



## Monday 19th January 2026

Dear families, we are already at the start of week three of the spring term!

Last week felt like a time to really celebrate reading and writing across the school. With thanks to our library volunteers, visits to the library resumed on Tuesday afternoon and a busy afternoon was spent browsing and choosing books to bring home. New stories have also been shared in classes, with year 1 enjoying *Handa's Surprise* and *Handa's Hen*, both set in Africa and providing a super link to their topic work.

Throughout the week, Miss Humphrey, our writing lead, and I enjoyed visits to every class across the school to see our children learning grammar skills for writing. The progression was fantastic: from children in Silver Birch class, who were learning to write their first sentences about dinosaurs, to year 2, who were learning to include different types of describing words, to year 5, who were drafting suspense stories using a whole range of punctuation and skills to engage their readers. It was great to see our children learning to become authors in their own right.

With thanks again to the PTFA, and of course your invaluable support, Mrs Pemberton, our reading lead, has been able to further update our reading scheme and order lots of new fiction and non-fiction books. These will complement our turquoise, purple, gold and white book bands and we know that these will benefit lots of readers across the school.

On a personal note, one of my highlights of spending time in classes this week, has been the opportunity to discuss with children the books they have chosen to read. I received some great recommendations from year 5 and 6. Thanks to Toby and Jasper for recommending some Louis Sachar titles and to Arya for reminding me of an old favourite – *Letters from the Lighthouse*, by Emma Carroll.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting our children's love of reading.

Kind regards

Mrs Baker



**Well done to Year 4** for the focus they have shown in learning their times tables. With the statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) taking place in the summer, their hard work is clearly paying off, as this week they achieved their highest average score to date. Mrs Molina has seen some super progress across the year group, reflecting the consistent effort being put into times table practice. Parents, don't forget that all children from year 1 onwards have a login to Numbots and Times Tables Rockstars, where they can practise their maths fluency with fun games and activities.

### Your views are valued ...

The Wessex Learning Trust is currently reviewing its catering provision and would like to gather feedback from parents. Please follow the QR code to complete a short survey, as your views are valuable and will help inform future decisions. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.



## Parent Planner Autumn Term

<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Forest School for Linden and Ash Classes
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 6 Mock SATs week (details to follow from Miss Dewey)
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Linden Class visit to Caerleon
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Safer Internet Day
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	PTFA AGM 8pm
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	PTFA 'Bend the Rules' Day – further details to follow

### A small request for help



We are looking for any families who might be able to spare a little time to help develop our fenced wildlife and pond area. Mrs Nicholls, one of our parent helpers, has kindly made a great start, and Mrs Brown, our Forest School lead, has some excellent ideas for how the area could be regenerated. Mrs Nicholls is currently coming in on Monday mornings for an hour or so and doing a little each week. If anyone is green-fingered and would like to help, it would be greatly appreciated. We would love to see the area brought back into regular use so it can be enjoyed throughout the year as a space to learn about and explore wildlife. Please let the school office know if you are willing and keen!

### Music and Dance!



We are really looking forward to two forthcoming opportunities to celebrate music and dance. Last week, we entered the school choir into the Highbridge Festival of the Arts: a local event, which takes place in March, offering an opportunity to perform and compete in music, dance and drama. It's not too late to join Mrs Worthy's after-school club should anyone still wish to take part.

**The Children of Brent Knoll Primary School invite you to join in their 5<sup>th</sup> annual country dancing festival from 4pm Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2026**



Still a little way off, but we are also pleased to have been invited by another Wessex Learning Trust primary school to take part in their annual country dancing festival. This event helps keep a traditional pastime alive and celebrates the shared pleasure of dancing together. As Year 3 children at Winscombe traditionally learn country dancing skills, we are confident this will be an occasion for them to enjoy and we will share further details nearer the time.

### **Celebrating other successes!**

Annis shared a very impressive looking medal collection from her recent skiing, competing for her country internationally and coming a fantastic second in many of her races. Theo was the rugby player of the week for helping others and scoring a try, Elliot was the football player of the week for good team work with his passing skills. Matilda shared her achievement in puppy training and was able to explain some of the tricks that her puppy can now do. Sophie and Hannah shared their newly achieved yellow belts for kickboxing; a lot of commitment.

### Weekly Crew Points!

<b>Crew Brunel</b> 152	<b>Crew Cameron</b> 175
<b>Crew Concorde</b> 184	<b>Crew Matthew</b> 166

