

9th March 2026

NEWSLETTER

Issue 9



With God, all things are possible Matthew 19:26



Marden Vale
CE Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. These past 2 weeks have flown by! We hope you all had a lovely break, whether it included day trips out, trips to your local park or just spending quality time at home with your family laughing and enjoying each others company.

We have been notified by Wiltshire Council that the support for Free School Meals in school holidays from the National Government is ending at the end of March 2026. Please refer to the full letter in this newsletter.



All children are expected to have their PE kits in school throughout the whole term. There are a few children who have yet to bring theirs into school. Please could you make sure your child/ren bring it to school as soon as possible. PE kits include: Shorts/joggers, trainers/plimsoles, t-shirt (preferably their house colour).



We have had reports of unsafe driving on-site with a near miss with another car. There are children arriving/departing school. We operate a 'drop and drive' initiative. Please **DO NOT** park up in the school car park to drop your child off/collect from school. This ensures the school car park is safe for everyone.

Mrs Scrivens
Headteacher

Term Value
RESPECT



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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
11 th March	EYFS Height, Weight, Vision	
17 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm - 5pm	Available to book on Arbor (Hive will be organised separately with teachers)
18 th March	Parents Evening - 3.30pm – 6pm	Available to book on Arbor (Hive will be organised separately with teachers)
23 rd – 25 th March	Year 6 Residential	Grittleton House
27 th March	Non-school uniform	Chocolate donation
27 th March	Easter Church Service	11am – St. Marys Church
13 th April	TD Day	Children not in school
9 th May	Class Photos	Tempest Photography
1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd June	Year 6 Bikeability Group 1	
8 th , 9 th , 10 th June	Year 6 Bikeability Group 2	
11 th June	Year 6 Leavers’ Service	Salisbury Cathedral
18 th June	Year 5 Taster day - Abbeyfield	
26 th June	TD Day	Children not in school
6 th – 9 th July	Year 6 Swimming	Mon/Tues/ Wed/ Thurs
8 th July	Year 5 Taster Day - KGA	
13 th – 16 th July	Year 6 Swimming	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Monday	Yr 2/3/4 Archery	Term 4
Monday	Yr 6 SATs Club	Until SATs in May
Tuesday	Yr 4/5/6 Dance	Term 4

WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE

	W/E 27 th February	W/E 6 th March
TADPOLE	93.2%	93.8%
BUTTERFLY	100%	94%
OTTER	93.5%	93.1%
DRAGONFLY	97.5%	96.5%
FOX	85.6%	94.4%
KINGFISHER	96.6%	97.7%
HIVE	92.5%	92.8%

Term 4 Class Winner



TADPOLE 95.5%



Pupils that achieved 100% Attendance in Term 3

Arlo, Mason C, Hudson, Bella F, Casey, Roman, Nove-Rae, Ivy, Crisee-Lu, Luise, Alfie, Daniel, Harry B, Lola-Grace, Maisie, Austin, Sanjog, Kaiden, Kade, Ellie, Ashley N, Zayne, Renae, Codi-Jay, Ruben-Kyde, Joan, Yvie, Teegan, Arthur L, Amelia-Mae, Octavia, Albert, Rosie-Mai, Charlie B, Kacey-Rose, Jake, Talulah, Francine, Leland, Charlie M, Ashley N, Mitchell, Rueban, Aisha, Imogen, Lyra, cadie, Torrah, Harrison, Daisy, Bella, Sienna, Finnley, Wakhile, Arthur H, Mason H, Ronnie W



CLASS WINNERS

27th February: Butterfly 100%

6th March: Kingfisher 97.7%



STARS OF THE WEEK

27th February: George, Carter, Kyros, Renae, Millie, Tilly
6th March: Freddie B, Amber, Wyatt, Ellie, Octavia, Leland, Billie-Rae

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County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Date: 4 March 2026
Ref: Free School Meals in Holidays

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know that support for Free School Meals in school holidays from the national government is ending.

