



NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that we are coming to the end of my first half term here at Conifers. It's been a bit of a whirlwind at times but I am really proud of the progress that has been made over the last few weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff here who work so hard to provide a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere. I am also thrilled with our new clubs offer that will be starting after half term - we now have 17 different clubs happening at various times over the week! I believe that lots of these clubs are already quite full but please have a quick look to see if there is anything that your child would like to try. Some of these clubs will take place after Christmas too and we will try to prioritise those children who didn't get the chance to attend this time around.

In this newsletter, we have also included some year group highlights showing what has been happening this half term. It's lovely for us to share some of the activities that your children have been involved in. We have also set up a Facebook page to share information and learning across the school. Come and give us a follow!

We have had our first Friends event this week - the Halloween Disco - which was really well attended. As always, the Friends are seeking parents and carers who might be able to join the committee to help with some of the amazing events that they host over the school year. If you would like to volunteer, please either contact the school office, or contact the Friends directly through their Facebook page.

After half term, we will be sending out a survey for families to complete using a company called The Engagement Platform (TEP) . The children and staff will also be completing a similar one so that we can gain an understanding of what is going well in school and what we might need to focus on going forward. If you could spend the time completing it, we would be very grateful for your feedback.

Towards the end of November, we are going to transfer our SIMs and Scopay systems onto a single system called Arbor. This will mean everything will be on one app which should make things easier going forward - watch this space!

The run up to Christmas already looks like it's going to be very busy so please keep an eye out for communications from the school.

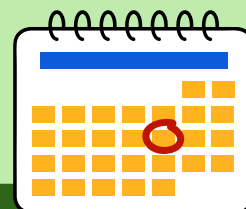
Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have a good half term with your children - I know I am looking forward to switching that alarm off for a few days!

Mrs S Ellis
Headteacher





Diary Dates



Mon 2nd Nov	Back to school
Thurs 5th Nov	Flu Spray Year 2 IMPACT day (normal uniform)
Fri 13th Nov	 Children in Need - Non Uniform
Weds 18th Nov	MHST Visit - Year 5 - 2pm
Fri 4th Dec	Non School Uniform Day - Donations for the Christmas Sparkle
Mon 7th Dec - Fri 11th Nov	Open House Afternoons - timings TBC
Weds 9th Dec	Reception Nativity Play 
Thurs 10th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Sparkle event after school
Wednesday 16th December	 Christmas Dinner Day
Fri 18th Dec	Thrive Breakfast - Stay and Play - 8:50am Last Day of Term - finish at 2pm

Spotlight on Thrive

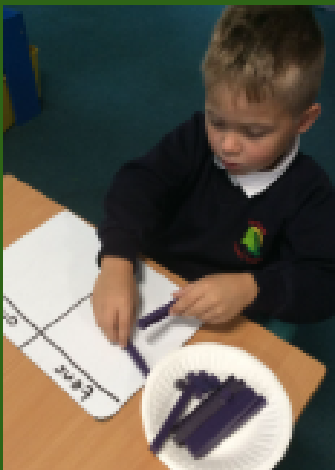
What a busy half term we've had in the Thrive Base!

In addition to our academic learning, we have been enjoying our 'All About Me' topic and have had circle times, made collages of our special people, painted what friendship means to us, wrote postcards to our friends and decorated biscuits to represent ourselves.

We have been making the most of our new sensory room, and as a group we have been enjoying the outside area and playing hide and seek, duck-duck-goose, what's the time Mr Wolf, football and follow my leader.

We are continuing our gardening sessions with Seedlings and have enjoyed collecting natural resources from the outside and printing with them. We have also brought the outside inside as our role play area has become a garden centre.

In our home area we have been trying different fruits, and making crumble and pizzas. This week we have also baked some spooky treats and had fun with halloween crafts.



Spotlight on FS2

Reception have had a fantastic start to school. We are so proud of how well they have all settled into Conifers and how they have learnt our daily routine.

