
	<p>NEWSLETTER</p> <p>Tuesday 20th January 2026</p> <p>admin@gamesley.victoriousmat.org</p> <p>Main Office: 01457 853721</p> <p>Pastoral Manager: 07922 576932</p>	
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Dear Families,

1. Forest school dates

Tuesday 20 th January	Year 4 Chestnut Class
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 5 Elm Class
Tuesday 3 rd February	Year 6 Oak Class
Tuesday 10 th February	Year 1 Silver Birch Class
Tuesday 24 th February	Year 2 Willow Class
Tuesday 3 rd March	Year 3 Holly Class
Tuesday 10 th March	Year 4 Chestnut Class
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 5 Elm Class
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 6 Oak Class

2. Attendance

Well done to Orchard Class who achieved the highest attendance last week, an impressive 100%! They earned themselves some Golden Time as well as Holly Class at 99.5%, Chestnut Class at with 98.2%, and Elm Class at 97.6%.

Our overall school attendance was 95.27%.

3. Building Brilliant Reading Habits at Home

Reading together at home is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning. Even ten minutes a day can make a huge difference to their confidence, vocabulary, imagination, and overall progress across the curriculum. Children who read regularly, or are read to, tend to develop stronger language skills, better concentration, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

At school, we're working hard to nurture a love of reading, and your support at home makes that impact even stronger. Sharing stories, talking about books, and modelling positive reading habits all help children see reading as something enjoyable, relaxing, and worth choosing.

Why reading at home matters:

- It strengthens vocabulary and comprehension, helping children access all areas of learning.
- It builds emotional connection — reading together is a calm, shared moment in busy days.
- It boosts imagination, curiosity, and creativity.
- It helps children develop stamina and confidence as independent readers.

To help you get started or refresh your routines, here are some excellent online resources packed with tips, activities, and book suggestions:

[Parents and families | National Literacy Trust](#)

[Reading Activities for Families | RIF.org](#)

[Reading Resources for Parents | twinkl.co.uk](#)

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

4. Mobile phones in school

Children are still welcome to bring mobile phones to school, particularly if they need them for safety when travelling. However, we have recently seen some misuse of phones during the school day, which disrupts learning and can lead to safeguarding concerns. To keep everyone focused and safe, all pupils must hand their phones in at the start of the day. Phones will be stored securely and returned at home time. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a calm, purposeful learning environment.

5. Stars of the Week

Many congratulations to our Values Stars who we celebrated on Friday 9th January:

Nursery Conkers Class	Honest Star	Dylan always tells the truth.
Reception Acorns Class	Honest Star	Riley is honest and tells the truth in class.
Year 1 Silver Birch Class	Honest Star	Mia is very honest.
Year 2 Willow Class	Honest Star	Austin is an honest friend and learner.
Year 3 Holly Class	Enthusiastic Star	Priya is enthusiastic in all lessons.
Year 4 Chestnut Class	Enthusiastic Star	Connor was very enthusiastic doing his news bulletin.
Year 5 Elm Class	Enthusiastic Star	Millie is enthusiastic during English lessons.
Year 6 Oak Class	Enthusiastic Star	Luca is positive about all his learning.
Orchard Class	Enthusiastic Star	Alfie loves to learn and is always enthusiastic.

...and also to our curriculum stars who were:

Nursery Conkers Class	Reading Star	Elsie loves to read.
Reception Acorns Class	Reading Star	Freddie reads at home and always enjoys sitting with a book.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Reading Star	Bonnie Rae always tries hard in reading lessons.
Year 2 Willow Class	Reading Star	Hunter has made a great start in his phonics group.
Year 3 Holly Class	Reading Star	Harper is always motivated in reading lessons.
Year 4 Chestnut Class	Reading Star	Alfred enjoys reading lots of different types of books.

Year 5 Elm Class	Reading Stars	The whole class was commended for applying their inference skills.
Year 6 Oak Class	Maths Star	Blake shows focus and a solid understanding of maths skills.

Many congratulations to our Values Stars who we celebrated on Friday 16th January:

Nursery Conkers Class	Patient Star	Layla is happy to wait in a group game.
Reception Acorns Class	Patient Star	Grayson is patient when having a conversation with someone.
Year 1 Silver Birch Class	Patient Star	Sharu is always very patient with her friends.
Year 2 Willow Class	Patient Star	Gracie has had a great first week.
Year 3 Holly Class	Motivated Star	Harlow always gives detailed answers.
Year 4 Chestnut Class	Motivated Star	Isabelle is very motivated with her learning.
Year 5 Elm Class	Motivated Star	Thomas is motivated in improving his handwriting.
Year 6 Oak Class	Motivated Star	Spencer has been very motivated in his learning.
Orchard Class	Motivated Star	Jaxon has been a very curious learner this week.