As a recipient of Free Schools Meals in term time, you have also received vouchers for food in school holidays. This was funded by the UK Government's Household Support Fund, but the government has now confirmed that this fund is ending on the 31 March 2026. This means that the holiday food vouchers that you have received will end after this date. However, you are eligible for a £5 voucher, per child, to cover the two days of the Easter holiday still covered by this fund.

Support is still available if you need help

Wiltshire Council is working with the Wiltshire Citizens Advice team to help families who may be struggling. If this change is going to cause you hardship during the holidays you can contact them by completing the online form:

www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us and a member of the team will contact you to discuss your situation.

If you are unable to complete this online form, please ask your child's school or educational setting to help you with this in the first instance.

This new support is being funded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which starts on 1 April 2026, and is also government funded. But this new fund does not include a provision for automatic free school meals in the holidays.

Holiday Activity and Food (FUEL) programme

Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are also eligible to attend our Holiday Activity and Food programme called Food, Unity, Energy and Laughter (FUEL) during school holidays which offers free activities and meals.

Easter holiday booking requests are open until 15 March 2026, and can be made via this link <https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuelprogramme>

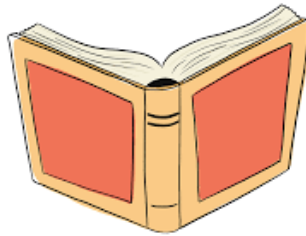
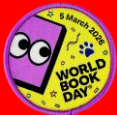
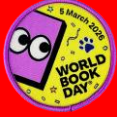
For more information about FUEL please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure/fuel-programme or speak to your child's educational setting.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

David Redfern

Director – Leisure, Culture and Communities

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FOX CLASS

Fox Class are really enjoying reading 'Hidden Figures' together 📖 They've been exploring the accomplishments of four brilliant African American women - Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden - whose mathematical genius helped NASA launch the first astronauts into space 🚀 🌙 ✨

It's been amazing to learn about how these women overcame both gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career, becoming true heroines of the Space Race 🍂 🧑 🚀



YEAR 2

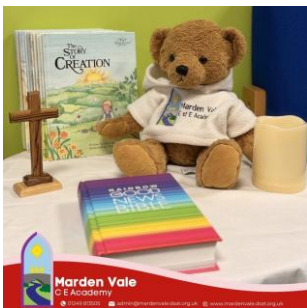
Mallard Class are diving deep into the world of animal diets! 🐘 🍌 🌱 🌍 From sharp-toothed carnivores to plant-loving herbivores, they've been exploring how every creature plays a vital role in the food chain ✨

Fun fact! Did you know that the mallard 🦆 is actually an omnivore? They love everything from pond weed to tiny insects! 🍌 🌱



Meet our Trust Bear, Zach! 🧸 ✨

Our bear is named after a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector who felt lonely and small, so he climbed a sycamore tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus 🌳



He thought he was just watching from a distance, but Jesus stopped, looked up, and called him by name. Jesus showed him that God is always with us - not just in the quiet moments, but even when we feel lost in the crowd.

Just like Zacchaeus found a friend in Jesus, our Trust Bear reminds us that we are never walking alone. No matter how high we climb or where we go, God is right there with us



Booking of our Easter programme is now open

BOOKING CLOSES ON 15TH MARCH

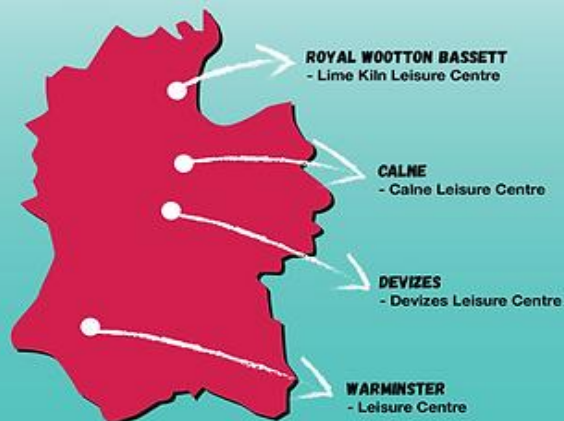


The free holiday activity and food programme

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OUR CAMPS ARE...