The children have made lots of friends and have been working really hard on their sharing and turn taking skills. The children have loved exploring our inside and outside learning environment and the staff have loved their daily mud coffees from our mud kitchen cafe!

We have had so much fun learning about each other's families, pets and homes in our 'Marvelous Me' topic.

We can't wait for the next half term!



Spotlight on Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about the monarchy with our 'Kings and Queens' topic. They enjoyed dressing up, making crowns and they particularly enjoyed eating the squash and biscuits during our royal banquet! The children learnt to retell the story of the Three Little Pigs. They performed the story through drama and did some great hot seating of characters where they interviewed the big bad wolf! Through an experimental process, the children built the houses of the three little pigs and identified materials that would withhold the huff and puff from the wolf! In our PE lessons, we have been refining fundamental skills, jumping in particular and have been learning how to jump further in distance but with more control and balance. A busy half term, with lots of learning taking place. Well done, Year 1!



Spotlight on Year 2

This half term Year 2 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. We created some amazing art pieces while we were learning lots of facts about London in 1666! We also did some drama to show what London was like before and after the Great Fire and even hot seated some important people like Samuel Pepys and King Charles II.



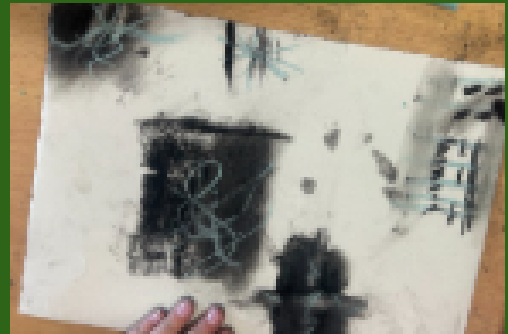
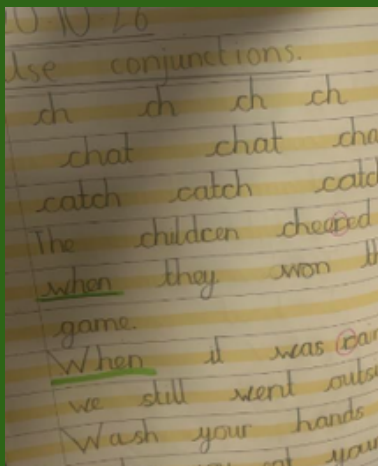
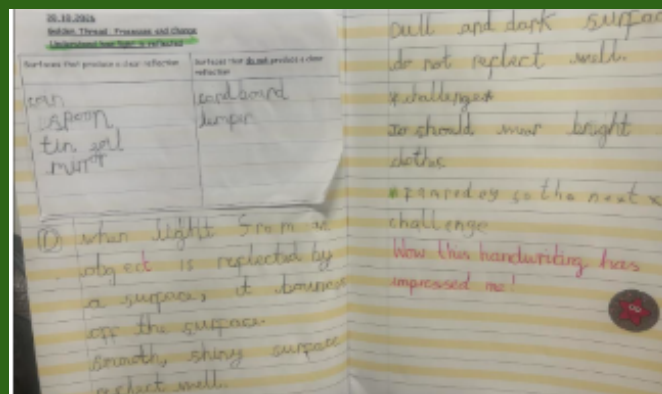
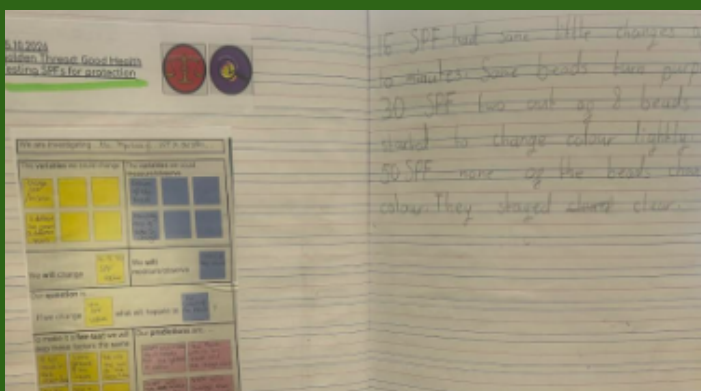
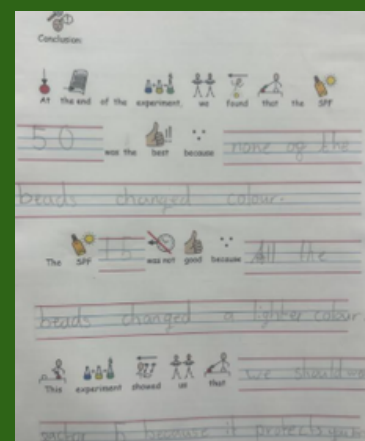
In Science we have been learning all about materials! We have been sorting objects based on their materials and identifying its properties. We are all now recycling experts and have been working hard to make sure we recycle in our classroom as well as at home!



