

Head Teacher's Message

As we come to the end of what has been a truly wonderful and event filled term, I am delighted to reflect on the many achievements, experiences, and celebrations that have brought our school community together.

Our Year 4 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable adventure at Hooke Court, returning with new skills, great stories, and a renewed sense of independence. The whole school pantomime was another standout moment—full of joy, laughter, and the kind of shared fun that makes our school feel so special. It has also been an outstanding term for sport, with pupils demonstrating brilliant performances, determination, and team spirit across a wide range of events. We continue to be incredibly proud of the way they represent our school.

This term has also been rich in music, with pupils taking part in several inspiring events. Our choir performed at Young Voices at the O2, joining thousands of children in an unforgettable musical celebration. We were also thrilled to be part of The Big Sing at The Lighthouse, where our singers showed confidence, passion, and real musicality. Throughout the term, we have welcomed visiting musicians who have introduced pupils to new instruments, genres, and musical traditions—further enriching our curriculum and igniting creativity across the school.

Our Year 6 pupils have been shining in many areas. A dedicated group has been attending SHINE at Canford School, taking part in six inspiring Saturdays of extended learning and enrichment. Meanwhile, our Year 6 Head Students have shown ongoing excellence in their leadership roles—organising and leading assemblies, representing the school with pride, and hosting special guests, including the Mayor of Poole. Their maturity and commitment continue to impress. World Book Day brought a wonderful buzz of creativity, with a school wide celebration of reading. The year 5 soul food café was a great success, showing off both the children's cooking skills and ability to entertain.

Our Easter Eggstravaganza has been the perfect finale to a joyous term. This event has been entirely organised and run by our amazing PTFA, and I want to express my heartfelt thanks to them. It is a particular delight to have such dedicated parents who give their time generously—especially at a time when staff capacity is understandably limited. Their contribution adds so much to the richness of school life.

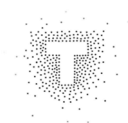
As we look ahead, the finer weather means we will move into summer uniform—a welcome sign that brighter days are coming.

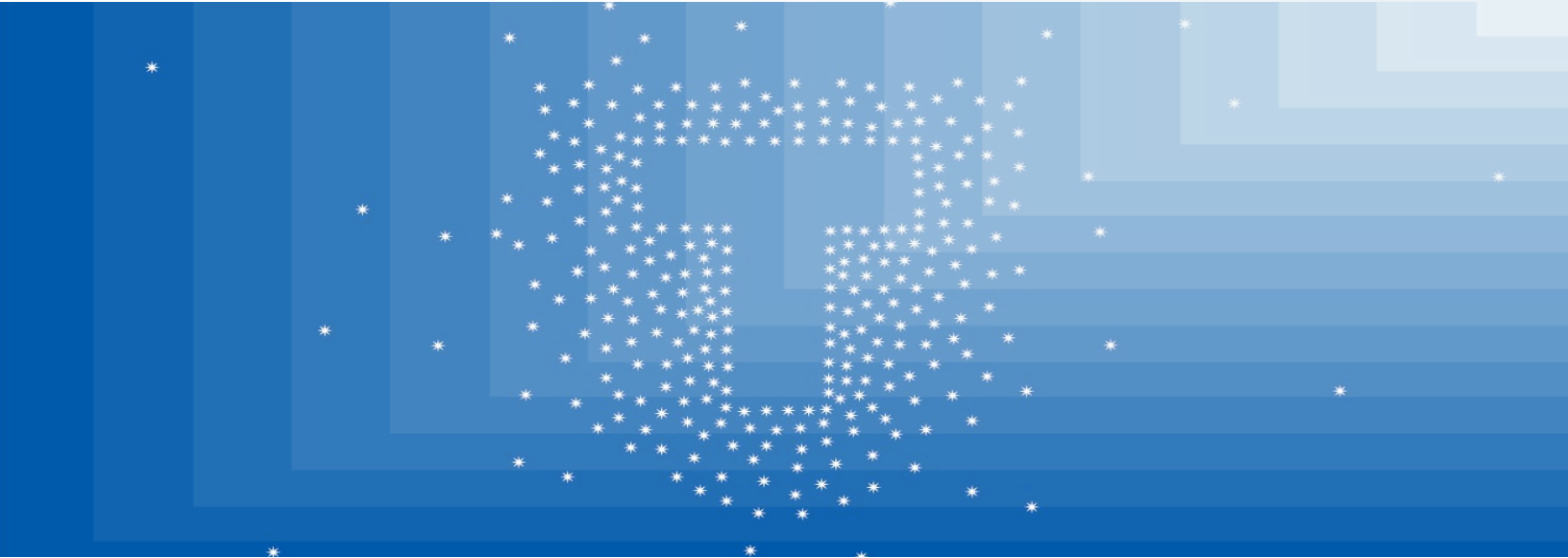
Thank you to our pupils, staff, parents, and volunteers for your energy, support, and commitment this term. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 13th April.

