



Easter Newsletter March 2026

Staffing Update

Miss Law has had her baby, a little boy called Louie, both are doing really well. Mrs Rawcliffe is also pregnant and will be leaving us to go on maternity leave in June. Mrs Ainsworth will be returning from her maternity leave in June. We wish everyone good Church Vale luck. We have a new caretaker starting with us soon called Mr Scott. Welcome to our team - we have loads of jobs for you!

Ofsted

We asked you for your opinions using the new Ofsted questions and had 50 families respond. This was fabulous feedback for us and we are busy working on things you may have suggested. More than that though it has given us a positive outlook as we go into the next school year when Ofsted may come. Ofsted has changed the way it inspects schools. It has moved to a report card where you are colour coded depending on what they see. Ofsted have said they expect most schools to have some orange on their report card. We look forward to sharing the results of the parents' questionnaire soon. [To find out more about the new Ofsted framework click here](#)

Term Time Holidays

As we approach the warmer weather just a reminder of the term time holiday rules from the DFE. School cannot authorise any term time holidays - even if it just for 1 day. It doesn't matter if your child has 100% attendance up to this point. If you think that it is exceptional circumstances, you must talk to the head teacher. Just be aware that things like e.g. can't book holidays in term time because of work are

not considered exceptional. Some people will be heading towards their second penalty notice this year where you don't have the option to reduce the fine. The third one is straight to prosecution. So please be very careful. We do also fine if we suspect a holiday and it is your responsibility to prove they were poorly. This is where a medical appointment will help in this case. I know this isn't sitting well with parents, but schools are under massive pressure to improve school attendance. Missing school when we don't know what is wrong with your child or too much time off is now considered a safeguarding issue. Which is why we have to do home visits if your child is off for any length of time without medical evidence. We hope you understand. If you would like to read more please search for 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' from the DFE.

End of term Easter activities

Thursday we will be drawing the raffle so get your tickets from the PTA or the office if you still want some.

Friday is non-uniform for a tombola prize, this can be anything - a bar of chocolate, an unwanted gift, something you won last time or a bottle of shampoo, anything really.

Friday is also our world famous decorate a boiled egg competition. Send your eggs in by Thursday night/Friday morning and place on your child's classroom table. Please make sure it is named. Then at 1.15pm you are all welcome to come into school to have a lovely afternoon of Easter crafts, a walk round the egg entries, be amazed at the creativity of some of our families and then take your children early if you want to. Morning nursery have been invited to the afternoon session so they can join in. Any problems see Mrs Rawcliffe. Year 3 do NOT have swimming on Friday so Year 3 parents can join in with the fun.

Building work over the holidays

During Easter break we will be having some work done to our toilets on the key stage 2 side. There will still be a walkway through, round the back of the builder's compound but please leave your children before it goes narrow. At the end of the day the Year 3 and 4 children will come out through their normal door and back through the walkway but the Year 5 and 6 will come out of the main front door.

The work will take approximately 10 weeks. If we need to make any changes to the plan as we go through the half term we will let you know.

Arbor APP

Well done to everyone who has downloaded the new APP. We are so pleased that at least one parent from each family has downloaded it. Please make sure though you have your notifications turned on and are checking it regularly. There are lots of people when we check on the system who have downloaded it but never logged back in after set up.

School budget

As you may have seen on social media, schools have been underfunded for many years, and many schools now have very little or no reserves left. We have had to cut back this year on many things: we have had to say goodbye to our counsellor and speech and language therapist. They have worked with us for many years and have made a big difference to our children. We are also not going ahead with the Robinwood residential for Year 5 and 6 children which is heavily subsidised by school. Instead we have sourced a cheaper, more local residential. So we are still prioritising your children, they will still have experiences, trips and resources. The staff are all staying but we have had to cut back on services. If your child needs speech and language therapy, please make sure they attend the NHS appointments - if you don't go they take you off the list and we can't help any more.



World book day

Again our community didn't let us down - what a wonderful array of costumes from footballers to wizards and princesses. The children had a great day, and all looked amazing. This day is part of our promoting the love of reading to our children.

Governors

Well done to Laura Marshall and Daniel Cardinale who are joining our governing body to help make sure everything is as it should be with our school. I am sure they will be fantastic and you may see them around doing some Governor jobs for me from time to time. Thank you for volunteering.

Warm weather (hopefully)



As we move into the summer term, just a reminder: - children can bring labelled sunscreen to put on themselves (they mustn't share with other children - if you could share this message with your child) Hats and sunglasses are also encouraged but do not send children in with strappy tops we need to protect shoulders. Cycle shorts are allowed but please make sure they are not hot pants.

Dates for next term

Don't forget these were sent out in September for the whole year - although watch this space for summer term trip details. These will be sent out via Arbor. Dates are also on the website, if you need to check sports day, family fun day etc - they are all there.

INSET day reminders

Friday May 1st - school will be closed

Monday 1st June - school will be closed

Monday 27th July (this means we close for summer to the children on Friday 24th July)

We hope you have the best holiday, and we will see you back on Monday 13th April at 8.45am.

Thanks for your support,

Mrs Yardley and all the Church Vale staff