We are really looking forward to learning all about the gun powder plot next half term and why we celebrate firework night!

Spotlight on Year 3

Year 3 have been developing their pre-cursive handwriting skills working hard to improve the presentation of their writing across all areas. In Science, we have explored light and shadows through exciting experiments such as investigating how shadows are formed and comparing sun cream with different SPF factors. In Art, we have enjoyed creating images using charcoal and learning about the artists Laura McKendry and Edgar Degas. Finally, we have learnt lots about life during the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We explored how people lived and what their settlements were like. We looked at important sites including Stonehenge, Skara Brae and Maiden Castle. What a busy and exciting term of learning!



Spotlight on Year 4

In Year 4, we have been working incredibly hard across all our subjects, starting with perfecting our cursive handwriting and mastering our common exception spelling words. In Whole Class Reading, we dived into the world of *The Butterfly Lion*, where we learned all about Bertie's selflessness and bravery in saving his friends during the war. Our confidence in times tables is also growing rapidly thanks to plenty of "speedies" and fluency work. In science, we explored the digestive system through some "gross" experiments that tracked exactly how food travels from the mouth all the way to the end of its journey. Finally, we have loved stepping back in time to study Ancient Greece in history, even if we discovered that olives are definitely an acquired taste, and we have already started crafting our very own Greek drinking vessels in DT. To celebrate all of this amazing effort, both classes have successfully filled up their marble jars! As a reward, Ash class had chosen an afternoon of crafts and hot chocolate, while Pine class had opted for a spooky Halloween movie and popcorn.



Spotlight on Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the school year and have already enjoyed lots of exciting learning!

History: We have been exploring the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, learning about settlements, longships and trading. The children particularly enjoyed discovering the different crimes and punishments of the time and using drama to understand how this era came to an end.

Art: The children have been exploring traditional Viking patterns before creating their own designs. They carefully transferred these onto printing foam and used rollers and black ink to produce some fantastic prints for our class display. Their faces were a picture when they revealed their finished creations!

Science: We have been investigating the properties and changes of materials through practical experiments. The children explored dissolving materials to form solutions and tested the absorbency of different materials to discover which would make the best roof for a Viking longhouse.

Well done, Year 5! We have been so impressed with the children's enthusiasm, creativity and hard work so far!