...and also to our curriculum stars who were:

Nursery Conkers Class	Reading Star	Hope is really enjoying learning sounds.
Reception Acorns Class	Maths Star	Scarlett is learning to recognise smaller groups within a whole number to 5.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Reading Star	Maisie always tries hard in reading lessons.
Year 2 Willow Class	Reading Star	Oliver can read with great expression.
Year 3 Holly Class	Reading Star	Theo has learnt so much about natural disasters through his wider reading.
Year 4 Chestnut Class	Reading Star	Daisy loves to read and always makes time to read at home.
Year 5 Elm Class	Maths Stars	Carter is determined to learn his Times Tables.
Year 6 Oak Class	Maths Star	Olivia W works really hard in guided reading lessons.

6. School Trips

In order to help you budget and plan for the year ahead, we will try to give you as much advance notice of school trips as possible.

Year 1 2025/26	Orchard	Conkers	Acorns	Silver Birch	Willow	Holly	Chestnut	Elm	Oak
Trip 1		Manor Park Conkers – 8 th October 2025 Acorns – 9 th October 2025		Manchester Art Gallery		Creative Workshop at Z Arts Theatre Wednesday 15 th October 2025 £23.61		Farm Experience	Residential trip to Whitehall Centre Monday 13 th October 2025 £215 in total
Trip 2	Dinosaur Yoga Workshop Tuesday 24 th February £2.95 per child			Chatsworth Park		Church Wednesday 11 th March 2026	Church Thursday 12 th March 2026	Whitehall Wednesday 4 th March 2026 £10.50 per child	Whitehall Friday 6 th March 2026 £10.50 per child
Trip 3	St James Church Interactive concert	Bridgewater Gardens Thursday 11 th June 2026 £12.70 per child		Lytham St. Anne's Thursday 7 th May £13 per child		Chester Zoo Wednesday 8 th July 2026 £30.30 per child		Alton Towers Tuesday 16 th June 2026 £28.00	

Year 2 2026/27	Conkers	Acorns	Silver Birch	Willow	Holly	Chestnut	Elm	Oak
Trip 1	Manor Park		Lyme Park and Crow Wood		Manchester Museum		Outdoor Adventure	Residential
Trip 2	Peak Wildlife Park		Manchester Bus Tour and Z Arts Theatre		Mosque	Young Voices		Mosque
Trip 3	Formby Beach		Portland Basin Museum		Carsington Water		Llandudno	

We have lots of exciting enrichment activities planned for our Orchard Class and we will let parents know about any planned trips in due course, when the children have settled back into school.

Dates for your Diaries

HOLIDAY	
Friday 13th February	School closes for half term holiday
Friday 23 rd January	Year 5 Family Dinner Day
Friday 30 th January	Year 4 Family Dinner Day
Wednesday 4 th February	Year 4 drop in – Guided Reading
Friday 6 th February	Year 3 Family Dinner Day
Thursday 12th February	Acorns and Conkers Grandparents stay and play
HOLIDAY	
Monday 23rd February	School opens for Spring Term 2
Tuesday 24 th February	Dinosaur Yoga Workshop – Conkers, Acorns and Orchard classes
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 5 Elm Whitehall visit
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 4 Drop in Maths Year 3 Holly Church Visit
Thursday 12 th March	Year 4 Chestnut Church visit
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 6 Drop In Reading

Friday 27th March	School closes for Easter holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 13th April	School opens for Summer Term 1
Monday 4th May	School closed (Bank Holiday)
Thursday 7 th May	Silver Birch and Willow Trip to Lytham St Annes
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Thursday 21st May	School closes for half term holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 1st June	School opens for Summer Term 2
Monday 1 st June	Year 4 Multiplication Checks begin (over next two weeks)
Monday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics screening this week
Thursday 11 th June	Conkers and Class Acorns to Bridgewater Gardens
Tuesday 16 th June	Elm and Oak Class trip to Alton Towers
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 3 Holly and Year 4 Chestnut Classes Trip to Chester Zoo
Friday 17th July	School closes for Summer Holiday
Monday 20th July	Staff in school: training day
Tuesday 21st July	Staff in school: training day
HOLIDAY	
Wed 2nd September 26	Staff training day in Manchester
Thurs 3rd September 26	Staff in school: training day
Friday 4th September 26	Staff in school: training day