



Newsletter 1 - Sept 2026

Ringwood CE Infant School

www.ringwood-inf.hants.sch.uk

Welcome to the first Ringwood CE Infant School newsletter of the year. We have had a lovely start to the school year and it is so wonderful to see the children playing and learning together so happily. A special welcome to all our new children. It is lovely to have you as part of our school and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you all as a family, over the coming years.

From a curriculum perspective, the children in Year 1 and 2 are following two new Integrated Curriculum (IC) units this term.

In Year 2, the children will begin their learning by finding out about their class animal in a project called 'Whiskers, Feathers and Fur'. They will read information texts and use these to write their own fact files, which they will then share with children from the other Year 2 classes. Following this, the children will begin their IC 'All You Need Is Love'. They will develop their understanding of how the choices they make, both in terms of their words and actions, can influence their own mood as well as the mood and emotions of others. They will also consider how to make and maintain positive, long-lasting friendships and relationships with their peers, all whilst completing various writing and reading activities along the way. Finally, they will engage in a project called 'Special Books' and will be sharing their favourite books and finding out about the special books Christians and Jewish people study.

In Year 1, we start the learning this half term with 'Uniquely Me'. The children will learn about their new classroom routines and expectations and will create some simple sentences about what makes them special and unique. In art they will draw their own self portrait using oil pastels. Their next project is called 'Special to Us!' and the children will be exploring special places and objects that are special to them. They will also learn about the special objects linked to the Christian and Jewish faiths and have a special visit from our new Vicar, Stephen Miles.

In Year R, as our new Reception year cohort transition and settle into school life, it is important to help them to view the classroom as a safe and happy environment, in which they are able to comfortably and appropriately express their feelings. We know that young children may sometimes struggle to understand and find the words to express the range of emotions they may be feeling, especially at times of transition or change, so we will be using the stories, 'The Colour Monster', and 'The Colour Monster Goes to School', to help them explore everyday emotions, and to equip them with the words, routines and resources to enable them to identify and communicate how they are feeling. Arming children in this way,

Key points in this issue:

- **Christian ethos values**
- **Parents/Carers helping in school.**
- **Absence during term time**
- **Pastoral Support**
- **Medicines in school**
- **Allergies**
- **Free School Meals**
- **Diary of events**

helps them to develop a healthy relationship with their emotions and begins to build a solid foundation for managing their future mental health and wellbeing.



Christian Ethos Values

As a school we have three Christian Ethos values that underpin our ethos throughout our day-to-day life and relationships in school. Each value has a special Bible verse and each year group has a Bible story to go with the value, that illustrates it for the children.

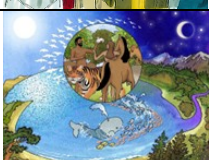
Our first value is **LOVE** and this is our blue value (represented by a blue heart). We have explored with the children that **“Love is thinking of others before yourself”**. Love is a core Christian value for our school because in the Bible we learn that God *is* love and that God showed how much he loves us and how to love others, when he sent his son Jesus to live on earth.

LOVE		
Value Story	Picture	Bible Verse
Year R The Lost Sheep Luke 15		Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
Year 1 The Samaritan Luke 10	Good 	Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
Year 2 The Prodigal Son Luke 15		Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

Our second value is **COURAGE** and this is our green value (represented by a green medal with a gold star). We have explored with the children that **“Courage is doing the right thing even when it is difficult”**. Courage is a core value for our school because Jesus has inspired us to be courageous and to stand up for what is right in all circumstances, never giving up.

COURAGE		
Value Story	Picture	Bible Verse
Year R Zaccheus Luke 19		Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
Year 1 David and Goliath 1Samuel 17		Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
Year 2 Daniel in the Lion's Den Daniel 6		Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Our third value is **RESPECT** and this is our red value (represented by red hands). We have explored with the children that “**Respect is valuing everyone and everything and celebrating our differences**”. Respect is an important core value in our school because it is the foundation stone of relationships within our school and wider community.