Happy Easter!



Mrs Curtis





UPDATES FROM AROUND TALBOT

EYFS

We've had a fantastic half term in EYFS, filled with exciting experiences and wonderful learning.

One of our highlights was visiting the church, where Father Nicholas welcomed us to sing songs and learn all about the Easter story. The children were brilliant listeners and joined in beautifully.

We also enjoyed a visit from the Creature Teachers, who brought along an array of unusual animals. The children showed amazing bravery as they held and stroked the creatures, asking thoughtful questions and showing great curiosity.

Our literacy adventures have taken us through some brilliant stories. We've been inventing with *Izzy Gizmo*, bringing our drawings to life with *The Magic Paintbrush*, exploring length and rhyming with *Superworm*, and discovering fascinating facts about dinosaurs.

Outdoors, we've been busy exploring the school grounds on our nature walks, searching for signs of spring and observing the changes around us.

As we look ahead to the summer term, the children will soon have the exciting opportunity to use our school swimming pool — always a much loved part of the year.

We wish all our families a wonderful Easter break.

The EYFS Team

YEAR 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully enriching time in Year 1, filled with hands on learning, special visitors, and new experiences that have truly brought our curriculum to life. As part of our Religion and Worldviews topic on Christianity and Easter, the children enjoyed a visit to St Mark's Church. They explored the key features of the church, engaged thoughtfully with the space, and deepened their understanding of Easter traditions through observation and discussion. Their curiosity and respectful behaviour made us very proud.

We were also fortunate to welcome Dr Coroian, a qualified vet, who joined us to talk about animal classifications. She explained how vets identify and care for different types of animals, and the children were absolutely captivated. They asked excellent questions and were fascinated to learn how professionals use clues such as body coverings, movement, and physical features to understand the animals they treat. We extend a huge thank you to her for giving up her time and offering such a valuable contribution to our learning.

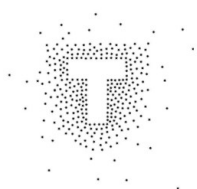
Our recent swimming sessions have also been a great success. The children have shown increasing confidence in the water, demonstrating resilience, enthusiasm, and a willingness to try new skills. It has been lovely to see them supporting one another and celebrating each other's progress.

As we look ahead to the Summer term, we are hopeful for brighter weather and eager to continue building on the children's learning with more exciting topics and opportunities. We can't wait to see where their curiosity and energy take us next.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Cox



YEAR 2

We have had another jam packed term in Year 2! The pupils have really enjoyed our History and Geography topics since returning after the Christmas break. We began by learning about pirates - what they did, where they operated and what life was really like on a pirate ship. We also learned about Poole's own Harry Paye. As part of this topic we were visited by a local dance group who ran an afternoon of pirate themed dance activities for the year group.

This half term, the pupils have been learning about Islands and considering how life on an island differs to that on the mainland. Next term we will be visiting Brownsea Island, one of the islands the pupils have been learning about.

Another highlight this term has been Forest School, the pupils have loved getting to know more about the school grounds and learn some key knowledge about survival as well as strategies for purifying water and building dens.

The pupils in Year have produced some superb pieces of writing over the last Term including a postcard inspired by The Owl and The Pussycat and an explanation text about the life cycle of a butterfly.

We are looking forward to the Summer term in Year 2 with lots to look forward to after a well deserved rest. We wish all the pupils and families of Year 2 a peaceful Easter break.

YEAR 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic and busy term it has been in Year 3! The children have worked incredibly hard and shown great enthusiasm across all areas of their learning.