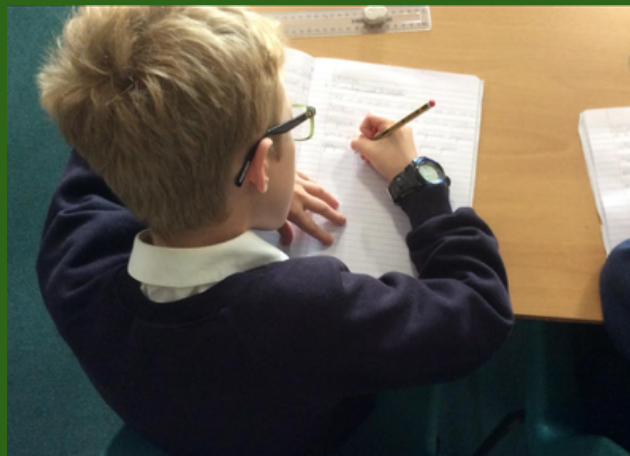
Spotlight on Year 6

It was a busy and fantastic start to the term in Year 6! The children settled back into school routines with wonderful enthusiasm and dived deep into some fascinating topics across the curriculum.

At the beginning of term, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an exciting residential trip packed with adventure and opportunities to challenge themselves. From caving, kayaking and canoeing to tackling the high ropes, whizzing down the zipline and working together to build rafts, the children embraced every activity with enthusiasm and determination. The experience provided a fantastic opportunity to strengthen relationships across the year group, develop teamwork and build confidence. Just as importantly, it helped to establish our expectations for the year ahead: approaching challenges with a positive attitude, supporting one another, showing resilience when things get difficult and striving to be the very best versions of themselves. The pupils returned with wonderful memories, a stronger sense of belonging and a positive mindset for the exciting year ahead.

🎩 Step Back in Time: The Victorians

Our history journey took us back into the Victorian era! The children explored the key milestones of Queen Victoria's reign, the dramatic changes brought by the Industrial Revolution, and what day-to-day life was really like during this period. From contrasting the lives of wealthy Victorians with those working in factories and workhouses, the children developed a fantastic empathy and historical curiosity.



Spotlight on Year 6

⚡ Illuminating Science: Circuits & Electricity

In Science, we turned our attention to electricity and components. The children got to grips with drawing and recognizing official scientific symbols, building up key vocabulary like voltage and current. We were hands-on exploring variations within circuits, and the children planned and carried out an investigation to answer a big question: How does changing the voltage affect the volume of a buzzer?

🤝 Social & Emotional Learning: SCARF Programme

Through our SCARF curriculum, we focused on personal growth, relationships, and positive communication. The children explored what it meant to be assertive while maintaining clear, respectful personal boundaries. We had insightful conversations about what makes a healthy, supportive friendship and how to resolve everyday conflicts calmly and fairly. To top it off, the children took part in collaborative team-building activities that put these communication skills into action—it was wonderful to watch them problem-solve together with so much joy and teamwork!



Spotlight on Sport



We are really proud of our six Year 5 pupils who have completed their windsurfing course at OTC Watersports on Portland this half term. Every session they have listened to the instructors, overcome fears, demonstrated good teamwork and have shown enthusiasm to learn new skills. They were all awarded the prestigious 'gold t-shirt' twice as well as being given their very own wetsuits. Well done everyone and thank you to Mrs Wilson for accompanying them each week.



Spotlight on Sport



Well done to our boy's football team who played their first game against Bincombe Valley Primary School last week. The final score was 1-1 and this reflected how evenly balanced the game was. They boys fought hard and showed good teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. Thank you for representing the school so well and thank you to Mr Manning for organising and refereeing the match.



Clubs

We are absolutely delighted to be able to offer the following clubs after half term.

Mondays 3:30pm - 4:15pm	Football (Weymouth FC)	Years 5/6
	Science (Mini Professors)	Years 1 - 4
	Fim Club (Mrs Prior)	Years 4-6

Tuesday Lunch times	Maths - TT Rockstars (Mrs Prior)	Years 3-6
	Quiz club (Mrs Moss)	Years 4-6
	Wellbeing Club (Mrs Newport/Ms West)	Year 5/6

Tuesdays 3:30pm - 4:15pm	Gardening (Seedlings Kate)	Whole School
	Science (Mrs Tourgout)	KS2
	Library story telling (Mrs Maggs)	Year 3/4
	Dodgeball club (Mr Lyon)	Years 5/6
	Art Club (Mrs Hutchinson)	Years 1/2
	Colouring Club (Mrs Emmerson)	Years 1 - 6

