



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a warm welcome back to school after what I hope was an enjoyable, restful summer with lots of precious time spent as a family.

Let me introduce myself: My name is Sara Ellis and it is an absolute pleasure and privilege to be starting here as your new headteacher. I am not new to the area; for the last eleven years I have been the Assistant Headteacher at Wyke Regis Junior School. You may remember me speaking to some of you on my interview day and asking you what you thought of the school and what improvements could be made. To be honest, it was quite difficult to get any of you to say anything bad about the school, and your positive responses made me even more certain that I had made the right decision in applying for this role.

So many of you commented on how inclusive the school was, how teachers "couldn't do enough", and how your children were thriving. You spoke of the support you've received and the adaptations made to ensure your children could be successful. This was so pleasing to hear and gives me such a strong foundation to build on. I feel very fortunate to have inherited a staff team who work tirelessly to provide such a nurturing environment for all pupils.

When really pressed for improvements you wanted to see, the main one was communication. Whilst you really appreciated the range of enrichment opportunities, trips, special days and events, sometimes information about these was "a little lastminute.com". One of the things I will be introducing will be a 'Key Dates' document which will cover the entire academic year. I am currently working with all members of the school community to map out the special events, including class assemblies, sports days, educational visits, and special days such as Children in Need. This will be completed and shared by the end of September to help you plan ahead.

Additionally, I plan to introduce a half-termly newsletter which, as well as sharing dates for the following half term, will include "spotlights" from every class where they share the exciting learning that has taken place during the half term. This was another suggestion made in March, as some of you felt that once your child got older, and we stopped using Tapestry, you didn't know what your child was doing in school.

And finally, some of you mentioned that you are sometimes bombarded by emails and that they can often all come at once. You also said that you used different platforms for attendance (SIMs) and payments (Scopay). I will investigate whether it might be easier for all of this to be done under one platform with a single, user-friendly app. Watch this space!

I want to ensure that our relationships with parents and carers are strong, as I genuinely believe that when we work together, our children are as successful as they can be. One of the things that I pride myself on is being approachable and a good listener, so please feel free to come up to me on the playground at the start or the end of the day if you have any concerns or suggestions for ways that the school can be improved even further.

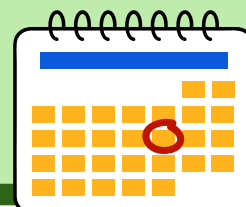
I look forward to working together to build a school where every member of the school community belongs and thrives.

Sara Ellis
Headteacher





Diary Dates



Mon 7th Sept to Fri 11th Sept	Year 6 trip to Dartmoor
Thurs 10th Sept	Year 4 Greeks Impact Day
Mon 14th Sept	Year 5 Meet and Greet - 9:00am to 9:30am
Tues 15th Sept	Year 4 Meet and Greet - 9:00am to 9:30am Year 2 Meet and Greet - 2:50pm to 3:20pm
Weds 16th Sept	Year 1 Meet and Greet - Mrs Treweek - 2:50pm to 3:20pm Forest School begins (every Weds) Year 1 and Year 4 Ash class
Thurs 17th Sept	Year 1 Meet and Greet - Mrs Tharme - 2:50pm to 3:20pm
Fri 18th Sept	Year 3 Impact Day Year 6 Meet and Greet - 9:00am to 9:30am Year 3 Meet and Greet - 2:50pm to 3:20pm
Tues 22nd Sept	Year 1 Impact Day
Thurs 24th Sept	Phonics Workshop - Reception - 2:50pm
Thurs 1st Oct	MHST visit - Year 4 - 2pm
Tues 6th Oct	School photos (individual)
Fri 9th Oct	MHST Parent/Carer Session - Supporting Children with Anxiety - 9am
Mon 19th Oct	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Tues 20th Oct - Thurs 21st Oct	Parent Consultations
Fri 23rd Oct	Thrive Breakfast/Stay and Play

Important Information

We are going to trialing a couple of changes to the start of the school day starting from Monday.



The gates will still open at **8:30am** but a bell will ring at **8:40am** for children to start filing straight into school rather than them having to line up on the playground.

This will give the children time to get to their classrooms, hang up their coats and then be seated ready for early work and registration.



In addition, can we please ask that children **do not** bring their own footballs into school. Each class will be given a class ball to be used at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Please can we also ask that children don't play on the trim trails either before or after school - thank you.



PE Days

Please see table below for your child's PE day. They are able to come into school in PE kit on those days.



Year Group	PE Day
Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday
Year 4	Monday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Thursday

Governor Spotlight



My name is Dorothy Woods and I am chair of the governing body at Conifers. You may have talked to me at events or parents' evenings.

I became a governor here about 12 years ago after retiring from full time teaching in local primary schools. I was vice chair for 2 years prior to being elected chair 7 years ago; a role which I thoroughly enjoy, as the ethos of Conifers links closely with my own theories of education.

Some of you may know that the governing board are all volunteers who work as a team to guide the strategic direction of the school, have financial oversight and hold senior leaders accountable for the education offered at Conifers - we are thought of as 'critical friends'.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you during this year as we enter a new era with Mrs Ellis as our new headteacher. We will be advertising for a new parent governor later this term and if you would like to speak to me in more detail about the role please do contact me through the school office.

The Inclusive Classroom

We are delighted to share an exciting development in our ongoing commitment to creating **inclusive, nurturing and inspiring learning environments** for all our children. We know that children learn best when they feel safe, comfortable, valued and ready to engage, and we are exploring how thoughtful changes to our classroom environments can help make this possible.

As part of this work, we are currently piloting two Year 4 classrooms that have been specially designed to support a broad range of needs, including neurodiversity. The classrooms offer greater flexibility and choice, with high and lower-rise tables, circular tables to encourage collaboration, a sofa and a range of soft furnishings such as cushions, blankets and bean bags. Light filters have been added to reduce glare, alongside colour-changing therapeutic lamps to create a softer and more calming atmosphere. The rooms have also been carefully decluttered, creating peaceful, purposeful spaces where children can feel settled and able to focus.



The Inclusive Classroom

We are passionate that **inclusive practice should benefit every child**, not just those who may have additional needs. To support this whole-school approach, our remaining classrooms have also been provided with a range of furnishings and resources to enhance their environments. Additional soft lighting and a more natural, neutral colour palette are helping to create classrooms that feel calm, welcoming and comfortable for everyone.

An important part of this journey is giving our children a voice. They are being encouraged to explore their new environments and consider what helps them to feel comfortable, focused and ready to learn. We are also carefully monitoring the impact of the changes through attendance, behaviour and attainment data, alongside gathering regular feedback from pupils and staff.

The early feedback from our children has been wonderfully positive, and it has been a pleasure to see them engaging with and enjoying their new spaces. This is an exciting step in our continued commitment to ensuring that every child has the environment, opportunities and support they need to flourish. We look forward to learning from this pilot, listening to our school community and continuing to develop our classrooms so that every child can feel that they truly belong and can thrive.