RESPECT		
Value Story	Picture	Bible Verse
Year R Bringing the children to Jesus Matthew 19		Love one another warmly, and be eager to show respect for one another. Romans 12:10
Year 1 The Roman Centurion Luke 7		Love one another warmly, and be eager to show respect for one another. Romans 12:10
Year 2 Creation Genesis 1-2		Love one another warmly, and be eager to show respect for one another. Romans 12:10

All the children are exploring each value over the coming weeks in their class and as part of collective worship this half term. They will also continue to form a key part of our Behaviour and Relationships Policy. Across school we will celebrate children showing our Christian Ethos Values of love, courage and respect. Each week the children in each class will collect coloured pebbles when they have modelled each of our Christian Ethos Values. At the end of each week, the classes with the most coloured pebbles for each value, will be celebrated in collective worship and will receive a cup for the children in that class. Please do ask your children why they were awarded their love, courage or respect stickers when they come home as I know they will be very proud to tell you.



Our Integrated Curriculum (IC)

We passionately believe that learning is for life and can only be realised with a curriculum that is learning centred, meaningful, integrated, rich, engaging, exciting and achieves excellence for all. In order to achieve this, we have designed an integrated curriculum (IC) through which we teach the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) in Year R, and the National Curriculum (NC), for years one and two, in an exciting and rigorous way. Within each project in Year 1 and 2, we integrate three subjects, with each subject being taught in an in depth way, and with our English being integrated within the other two subjects to give it real meaning and purpose. In Year R, each project is designed to incorporate each area of the EYFS.

Each IC unit has a ‘hook’ to engage the children and a learning outcome that the children all work towards. Often the outcomes are for parents, with you having the opportunity to come into school and the children having the opportunity to share their learning with you. The children are also taught about two of our learning values within their IC and these help to shape their learning as they develop learning skills such as independence, interdependence, thinking and creativity. We look forward to sharing this learning with you.



Our Learning Values

As a school we have a set of Learning Values that thread through our IC projects and that we explicitly teach the children. These key learning skills support the children to develop as learners across all aspects of their learning and development. Our learning values are:

Thinking, Independence, Creativity, Emotional intelligence, Interdependence and Spirituality

Each value is represented by a character and the children learn about each character as they develop these values in their learning.



'Thunky' the Thinking Monkey helps the children think carefully and to develop a range of thinking skills that can help them in their learning.



'Indie' the Independent Tiger helps the children to understand what it means to be an independent learner and how to use what you know to help you in your learning.



'The Interdependent A Team' show the children how to work as part of a team and what it means to take on different roles when working together and how to listen to others and their points of view.



'Emilio', the Emotionally Intelligent Dolphin helps the children to know and understand their feelings and the feelings of others.



'Crafty' the Creative Spider helps the children to develop their creativity and have the opportunity to come up with new and innovative ideas.



'Serenity' the Spiritual Butterfly helps the children to know and understand what matters to them.

The children will be learning about these characters within their IC projects and day to day learning and will be rewarded with learning values stickers, when they show these skills in their learning.



Reading and Spelling

Children will bring home a decodable book / eBook every Tuesday, which must be brought to school every day with their reading diary. We encourage all parents to read with their children daily or as often as possible - every day of reading earns one tick on their reward chart! As children reach the different milestones, they'll receive a special reading certificate. Please note that ticks should be added to the reward charts by school staff only.

We also ask families to support children in practising the Harder to Read and Spell Words. Children who learn these spellings (Bronze by the end of Year R, Silver by Year 1, and Gold by Year 2) will be awarded a special badge to celebrate their achievement!



Safeguarding in School

Safeguarding in school is our top priority. We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our children and we make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to. Everyone in school is trained to spot the signs of safeguarding concerns and we have an electronic recording system that allows us to record any concerns we have. Andrew Webster, Juliet Wickstead, Kim Watson and I are Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and oversee and monitor the safeguarding practices across the school. Should you have any individual concerns you feel you need to share with us then please approach either of the three of the DSLs and we will discuss these with you confidentially.

