



The Vine Schools End of Term Newsletter – Term 1

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we reach the end of Term 1, we want to take a moment to reflect on a wonderful start to the school year. It has been a busy and exciting term, and we are deeply grateful for the warm welcome you have extended to us as new co-headteachers. The support from staff, parents, and children has been truly heartwarming, and we are excited about continuing to grow The Vine Schools together. Our shared vision, 'Growing together in belief, knowledge and wisdom,' has been our guiding light as we strive to create a nurturing and enriching environment for all our pupils.

We want to express our thanks to the Friends of School and SHASA for their ongoing support and generous donations. Your contributions have a significant impact on enhancing the education of our children. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Additionally, we'd like to extend our gratitude to all the volunteers who have been instrumental in setting up and running our Toddler Groups and Stay and Play sessions. The response has been overwhelming, and we couldn't be more thankful. These sessions are a real testament to the strength of our community, and they wouldn't be possible without your involvement.

We are pleased to announce the formation of our Parent Forum, which includes Georgina Fenna, Angela Parr, and Nina Marshall as link members from each of our schools. This forum will be an invaluable tool for us to build stronger relationships with our communities and to ensure that the voices of parents and carers are heard as we work together to improve the education and experience of our children.

This term has been full of highlights! KS1's trip to 'We The Curious' in Bristol was a fantastic opportunity for the children to extend their scientific knowledge, bringing their learning to life through hands-on experiences. In Term 2, KS2 are looking forward to their Egyptian day, which will enhance their understanding of Ancient Egypt. These experiences are invaluable in broadening our children's horizons and deepening their understanding of the world. KS2 have also enjoyed their Religion and World Views (RWV) lessons, exploring Judaism and investigating how festivals and family life demonstrate what matters to Jewish people. We were delighted to take all three schools to their local churches for their Harvest Services this term. It was the first time in a few years that we've been able to do this for all schools, and it was wonderful to see our school community engaging so positively with our church communities. The services were a beautiful way to reflect on the season of harvest, and we are grateful for the warm welcome from the churches and the generous donations towards local charities.

Regarding our transfer from DBAT to Blue Kite, Mr Carter and Mr Austin have been meeting regularly with Blue Kite and are excited by the support they are already offering us, and will fully offer us from January. They have respected the achievements and progress over the last few years and are looking forward to getting to know our schools. A parent booklet has been written by Blue Kite and will be shared in Term 2.

We are pleased to report that all three schools have an attendance rate above 95%, which is a fantastic achievement. Regular attendance is vital for both academic success and social interaction, so let's continue to work together to maintain and improve this positive picture.

Safeguarding remains a top priority, and we are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe both in and out of school. A particular focus for us is Online Safety. With that in mind, we'd like to offer three top tips for keeping your children safe online:

1. Ensure privacy settings are activated on devices and apps.
2. Regularly monitor the apps, games, and websites your children use.
3. Encourage open conversations about online experiences, ensuring they know they can come to you with concerns.

As part of our safeguarding efforts, we will be participating in Anti-Bullying Week (starting 11th November) and the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe programme (week of 25th November). These initiatives are crucial in teaching our children about the importance of kindness, respect, knowing what is right and wrong and standing up for what is right – key messages we give throughout our curriculum.

Looking ahead, there are several exciting events planned:

- Term 2 begins on Wednesday 6th November.
- Remembrance Day activities in school will take place on Friday 8th and Monday 11th November.
- Nativities:
 - Seagry: Tuesday 10th December
 - Somerfords': Wednesday 11th December
 - Christian Malford: Thursday 12th December.
- Pantomime on Wednesday 18th December.
- Christmas service dates will be shared once finalised.
- Term 2 finishes on Friday 20th December.

Again, we want to extend a huge thank you to all parents, children, and staff for their dedication and hard work throughout this term. Your commitment to the school community makes all the difference, and we are proud of everything that has been achieved so far.

We wish you all a restful break and we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting term ahead.

Warm regards,

Shaun Carter and Sam Austin