Please enjoy these highlights:

In Art, we explored the Italian Renaissance and used this as inspiration to create our own clay pots. The children loved getting hands-on with the clay and carefully shaping and decorating their designs. It was wonderful to see their creativity and perseverance shine through in their finished pieces. Thank you to our lovely helpers once again who supported the classes with their clay creations.

In Geography, we have been learning all about volcanoes and volcanic eruptions. The children were fascinated by how volcanoes are formed and what happens during an eruption. They particularly enjoyed discovering different types of volcanoes and learning about famous eruptions from around the world.

Our English lessons brought learning to life as we stepped into the world of Pompeii in the text *Escape from Pompeii*. Some were very surprised to discover that Pompeii is a real place and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius actually happened! This sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussions, as well as some fantastic writing.

In our reading lessons, we have been exploring the countries of Africa through the book *Africa, Amazing Africa* by Atinuke. The children have loved learning about the continent's rich diversity, and we are excited to continue learning about Africa in Summer 2.

All in all, Year 3 have worked incredibly hard this term. We are very proud of their efforts and hope they enjoy a well-deserved break.

Dates for your diaries for Summer 1:

- PE will now be on Thursdays and Fridays
- Join us for our Tea & Cakes Assembly on Thursday 7th May

Year 3 will be going to The Roman Baths on Thursday 21st May. Please let your child's teacher know if you are available to help!

Kind regards,

The Year 3 Team



YEAR 4

The Spring term has been filled with exciting and memorable experiences for our Year 4 children.

One of the highlights of our term was our residential trip to Hooke Court in February. During this visit, the children discovered what life was like in the Tudor period. They took part in a wide variety of hands on activities, including Tudor boat building, traditional dancing and baking, and even acting in a bustling Tudor market while trying on Tudor costumes. The children also learnt to weave, made their own candles and leather pouches, and had a go at writing their names using beautiful Tudor calligraphy. Alongside these skills, they deepened their understanding of how the Tudors came to rule, with a particular focus on the fascinating reign of Henry VIII.

In Art, the children explored different watercolour techniques and experimented with colour, tone and texture. All of this careful practice led to the creation of some wonderful Tudor portraits as their final pieces.

Another exciting moment this term was our performance of the Tudor Banquet. The children shone on stage, showcasing their singing, acting and dancing talents with such confidence and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of our brilliant Year 4 pupils for demonstrating just how capable and creative they are.

In Music, the children had their first experience of learning brass instruments. They were introduced to the trumpet and cornet, and they were extremely excited to be loaned an instrument to take home. We hope you enjoyed listening to their enthusiastic practice sessions! It has been a joyful and lively Spring term, filled with rich learning opportunities and wonderful memories—ones we know the children will treasure for years to come.

YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic and engaging Spring term, with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum.

In History, we focused on civil rights in both the USA and the UK. The children learned about key events and influential figures who fought for equality and fairness. This topic culminated in our special '*Soul Food Café*' event, where families joined us for an evening of music and food inspired by the American South West. The children were proud to share their learning in such a memorable way.

In Geography, we studied natural disasters, including earthquakes, volcanoes and hurricanes. Pupils developed a strong understanding of how these events occur and their impact on people and the environment.

In Science, we learned about reversible and irreversible changes. A highlight was making our own plastic using milk and vinegar, helping us to see chemical changes in action through a fun, hands-on experiment.

It has been a wonderful term, and we are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and hard work.

YEAR 6

This term, we had the wonderful WW2 day. We have to say, the children looked absolutely fantastic! Thank you so much for your hard work in sorting out their costumes for the day. We hoped they enjoyed their temporary trip back to 1940! In their other history unit, the children looked at the modern history of India and individuals such as Gandhi. This learning culminated in some Indian cooking, where the children had the opportunity to sample a lovely vegetable curry.

Aside from history, the Year 6 children have produced some lovely written pieces based on the book 'Holes' and 'Once'. The book 'Once' was particularly emotional and the children asked really thoughtful questions, whilst we were reading it.

In their practice tests, the children have gone from strength to strength and we thank them for their continued hard work. We can't quite believe that when we come back, it's for one final term!

We are so proud of you, Year 6.

Have a lovely, well-deserved break.

BIKEABILITY & BLING YOUR BIKE

This term has been wheelie exciting as we've encouraged more students to enjoy active journeys to school as part of our Active Travel Plan!