BOOKING ESSENTIAL – ELIGIBLE YOUNG PERSONS ONLY.

FUEL (Food, Unity, Energy and Laughter) is the holiday activity and food programme, funded by the Department for Education. FUEL provides eligible school-aged children with free access to enriching activities and nutritious meals during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

You can register for a FUEL activity place [here](#) (ctrl click).

To sign up your child/children for FUEL activities, you will need to verify one of the following*:

- Your child is eligible for benefits related Free School Meals
- Your child is a refugee
- You are a foster carer for the child you are registering
- Your child is a young carer
- You have been advised to sign your child up for FUEL by a service that supports vulnerable children and young people

If you are unsure whether your child is eligible for the FUEL programme, please read the information on the [FUEL Programme pages of the council website](#) or contact fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk.

*Places are limited and so cannot be guaranteed. However, they do their best to support as many children as they can.

ABSENCES ADD+UP!

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ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school is vital to learn and achieve, this creates the foundation to move forward into higher education and a career. It is also a great way for children to interact, and to build social and communication skills with their peers which are essential throughout our life. The Government are putting increasing pressure on schools to achieve 95% + attendance as a whole school but also for individual pupils. We do appreciate that your child(ren) may be unwell throughout the year, however, not all illnesses require absence from school. Examples of absences that require absence from school are: vomiting, diarrhoea, chickenpox, seizures, impetigo, measles, scarlet fever, temperature, mumps, whooping cough.

If you are unsure, send your child into school and if we think that they are too unwell, we will send them home.

We will be closely monitoring pupils attendance and meetings will be arranged for those who are struggling with their attendance. For those that are persistent absentees, we will be contacting parents on a weekly basis.

Currently the doctors surgeries are under a lot of pressure to meet the demand of appointments, this can make it difficult to get one. Pharmacists are trying to release some of that pressure by assisting in offering advise/guidance and can write prescriptions if required.

The government has a target of a pupils attendance being above 96%. If we work together, we can help your child/ren receive the best education.

MESSAGE FROM WILTSHIRE POLICE

We would like to make everyone aware that we are currently dealing with reports of a male behaving in a concerning manner in Castlefields Park, Calne.

On Monday, 2nd March, we received a report that a student from Kingsbury Green Academy was caused alarm and distress after being approached by this individual.

We have previously spoken with this male following concerns raised by members of the community; however, our advice has unfortunately not been taken on board.

On Tuesday, 3rd March, PCSO Mark Cook from the Calne Neighbourhood Team attended Castlefields Park and issued the individual with a formal warning in an attempt to address his behaviour and prevent any further distress to park users.

If anyone — particularly school children encounter any problems while walking home through our parks or open spaces, please contact a parent or guardian immediately. In an emergency, call 999. For non-emergencies, please call 101 so that police can attend and deal with the matter promptly.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on any further action taken.

Thank you for your continued support.



WILTSHIRE POLICE
Keeping Wiltshire Safe

www.wiltshire.police.uk | [Facebook/wiltshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice) | [Twitter/@wiltshirepolice](https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice) | [LinkedIn/company/wiltshirepolice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiltshirepolice)



**SEN
Sanctuary**



Support for carers of Neurodivers Children

24TH FEBRUARY, 2026
WILTON PLACE CARE HOME
SP2 0FX

A PLACE TO COME FOR HELP, ADVICE,
SUPPORT AND A LISTENING EAR. TO TALK TO
OTHER PARENTS GOING THROUGH THE
SAME THINGS AS YOU.
NO JUDGEMENT, JUST SUPPORT FROM ONE
PARENT TO ANOTHER.