Benedict's Law

Benedict's Law highlights the vital role that schools, families and pupils all play in keeping children with allergies safe. As part of this strengthened approach, we ask parents to ensure that the school is kept up to date with any allergy diagnoses, care plans and prescribed medication. We continue to be highly vigilant to all possible allergies and have clear practices, in consultation with our kitchen, to ensure that all food provided by the school is entirely safe. To help us maintain a safe environment please ensure that, if your child has a packed lunch, there are no nut related products included and remind your children of the importance of never sharing food items. Please can I also ask that any snacks you give your children at the end of the school day do not contain nuts. By working together, we can help ensure that all children are safe, included and able to enjoy their school day with confidence.



Labelling of personal belongings

I know that school uniform and the other associated items that you buy for your children is very expensive and that it can be very frustrating if items become mislaid. Please can I remind you of the importance of naming all items, including book bags, PE bags and PE kits. This will enable us to trace any items your child might mislay during the school day so much more easily and will enable us to return the item to them.



Medicines in School

If your child should need to take medication in school, we would ask you to contact the school office and arrange a time when you can come into school as, all medicines administered in school must have written consent from parents. We do not administer medicines that are not prescribed. If medical training is required by staff prior to being able to administer certain medicines, then our policy states that we will not be able to administer these medicines until we have received the appropriate training.

Our policy on the administration of medicines is taken directly from the Hampshire Health & Safety Policy that we have adapted as a school and is available on our website.



Parents/Carers Helping in School

We are very excited to welcome parent/carer helpers in school. As part of the pre-induction of new parent/carer helpers, I will hold training on safeguarding and other aspects of helping in school at 2.00pm on October 19th. Every new volunteer will need a DBS check, and this process can be started at this meeting.



Absence and Holidays During Term Time

I know that you are very aware that in order for a child to reach their full educational potential, a high level of school attendance is essential, and we believe that this means your child will be in school between 95-100% of the time. Where there are particular difficulties around attendance, I would ask parents to phone me so that we can provide the individual support that may be necessary.

Many of you know that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances such as a family crisis or where children's parents have specific dates for leave, such as the armed forces. Many of you may be aware that the latest legislation that schools are expected to enforce around unauthorised absence came into force from August 2024. The key headlines are:-

- Where a child has 10 or more unauthorised absences **within a 100 day period**, whether these be in a block or made up of shorter periods of unauthorised absence, each parent will be subject to a fine as set out below.
- First fines for a period of unauthorised absence will rise from £60 (if paid within 21 days) to £80 per parent per child and from £120 (if paid within 28 days) to £160 per parent per child.
- A second fine within a 3-year period will result in a fine of £160 per parent per child.
- There will not be a third or more fine, other action will be taken such as a Parenting Order or prosecution up to £1200

In line with our School Attendance Policy, attendance will be monitored on a 4 weekly basis. Where attendance falls between **90-95%** the class teacher will speak to you to make you aware. When attendance falls between **85-89%** a letter will be sent home requesting a meeting with myself to discuss reasons for absence and ways in which the family can be supported so that the attendance improves. When attendance falls below **85%** all

further absence will only be authorised when a doctor's note is provided and there may be a referral to the Attendance Legal Panel.

Punctuality is an important part of every child's success at school. Arriving on time helps children settle into the day, take part in essential morning learning and maintain positive routines and friendships. Please remember that any child arriving after the register closes at 9.20am will be recorded as absent for the morning session. Regular lateness can lead to lost learning time and may have a negative impact on both academic progress and social development.



Pastoral Support

We know that there are periods of time in the life of many families that can be difficult and challenging. We would like to continue to offer pastoral support to children and families and have listed below some ways in which we are able to offer support.

