a system may be contributing to their needs.</p> <p>The clinic is led by clinicians from the Southampton Autism Assessment Service.</p> <p>To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk</p>	<p>From 12.30pm Tuesday 9th June</p> <p>About the Clinic: We are working with Shenions Solicitors to offer free SEND legal advice clinics for Hampshire families. These sessions provide clear guidance and support on issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND assessments and how to request one • SEND assessments and how to request one • Appeals, including requests to appeal, requests to sue a plan, and requests which are pending or completed • Preparing for tribunal (only gathering evidence of need) • Appeals with grounds in SEND (updating your strategy or requesting a review) • Annual reviews, statutory reviews, and LA compliance • Healthcare appointments, education • Rights of young people aged 16 and over (capacity) regarding their care </p> <p>To book your 30 minute advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk</p>
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Next Week at Re:Minds

15-19th June

No need to book for a support group, just check the events section of our Facebook group or email us to receive the link to join. Please email info@reminds.org.uk to book into an advice clinic

<p>10-12 Wednesday 17th June</p> <p>A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Meet others who understand and get advice and support from our trained staff with lived experience. You can also find out more about the wider support and projects we run across the city.</p> <p>Activities being run include: Reading, Mathematics, Lego DUP</p>	<p>With thanks to:</p>	<p>10am Thursday 18th June</p> <p>About the Clinic: Book a private, 10-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about any issues covered by CAMHS.</p> <p>This clinic is led by the Southampton Specialist CAMHS service and is open to all Re:Minds members seeking general advice.</p> <p>To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk</p>
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HELP US TEST NEULY

A new expert-built AI tool which provides practical and personalised support for parents/carers of neurodivergent children. **We are looking for parents/carers to shape and test Neuly**

Neuly is designed to offer calm and practical support, helping parents/carers of children aged 4-18 to navigate things like school challenges, emotional challenges, appointments, behaviour, routines and everyday family life.

We're working with the team behind Neuly to test and shape a new support tool for parents and carers. We want the support to feel genuinely helpful and reflect the real experiences of families.

That's why we're looking for people to join Neuly's Lived Experience Advisory Program, LEAP.

What to Expect

- ▶ Use Neuly in your daily life to support your family.
- ▶ Give honest feedback & complete short online surveys (weekly at the start) to help us improve.
- ▶ You may be invited to online feedback calls or group sessions. Sessions over 15 minutes receive an Amazon gift card.

If you are interested, please email leap@neuly.ai

To find out more, visit: <https://neuly.ai>