



NEWSLETTER

Issue 19

Motivate Educate Nurture



This term, we had the privilege of taking part in a VE Day celebration. It began with a respectful two-minute silence, followed by a joyful picnic on the school grounds, where we shared delicious treats and cake kindly donated by the parents. The afternoon was filled with VE activities followed with the whole school performing a beautiful VE Day song, 'I'll Remember' especially composed by Simon Haw MBE for schools, to the parents. Thank you everyone for making it such a special day.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Summer Music Concert this week, the progress the children have made is amazing, and it was a delight to see violin added to the range of instruments performed as well as some first time performances.

As we move into the last half term of this academic year, please apply sun cream before school and remember to bring a sun hat and a water bottle. The final half term is incredibly busy so please keep an eye on weekly reminders.

Have a lovely and well deserved half term break and I look forward to sharing the last half of the summer term with you and your children.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Matthews

Head of School

Next term's value



SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT

Huge congratulations to all pupils and thank you to our amazing team of music teachers.



Maths Competition



Well done to our selected Year 5 and Year 6 children who recently took part in a maths competition hosted by the UK Maths Trust. This exciting event, aimed at students aged 9–11, featured fun problems designed to inspire a love of maths—while also offering just the right amount of challenge!

We were delighted to be invited to take part in this pilot programme, which involved a select number of schools ahead of the nationwide launch in 2026. A fantastic opportunity and a great experience for our budding mathematicians!

Month of the Military Child



Our children proudly wore purple to school in recognition of the Month of the Military Child, showing support and appreciation for the unique experiences of military families.

We were also delighted to welcome one of our parents, who serves in the British Army, for a special visit. He spoke to the children about life in the army, giving them a fascinating insight into his role and responsibilities.

The children were quick to notice that many of the army's core values, such as courage and respect, are values we also uphold in our school community. They asked thoughtful and insightful questions, showing great curiosity and empathy.



Year 6 trip to Grittleton Adventures

Our Year 6 had a fantastic day at [Grittleton Adventures](#) climbing Jacob's Ladder, body zorbing, completing Mission X and a sensory adventure. It was a wonderful way to celebrate fun, friendship and create lasting memories. Click [here](#) for the highlights.



Forest School

Rhine Class have really enjoyed their Forest School learning this term, creating some wonderful additions to the area. They dug holes and used a mallet to create a music area; used a knife to strip bamboo and build wigwams ready for Reception children to plant runner beans and had a whole lot of fun together running hotels, cafés, farms and sushi restaurants.



House Points – Well done Birch

HOUSE	ASH	BIRCH	OAK
TERM 5	265	338	328
OVERALL	2330	2353	2345

Sporting Update

Chippenham Sports Partnership Events

Friday 9th May - What a ROAR-some time Darling class had at the Dinosaur Egg Hunt! From the moment they arrived, the excitement was contagious, with lots of dinosaurs. The class took part in the dinosaur stomp to warm them up and get



ready for a thrilling Jurassic journey. There were 10 exciting dino-themed activity stations, each one bursting with fun and adventure. There was everything from face painting, where the children were transformed into their favourite prehistoric creatures, to action-packed games like Dino Snap and Dino obstacle courses, where they had to carefully carry dino eggs through tricky obstacles. After each activity, they earned a special dinosaur egg. The goal was to complete as many activities so the children could and fill their baskets with dino eggs - and they certainly rose to the challenge!

Friday 16th May - Two teams of children from Rhine attended the annual cricket festival at Chippenham Cricket Club. SSQ B enjoyed playing all other 'B teams' in a round robin style tournament, while SSQ A played in a tournament consisting of different rounds. SSQ A finished second in their group after winning against St Mary's and losing against Queen's Crescent, taking them through to an elimination round. Having won their elimination match against Lacock, they progressed to the quarter final where they came up against tough competition - St Peter's. The SSQ team put up a good fight but St. Peter's were victorious. A huge well done to both SSQ A and SSQ B for remaining focused through each cricket game, showing good knowledge of the rules and strength in both batting and fielding.

Mid Wilts School Sports Partnership

Wednesday 30th April - Twenty year 3, 4 & 5 children made up our two teams which competed in the tri-golf festival at Kingsbury Green Academy. Both teams worked through 8 different golf activities, focusing on putting and chipping to hit certain targets, to accumulate points. The children worked well in warm conditions, showing great determination and perseverance. Both teams qualified for the next round of the competition.



PE Lessons

This term Darling Class have been enjoying drumba lessons. They have been looking at the basics of movement, identifying and moving to the beat, gripping the sticks and striking accurately in the middle of the drumba pad. This has helped to develop hand to eye coordination alongside learning sequences and discussing how our bodies respond to exercise. The class have also been participating in a striking and fielding unit of work which teaches skills related to sports such as cricket and rounders. They have been practising rolling, throwing and striking a ball.

Amazon class experienced their first badminton lessons this term. They have been learning different serving techniques and how to keep a rally going. This has needed lots of perseverance and practise, which has made each success even more special. The class have also been learning a range of invasion game skills that they can transfer to a range of different sports. Each week, they have focused on a particular skill and applied it to a few different sports in mini activity stations. They have certainly enjoyed playing multiple sports in each lesson.