Parenting Support

Parenting courses, which can be completed online twenty-four hours a day, along with a 24 hour helpline, are available through the website: www.familylives.org.uk. Alternatively, if you feel you would benefit from family/parenting support, you can speak to your child's class teacher and, if appropriate, you and your child will be able to access support from either of our Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs), Mrs Wickstead or Mrs Jones.

Mrs Wickstead is also our Senior Mental Health lead in school and, if you believe your child needs additional support around their mental health then please speak to Mrs Wickstead and she can look at the best ways in which we can help.

Stronger Together Across Ringwood and Fordingbridge (STARF)

Many of you may know that STARF is a local charity that we not only support, but are also actively involved in, and benefit from, greatly as a school. The charity is designed to support local families out of hardship and to provide families with access to the support they need to develop and grow, ensuring that no child has to face poverty or their mental health problems alone. Through the work of STARF we have been able to support individual families financially, as well as signpost to other streams of support. STARF have employed a financial support worker who works across the schools within the partnership, ensuring that families have access to the benefits and funds to which they are entitled. They have also employed a number of counsellors who work with children in school who are facing challenges around their mental health/life circumstances and who need more specialist support for a period of time. If you feel that you would benefit from some of the additional support that STARF can provide then please do get in touch with either Mr Webster, Mrs Wickstead or I. If you feel that you are in a position to financially support the incredible job that STARF are doing or if you know of any local businesses that might be able to support, then please speak to me.



Website

Please can I remind you to regularly look at our school website. This is a window into the life at school and holds details of key information that you may need to know, such as dates and times of events. Please can I also remind you that this is where you will find all our key statutory policies, including our Behaviour and Relationships Policy, Attendance Policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies.



Bumped Heads

From time-to-time children bump their heads. If the bump is relatively minor it will be treated with a cold compress and a bumped head sticker will be given to your child, so you are aware. If the bump is more significant, we will give you a phone call to inform you and, if appropriate, ask you to come and collect your child.



Partnership with Parents

The parent/teacher relationship is of paramount importance to us as a school. To support this developing relationship, we are planning to hold two key events for parents this term. The first event is a curriculum afternoon for each year group. During these meetings we will share with you our curriculum plans for your child for the coming year, ways in which you can support your child in their learning at home and key information about online safety. As part of the curriculum afternoon, Year 1 and 2 parents are invited to share in their child's first integrated curriculum (IC) outcome. Do come along for the afternoon so you can hear all about your child's learning so far this year! See below for the date of the first Year R IC outcome for parents. The curriculum afternoons will be as follows: -

Yr R curriculum meeting	Wednesday 23rd September 1.30pm
Yr 1 curriculum meeting	Tuesday 15th September 1.30pm
Yr 2 curriculum meeting	Thursday 17th September 1.30pm

Parent/teacher consultations will take place as follows: -

YR R/1/2 consultations	Wednesday 21 st October 4 – 7 pm
	Thursday 22 nd October 4 - 7 pm

Sign-up sheets will be made available on Arbor for you to sign up for your 10-minute slot in the week prior to the parents evenings.



Car Parking

Thank you for your co-operation with regards to parking on what is a very small but busy site. Please can I ask you to continue to park away from the school site as this is safest for us all. The car park is purely reserved for staff and those parents with a blue badge.



Free School Meals

Many of you will know that Infant School children are entitled to a free school meal.

In the past, in order to qualify for a free school meal parents had to be in receipt of certain benefits. Where parents registered for free school meals, the school received a sum of money to help support the education of those children. In order for the school to continue to receive this additional income, it is **essential** that we know which families are in receipt of welfare benefits. You may check your eligibility on line at : <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hc3s/freeschoolmeals.htm>



Once you have registered the school will speak to you about some additional benefits your child will be entitled to, such as help towards uniform and after school clubs. Mrs McNair is available in the office should you have any questions or require assistance.

If you register now, this will be of benefit as your child moves to the Junior School and onto their next phase of learning.



