



**This Term's
value is
TRUST**

NEWSLETTER



**Marden Vale
CE Academy**

Issue 3: 10th October 2025



With God, all things are possible Matthew 19:26

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe I am writing the last newsletter of term 1! This term has flown by, but it is not over yet. Please look at the information in this newsletter so that you don't miss anything.

A reminder that the book fair is on until Monday 13th October - please come along! It is the large hall after school.

The Harvest Church service is on Friday 17th October at the slightly later time of 11am, not 10am as previously stated. This will take place at St Mary's church.

If you haven't already, please can you complete the parent survey regarding internet safety. The link is below. It is really important to us to gather your thoughts around this subject so that we can ensure we offer the right support and guidance to you and your families.

We welcomed Mrs Hicks (Deputy CEO of the Trust) and Mr Oakes (Headteacher at St Bartholomew's) into school on Thursday 9th October. They spoke to children, looked at work in books and spoke to school leaders. It was a great opportunity to show them the wonderful work that is happening in Marden Vale.

Have a safe and restful break, when it arrives.

Mrs Scrivens

Headteacher

Upcoming Dates

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
17 th October	Harvest Service	St. Mary's Church at 11am
22 nd October	Harvest Moon DISCO	3.45pm – 4.45pm (Whole school)
20 th October	Individual/Sibling Photos	
22 nd October	iSingPop – Year 4	Salisbury Cathedral. Coach departs at 8am
23 rd -31 st October	HALF TERM	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

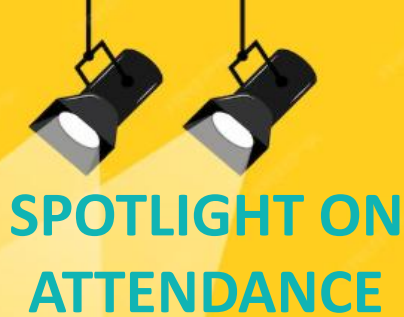


<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
10 th November	Flu Immunisations	Please consent using the link www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu Please use the school code: WT141988
28 th November	FOMs Non-School Uniform	Red & Green donations
22 nd December – 2 nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
15 th January	Young Voices Year 5/6	Birmingham
February (Date TBC)	FOMs Valentines Disco	3.45pm – 4.45pm (Whole School)
13 th February	TD Day	Children not in school
16 th – 20 th February	HALF TERM	
TBC	Year 6 Residential Information Evening	
23 rd – 25 th March	Year 6 Residential	Grittleton House
April	Chocolate Tombola	Non-school uniform date TBC
13 th April	TD Day	Children not in school
11 th June	Year 6 Leavers Service	Salisbury Cathedral
26 th June	TD Day	Children not in school
6 th – 9 th July	Year 6 Swimming	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
8 th July	Year 5 Taster Day @ KGA	
13 th – 16 th July	Year 6 Swimming	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
TBC	EYFS/Year 6 NCMP	Height, Weight, Vision

New attendance rules



There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise.



1

I'm a parent and I want to take my child out of school.

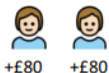
Make sure you use the absence request form. The form enables us to communicate whether an absence will be authorised or unauthorised.

Holiday requests **will not** be authorised.

If your child will miss 5 school days, they will be given a penalty notice fine.

The fine is £80 per parent, per child, if you pay it in 21 days, otherwise it is £160.

For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



£160 x2 = £320

Doubled to £640 if not paid in 21 days

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook?
Foreign mobile dial tone?
Other children talking about your holiday?
Amazing sun tan?
Home visit shows no-one at home?



Please don't be offended if we ask for evidence or mention these questions to you. We're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Freddie H, Luise, Aaliyah, Ruben-Kyde, Charlie M, Harrison, L C-M.
Hudson, Remy, Lainey, Ava, Mitchell, Alys, Mason Hod

2

What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

No, not anymore. If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised then...

2nd TIME
2 parents and...
1 child = £320
2 children = £640
3 children = £960
4 children = £1280

3rd TIME
A penalty notice fine **will not** be given. Instead, your case may be taken forward for prosecution. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each

1 parent & 2 children = £5,000
2 parents and 2 children = £10,000

NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT

3

What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

YES

If your child is absent (or late after registers) for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to issue penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks (across years or terms). If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

4

What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport
Family holidays

Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend, but able to
Poor family organisation
No absence request completed or received after absence.



Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a medical professional is given.

EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW



WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE

	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2/3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	HIVE
W/E 3 RD OCTOBER	88.2%	85.7%	95.6%	89.4%	94.4%	93.7%	91.3%
W/E 10 TH OCTOBER	94.8%	94.8%	94.4%	99%	94.4%	96.3%	95.8%



WORLD PORRIDGE DAY

We celebrated **World Porridge Day on Friday 10th October**. Our children were given a pot of porridge during the day and learnt about how a cup of porridge can change lives of children in other countries. Donations make a huge impact, so if you could spare a few pennies, please drop those off at the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

It is celebrated annually and is a day dedicated to celebrating the humble but nutritious dish of porridge while also supporting efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition. The day is closely linked to the charity Mary's Meals, which provides daily meals to children in impoverished communities around the world, often in the form of a simple bowl of porridge. World Porridge Day encourages people to enjoy a bowl of porridge while raising funds to help feed children in need. Porridge is not only a comforting and versatile meal but also a symbol of sustenance for millions of people who rely on simple, nutritious food. World Porridge Day is a chance to celebrate the health benefits of porridge and make a positive impact on the lives of children who face food insecurity.





Harvest Moon Disco

WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER

Whole School 3.45pm – 4.45pm

£3.00 per child (includes drink and snack)

Please bring small change to purchased further snacks.

Free water is available at all times

Sue Brady Catering Christmas Lunches

This year the Christmas Lunches will be served on **Wednesday 10th December**.

To make this Christmas meal a special one for your children, these meals need to be booked and ordered in advance. The cut off for ordering the Christmas Meal is **Friday 14th November**. Sue Brady will be unable to accept **ANY** orders after this date, **even** if parents put a choice after that date.

Remainder: There will be **NO** other options other than the Christmas meal. No Option 2's, no Sandwiches. Just a meat or vegetarian option of the Christmas dinner. (A for meat, E for Vegetarian option). If a child doesn't want a Christmas meal they will need to have a packed lunch from home.

All meals that have been ordered for Wednesday 10th December will automatically get a Christmas Dinner sent out.

If any pupils do not want an SBC Christmas Dinner can cancel through ScoPay before the 8-day cut off period.

The meal includes the following items for children.

- 1 slice of Turkey
 - 2 Roast Potatoes
 - 1 Stuffing Ball
 - 1 Chipolata
 - 3oz of Veg
 - Gravy
 - Vanilla & Chocolate Ice Cream Pot.
- Paid meals are £2.80 each.



Mini Vet Day Halloween Edition

We're excited to invite your pupils to our upcoming Mini Vet Day Halloween Edition! Designed especially for children aged 6 to 9, these interactive sessions are packed with fun, seasonal activities and educational content to inspire young animal lovers.

What to Expect:

A spooky Halloween theme perfect for the season

- Hands-on learning about firework safety for pets
- Exploration of insects and invertebrates
- Fun autumn-themed animal facts and activities

Event Details:

- Calne 28th & 29th October
Sessions at 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
- Corsham 30th & 31st October
Sessions at 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Who can attend?

Children aged 6–9 years old

Important Note: Our team is not DBS-checked. Spaces are limited, so early booking is recommended! Please reserve a space by emailing calne@chalklandvets.co.uk.

There is no charge for this.

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring to a secondary school in September 2026?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at wiltshire.gov.uk or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 31 October 2025

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be four years old before September 2026?

You must apply for a primary school place

Apply online at wiltshire.gov.uk or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 15 January 2026

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide to finding a primary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council



1st & 15th November- Christmas Market (Events are to entertain the shoppers within the town hall, during the market. The event runs between 10am to 2pm (for both dates)).

November 29th - Christmas Festival of Lights

The 29th is part of our annual Christmas light switch on, and slots are open to people to perform as entertainment through out the day, or as entertainment as people await the lantern parades arrival into the town. This event runs from 1pm to 6pm.