Our fantastic Bikeability sessions helped over 35 students grow in confidence on two wheels, with many proudly achieving their Level 1 award. Not stopping there, a further 20 students in Years 5 and 6 pedalled ahead to earn their Level 2, showing impressive skill and safety while cycling on roads around the school.

We also added a splash of sparkle with our "Bling Your Bike – Easter Edition," which was a huge success with more than 25 creative entries! From dazzling decorations to egg-tra special designs, the effort was incredible. Winners were celebrated in Friday's assemblies and rode away with brilliant prizes including shiny new bike bells, stickers, books, and colourful wristbands.

We were also proud to take part in the Big Walk to School Week, sponsored by Sustrans. We are keeping our fingers crossed to win the top prize in BCP—a thrilling BMX stunt show! We'll find out the results next term, so watch this space!

A huge thank you to all parents, students, and staff who have supported active journeys to school this term—you've made a real difference.

What a term—it's been full of energy, enthusiasm, and lots of happy cycling! 🚲 ✨



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

Year 4 have been leading the way with their commitment to Times Tables Rock Stars this term, working hard to prepare for their upcoming MTC tests. Their enthusiasm and regular practice have been fantastic to see, and they are making great progress in both speed and accuracy.

This term, the highest scoring classes across the year groups have been 6PB, 5HC, 4CV and 3SW—well done to them for their fantastic effort!

Can you help your class come out on top in your year group? As we move into the Summer term, there will be more competitions to take part in, giving everyone a chance to contribute. Every game played not only helps your class but also improves your times table knowledge and confidence.

So get involved and see if you can help your class win a guitar for their classroom door!

ENGLISH

One of the joys of my role as English leader is getting to visit classrooms across the school and see the fantastic work that our pupils and teachers are putting in to developing Reading and Writing at Talbot. Over the last term, my focus has been in looking at the quality of handwriting across the school and I have been pleased to see some marvellous outcomes reaching from Reception to Year 6 with more and more of our pupils improving the legibility and style of their writing.

Further to this, we have continued our Oracy focus across the school with all classrooms now embedding strategies that will help our pupils to become confident and adept speakers. We have been working with our pupils on standing to speak when addressing the class, using full sentences to respond to questions and improving their ability to hold constructive dialogues with their 'Talk Partners'. This was highlighted beautifully during a recent assembly where some pupils volunteered to share their experiences of religious festivals in front of the whole school. This also tied in with World Book Day in March where our theme was 'Reading Aloud'. Pupils were able to hone their oracy skills through sharing their favourite stories with the rest of their class. I must also say a massive thank you to all who attended our book fair at the end of this term. We were able to raise a good amount of money, some of which we will receive back from Scholastic to purchase new books for our classrooms.

Kind Regards,

Mr Good

TERM DATES

2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Wednesday 3 rd September	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)
Thursday 4 th September	School Reopens
Friday 10 th October	SCHOOL CLOSED (HAMWIC INSET DAY)
Friday 24 th October	Break for half term
Monday 3 rd November	School Reopens
Friday 19 th December	Break for Christmas

SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5 th January	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)
Tuesday 6 th January	School Reopens
Friday 13 th February	Break for half term
Monday 23 rd February	School Reopens
Friday 6 th March	SCHOOL CLOSED (HAMWIC INSET DAY)
Friday 27 th March	Break for Easter

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13 th April	School Reopens
Monday 4 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED (BANK HOLIDAY)
Thursday 21 st May	Break for half term
Friday 22 nd May	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)
Monday 25 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED (BANK HOLIDAY)
Monday 1 st June	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)
Tuesday 2 nd June	School Reopens
Friday 3 rd July	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY) – SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Wednesday 22 nd July	Break for Summer

BANK AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2025 – 2026

Christmas Day - 25/12/2025

Boxing Day - 26/12/2025

New Years Day – 01/01/2026

Good Friday – 03/04/2026

Easter Monday – 06/04/2026

May Day Bank Hol – 04/05/2026

Spring Bank Hol – 25/05/2026

Summer Bank Hol – 25/08/2026

SCHOOL CLOSED / INSET DAYS 2025 – 2026

03/09/2025 - Training

10/10/2025 – Hamwic Education Trust Training

05/01/2026 – Training

06/03/2026 – Hamwic Education Trust Training

22/05/2026 – Training

01/06/2026 – Training

03/07/2026 – Training (subject to change)