Collective Worship



Our themes for this half term in Collective Worship are:

Love, Courage, Respect and Harvest

The children are exploring our weekly themes through whole school, class and year group worships. We are very fortunate that some of our collective worships are led by the members of the Parish Church. Peter Vargeson, one of the Lay Ministers has been supporting us recently and the Vicar, Stephen Miles, will be joining us for some collective worships in the coming months.



An Important Reminder

May we remind you that in order to set a good example to our pupils and to observe rules of Health and Safety:

***SMOKING OR VAPING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR GROUNDS.
THIS INCLUDES ACTIVITY AFTERNOONS AT OUR NEIGHBOURING SCHOOL.
DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE SCHOOL SITE.***



Friends of Ringwood Infant School (FORIS)

This group of amazing volunteers work tirelessly to raise additional funds for us as a school. Last year they funded a planned programme to purchase new playground markings, outdoor learning resources and play equipment, plants and equipment for our sustainability week, classroom toys and games and support for the Year 2 leaver's fun day, Romsey Abbey trip and leaver's bibles. Last year the team was led by Emma, Kirsty and Dale and they have done such a wonderful job planning, organising and setting up a whole range of events for you and your children to enjoy, whilst raising lots of money for the school. Members of the committee are re-elected at the AGM and we would encourage you to come to this meeting and be involved in all the exciting projects that are planned for the year and maybe even agree to be a member of the committee.

If you have any creative ideas and would like to help raise vital funds for the school please do come along to our first meeting on September 23rd at 7.00pm. This will be our annual AGM followed by a meet and greet social event. You don't need to be a committee member to be involved. Your interest and participation at any level will be appreciated.

Please join us – YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!!



After School Care and Breakfast Club

The After School Club and Breakfast Club are provided through the 115 Club. Club Leaders come to our School at the beginning and end of the day to walk children to and from the Club.



School Photographs

The School Photographer will be in School on 11th November, details to follow. Children will be photographed individually throughout the day and when available, proofs will be sent home so that you can decide on purchase.



Starting School

Do you have a child or know of anyone living near you with a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023? If so, it is important that applications for a place at the School are made by **15th January 2027.** Applications should be made via the Hampshire County Council / Admissions web site at: www.hants.gov.uk/admissions. Further information is available through the School Office.

School Tours

We will be holding a number of sessions for prospective parents/carers to come and visit the school and meet our staff. These will take place on:

- THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER 11AM
- FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 11AM
- TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 9AM
- TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 11AM
- TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 7PM
- WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 9AM
- WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 11AM

Please contact the School Office to join one of these tours, on 01425 473829.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Silk
Headteacher



DIARY/CALENDAR DATES

Please make a note of these dates for easy reference.

Wednesday 9 th September 2026	Simon Chadwick, local author and artist to work with Year 2 and sign books at the end of the day
Tuesday 15 th September 2026	1.30pm: Year 1 curriculum afternoon in the school hall, followed by IC outcome with the children.
Thursday 17 th September 2026	1.30pm: Year 2 curriculum evening in the school hall, followed by IC outcome with the children.
Saturday 19 th September 2026	Ringwood Carnival
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	1.30pm: Year R curriculum afternoon in the school hall.
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	7.00pm: FORIS AGM in school.
Tuesday 6 th October 2026	Flu vaccinations in school
Friday 9 th October 2026	INSET Day School closed to children
Monday 12 th October 2026	Parent evenings sign up appointment sheets on Arbor
Monday 19 th October 2026	Harvest festival collection week begins
Wednesday 21 st and Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Parents evenings for all year groups 4-7pm
Thursday 22 nd October 11am Friday 23 rd October 11am Tuesday 3 rd November 9am Tuesday 3 rd November 11am Tuesday 3 rd November 7pm Wednesday 4 th November 9am Wednesday 4 th November 11am	Prospective Parents School Tours for 2027-2028 Admissions Please contact the School Office to book your place on 01425 473829
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Year R outcome afternoon. Times to be confirmed.
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Last day of half term
Monday 26 th October–Friday 30 th October 2026	HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd November 2026	Start of Autumn 2 Term
Wednesday 11 th November 2026	School Photographer – Individual Photos.