Wednesdays 3:30pm - 4:15pm	Football (Weymouth FC)	Years 3/4
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Thursday lunch 12:30pm - 1pm	French club - Mrs O'Brien	Years 3-6
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Thursday 3:30pm-4.15pm	Puzzle Club - Problem Solving (Mrs Moorley)	Years 4-6
	Choir (Mrs Tharme)	Years 3-6

Friday 3.30pm-4.30pm	Dodgeball club (Mr Lyon)	Years 3/4
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If you go onto your Scopay app, under trips and events you will be able to book your child on. If you can book, your child has a place.

I am really grateful to all of our staff who have volunteered to run a club this half term.

Governor Spotlight



My name is Dan Dyer and I am the vice chair of governors at Conifers, as well as the safeguarding and attendance lead. I have been a governor here for nearly three years.

Prior to this I was a governor at Rockmount Primary School in South London for ten years, serving as vice and committee chairs, as well as undertaking a number of other link roles over that time.

One priority for us this year will be continuing to ensure Conifers is a welcoming environment for children to attend. Children who do not attend school regularly miss out on friendships, structure and classroom learning and so it is important that Conifers continues to offer a warm and friendly environment where they feel safe, welcome and supported.

Away from work and school, I enjoy running and swimming and have recently decided that sea dipping is a great idea. Roll on the winter!

DESIGN A Christmas Jumper



In honour of this years '**Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day**' we need your child's help – by drawing or painting the design for a Christmas Jumper.

The only things we ask are: the image represents the theme of Christmas, it is A4 in size, please do not use a jumper template as we need the image to be printed onto a jumper and the work of art should be sent to us via email – other than that your child can be as creative as they want!

It's totally free to enter and your child could **win their design printed on a jumper ready for Christmas Jumper day.**

What to do:

1

Draw your Christmas design on an A4 piece of plain paper. Please **DO NOT** use or draw a jumper template.

2

Please include your child's name, age, class, year and school on your email.



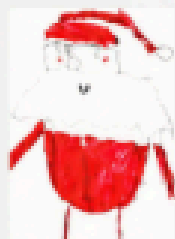
3

Email your design to comps@localfoodlinks.org.uk by Monday 16th November.

We will accept the following file types: PDF or JPG.



LOCAL
FOOD
LINKS

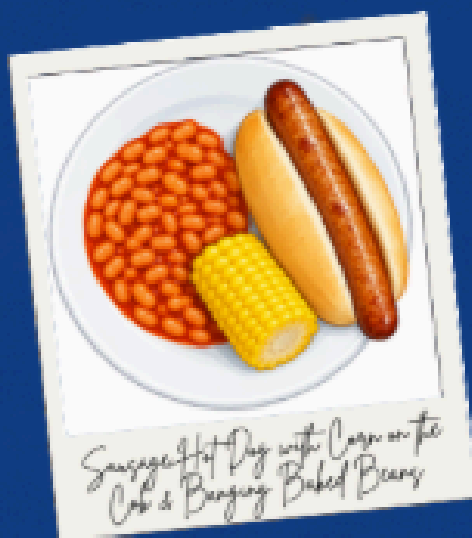




**ORDER BY
MIDNIGHT ON
THURSDAY 29TH
OCTOBER**

Celebrate Bonfire Night with Local Food Links...

Remember, remember to order your school meal for **Thursday 5th of November**, Gunpowder, treason and Local Butchers Sausage Hot Dog with Corn on the Cob & Banging Baked Beans. And for pud, our Yummy Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard.



Sausage Hot Dog with Corn on the Cob & Banging Baked Beans



Sticky Toffee Pudding with Custard

Order online by **midnight on Thursday 29th October**

Visit <https://my.localfoodlinks.org.uk/>