Lacrosse lessons returned to Rhine class this term, which the class have very much enjoyed. Each week they have been aiming to improve their skills and gameplay, for some this is in preparation for the nationals taking place on the last day of term. Alongside this, the class have been learning about striking and fielding through cricket and rounders. They have learnt that it is not only the skills such as batting, bowling and fielding that are important but the value of teamwork.

Darling Class Term 5 – Secret Garden

Phonics – Reception children have been continuing to learn ‘two letters, one sound’ and are now being challenged to use these in CVCCC and CCVCC words and sentences. Please continue to read over the half term. Year 1 are continuing to build up their letter sound knowledge with ‘same sound, different spellings’ and ‘same spellings, different sounds’ – not an easy task, but they are doing really well. Please continue to practise with the phonics screening QR codes, reading and bookmarks over half term.

Design and Technology- This term we have been looking at moving mechanisms and have explored and made sliding mechanisms, lever and pivots and wheel mechanisms. We have shown great skill in using scissors to cut some quite tricky lines and shapes and used split pins. We will be using all the skills and knowledge we have built up to design and create a moving minibeast picture to link to this terms theme of Our Secret Garden.



Collaboration – The children in Darling Class enjoy working on collaborative projects, with Reception and Year 1 children working together. This half term, they have designed and created ‘extraordinary plants’ and built a Garden Centre, which they have enjoyed using during role play.



Science- This term and next term our Science topic is Plants. We have already planted sunflower seeds which we are looking forward to hopefully growing and keeping a plant diary over the next few weeks. Watch this space! Reception have also planted potatoes!



Maths- One of our topics this term was money. We were introduced to the value of each coin, found the total amount of money in a purse, added items together to find the total and then choose which coins to pay with (sometimes trying to use the fewest number of coins). We have also started looking at giving change from 10p and 20p. Continuing to explore and work with money at home would be incredibly beneficial for all Year 1 children as they continue to deepen their knowledge.

Amazon Class, Term 5 – Rocks, Relics & Rumbles

It seems like the blink of an eye since we were writing the start of term newsletter! It's been a short and busy term, blessed with some lovely weather, and the children have really enjoyed our topic of 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles', which has taken us millions of years back in time.



We learnt how a fossil is formed, and the children have written excellent explanation texts explaining the process in their English lessons. In our topic sessions, we were fascinated by the rock and fossil samples we were lucky to be able to borrow from the library and had a wonderful time identifying and researching them, using the reference books that were part of the loan. In the last two weeks, we have begun to study the life of Mary Anning, the famous female palaeontologist. The children have written descriptions of her character, and we will continue to learn about her and the significance of her discoveries as we move into Term 6 and next term's topic, 'Coastal Explorers'.

In art this term, the children have made observational drawings and clay replicas of fossils. They went on to explore how to make an effective rubbing, using a wax crayon, before creating dramatic prehistoric landscapes using mixed media.

In their science lessons, Amazon have been investigating different types of rock (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary). We conducted some experiments to test the different properties of rocks and this week, we will be making our own edible fossils!



This week, the Year 3 children also went to learn about Dairy Farming at Mr Hawker's farm.



We got to see lots of calves, make our own butter and ice cream and investigate the hedgerows, finding many different species of invertebrates. We had a brilliant afternoon at the farm; thank you to Mrs Martin and Kingfisher Awards for organising this!

Rhine Class Term 5, Journeys

In English, the children explored the theme of incredible journeys through time, learning about explorers such as Ernest Hailstone and his expedition to the South Pole. The children enthusiastically applied to be part of his crew, carefully selecting roles that matched their skills – we had a good number of artists wanting to capture the scenery, plenty of captains, and even more cooks! One of the biggest challenges was narrowing down their equipment lists to just nine essential items for the voyage – not an easy task!

A definite highlight of the term for many was our pizza project. The children researched, designed, and created their own pizzas with brilliant creativity. The smell throughout the school was absolutely heavenly, and we enjoyed a sunny pizza lunch together to celebrate. Of course, the great debate continues – should fruit be allowed on pizza? While opinions are divided, Wine Class voted yes – especially after including Greek yoghurt and grapes in their creations!



We were also very fortunate to welcome a specialist computing teacher this term. The children worked on a fantastic project using Google Drawings to design their own logos. The results were thoughtful, detailed, and very impressive – a wonderful introduction to digital design, which we are excited to build on next term.



In RE we have been learning about Hindu deities including Brahman, Saraswati, Shiva and Ganesh. Many Hindus believe that Brahman is the supreme god, the children have worked in pairs to give a presentation explaining how different deities are believed to represent different aspects of Brahman's personality. In Science we have been investigating Forces including gravity, air resistance and magnetism. We discovered that 2 balls of different masses will fall the same speed if they are the same shape and size. We showed this by dropping a paper ball and a rock of similar sizes. We were surprised that they hit the floor at approximately the same time! We have created force diagrams by using arrows to represent the direction in which the forces are acting.