Friday 13 th November 2026	Children in Need – non-uniform day fundraiser
Friday 4 th December 2026 -pm	Year 2 Parent outcome, details to follow
Thursday 10 th December 2026	Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th December 2026 School Hall Tickets limited to two per family	Yr R Christmas Service – All children participate. COSTUMES REQUIRED – More information to follow with regards to timings. Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.
Wednesday 16th December 2026 - 10.30am Ringwood Parish Church Tickets limited to two per family	Yr 1 Christmas Service – All children participate. COSTUMES REQUIRED – More information to follow. Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.
Wednesday 16 th December 2026	Christmas Lunch for ALL children
Thursday 17th December 2026 - 10.30am – Ringwood Parish Church Tickets limited to two per family	Yr 2 Christmas Service – All children participate. COSTUMES REQUIRED – More information to follow. Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.
Friday 18 th December 2026	End of Autumn Term - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.15PM
Monday 4 th January 2026	Start of Spring Term 1 Spirituality Day
Friday 22 nd January 2027	INSET Day – School Closed to children
Thursday 11 th February 2027	Year 1 Parent outcome, details to follow
Friday 12 th February 2027	Year 2 Parent outcome, details to follow
Friday 12 th February 2027	End of Spring Term 1
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February 2027	HALF TERM
Monday 22 nd February 2027	Start of Spring Term 2
Monday 1 st March 2027	Parent evenings sign up appointment sheets on Arbor
Thursday 4 th March 2027	World Book Day – costumes required
Wednesday 10 th and Thursday 11 th March 2027	Parents evenings for all year groups 4-7pm
Wednesday 24 th March 2027	Year 1 Parent outcome, details to follow
Wednesday 24 th March 2027	Last Day of Spring Term – SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15pm
Thursday 25 th March 2027	INSET Day School closed to children

Friday 26 th March – Friday 9 th April 2027	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 12 th April 2027	Start of Summer Term 1
Thursday 15 th April 2027 – 2pm	Phonics meeting for Year 1 parents
Monday 3 rd May 2027	May Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 5 th May 2027	Class Photos
Friday 21 st May 2027	Year 2 Parent outcome, details to follow
Monday 24 th May 2027	Year 1 Parent outcome, details to follow
Friday 28 th May 2027	End of Summer Term 1
Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027	HALF TERM
Monday 7 th June 2027	Start of Summer Term 2
June 2027 date to be confirmed	Country Dancing – All pupils participate for parents. Year R wear Victorian clothes (Dresses/Pinafores for Girls; Flat Caps/Waistcoats for Boys). Year 1 and 2 Clothes provided by School. PARENTS MAY COLLECT CHILDREN EARLY FROM CLASSES AT THE END OF THE EVENT.
DATE TO BE CONFIRMED	Competitive Sports Finals Sports Activity Afternoon More details to follow nearer the time
Thursday 24 th June 2027 – 7pm	Information Evening for parents/carers of Yr R children starting September 2027
Monday 28 th June 2027	Changeover Day 3.30pm: Opportunity for parents/carers to meet the new teacher
Tuesday 6 th July 2027	Reports out to parents. There will be an opportunity for parents to discuss the report with the class teacher. Please make an individual appointment with your child's class teacher if you wish to do so.
Friday 16 th July 2027 - 10.30am Ringwood Parish Church	Yr 2 Leavers' Service. All Yr 2 children lead the service for parents. Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.
Tuesday 20 th July 2027	Yr 2 Leavers' Fun Day. Non-uniform day for Year 2 only
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	Last day of Summer Term – School finishes at 1.15pm

All dates were accurate at the time of printing. Parents will be given ample notification of any changes. Obviously there will be other events and activities published in the half-termly Newsletters and reminders of dates for the particular term will be included.