**Every other Tuesdays
10a.m-12P.M**

Your paragraph text

SEN CAMP OUT



Spurgeons transforms the nation, one child at a time by ensuring every family has the support needed to flourish.

www.wiltshirefamilyhubs.org.uk

BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR THE SECRET SEN CAMP OUT 25th & 26th August 2026



SLEEP UNDER THE STARS

SILENT DISCO

SENSORY TENT

FAMILY QUIZ

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

BUS TOP BAR

ARTS & CRAFTS

YOGA

WIDE OPEN SPACES

DANCE WORKSHOP

TRADITIONAL GAMES

CROQUET

MESSY CLAY

OUTDOOR SAND PLAY

SKITTLES

FACE PAINTING

FUR & FANGS ANIMALS

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

GLAMPING

JUNK MODELING

The Secret Camp Out is a relaxed, intimate family camping break. Located at Stockton Park, Stockton in an area of outstanding natural beauty in Wiltshire. It offers a wild camping experience that is an enticing and fun way to feel closer to nature. Come with your own tent or camper van or hire one from us and get away from the hustle bustle of everyday life.

BOOK YOUR PITCH AND FIND OUT MORE @ www.theseccampout.com/secret-sen-camp-out

On site we keep it simple camping facilities are basic but we do have running water, clean toilets and even a couple of showers...all in stunning surroundings!

PARENTAL TOURS

of EHCP

Year 5 students



Abbeyfield School

We are running an open morning for two hours, where parents of Y5 students with an EHCP can register to come in, have a tour and discussion with the SENDCO/RSL/Pastoral Lead.

Thursday 19th March
from 9:30-11:30am



Please Scan and complete the MS Form to register your attendance.

www.abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk



Join Us for EDUCATIONAL
Coffee Morning

Thrive Your Child Together



March 16th
9 am to 11 am

Blue Sky Learning
Unit D
Redman Road, Calne
SN11 9PR

Thrive is systematic system to the real identification of emotional developmental need in children.

Why use it? Because addressing emotional development needs builds resilience and resourcefulness also decreases the risk of mental illness.

PARENTS AND CARERS ARE WELCOME!

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?
GET IN TOUCH ON 01249 811736

★ Girls' Football Clubs Near You!


For Primary-Aged Girls (U7, U9, U11) | Let's Play, Learn & Shine!


Whether you're just starting out or already love the game, there's a team waiting for you! Check out these fantastic local clubs:

📍 CHIPPENHAM

Chippenham Town Youth FC - Wildcats & Girls
Teams, Fun and friendly football for girls aged 5-11.


 Ages U5-U11 | Weekly sessions


 chippenhamtownyouthfc.co.uk

 info@chippenhamtownyouthfc.co.uk

FC Chippenham Youth - Girls Development Teams

Building skills in a supportive setting.

 fcchippenhamyouth.org.uk


 info@fcchippenhamyouth.org.uk


📍 CORSHAM

AFC Corsham - Girls' Teams

Offering teams for U9, U10, U11, and U12 girls.

 Training sessions throughout the week


 afccorsham.co.uk


 info@afccorsham.co.uk


📍 CALNE

Calne Town Youth FC - Girls' Teams

From Mini-Tots to U17s, including girls' teams.

 Teams for U7, U9, U11, and more


 calnetownfc.co.uk

 membership@calnetownyouth.co.uk


📍 MALMESBURY

Malmesbury Youth FC - Girls' Section

A family club with a big heart!


 Teams for U8, U10, U12 and U14 girls


 malmesburyyouthfc.co.uk


 info@malmesburyyouthfc.co.uk

📍 DEVIZES

Devizes Town Youth FC - Girls' Football
Providing football for girls of all abilities from U7 to U18.


 Teams for U7, U9, U11, and beyond

 devizestownyouthfc.org.uk

 girls@devizestownfc.co.uk

👧🏆 READY TO JOIN?

Pop along for a taster session - no pressure, just fun!

 Ask your grown-up to email or call the club you're interested in, and get your boots on!

 Let's cheer each other on, build confidence, and grow the beautiful game together!



jep@abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk

Jessica Pierce Strategic Lead Abbeyfield School

