

October 2026



NEWSLETTER



Embracing Change & Finding Our Rhythm





Mrs Rorison's Round-up

There is a distinct, quiet beauty to my walks with Truffle, our school dog, at this time of year. As the light shifts, I'm finding real joy in listening to audiobooks on our evening walks into the gathering darkness—I am currently listening to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half a Yellow Sun*, which makes the miles fly by! While I do mourn the warmth of summer—and must admit it's getting noticeably harder to pull myself out of bed in the dark mornings!—there is still that comforting glimmer of early sunrise to greet us at the end of our morning loop.

Talking to so many of you at the gates, I know how busy and demanding this September has been. Settling back into school alarms, packed lunches, and new routines after the long summer break is never easy. Change—whether it is the turning of the seasons or stepping into a new school year—takes time to adjust to. Yet, watching our children settle in so beautifully reminds me how resilient we all are when we navigate these transitions together.

"Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like."

— Attributed to **-Lao Tzu**

Following our brief welcome letter back in September, I am delighted to share our first official newsletter of the term. Looking back over these past few weeks, it is wonderful to see how much life, warmth, and learning are already blooming across the school!



Join Us for Our Harvest Celebration & OPAL Stay & Play! Tuesday, 13th October from 2:00 PM

We are turning **Tuesday, 13th October** into a wonderful, action-packed afternoon celebration for our whole school family, and we warmly invite you all to join us! While it is always a balancing act finding the right times and formats for school events, bringing our Harvest celebration into the normal school day allows all of our children to participate together. This afternoon will also be a wonderful, informal opportunity to give a warm Shoscombe welcome to our new Reception parents and catch up with one another.

Afternoon Schedule:

- **Morning:** Please bring all Harvest competition entries into school so they can be judged before the service!
- **2:00 PM – Harvest Service & Competition Results:** Join us in the hall as the children perform, share, and celebrate the season together, alongside the announcement of our competition winners!
- **Harvest Feast:** The children will be preparing their usual delicious Harvest Feast during the day to share as part of our celebrations!
- **OPAL Stay & Play:** Straight after the service, please stay on the school grounds for an OPAL Stay & Play session. Grab a cup of tea, enjoy our grounds, and come and test out our brand-new outdoor equipment (including our fantastic new pirate ship!).



Harvest Show Competitions

Please bring your competition entries into school on the **morning of Tuesday, 13th October**. We are so lucky to have **Fiona Crockett** judging all of the entries during the morning, and the winners will be announced during our 2:00 PM Harvest Service!

Here are the categories:

Kids' At-Home Art Competitions:

- **The Autumn Crown:** A wearable crown made using autumn leaves, twigs, and berries.
- **Autumnal Photography:** Capturing the beauty of the season in a photograph.

In the Garden:

- **The Harvest Basket:** A display of 5 home-grown vegetables.
- **The Fruit Plate:** A selection of 3 seasonal fruits.
- **The Comical Crop:** The funniest-shaped home-grown vegetable!
- **Autumn Abundance:** A vase of mixed garden flowers.

Please pop **Tuesday, 13th October at 2:00 PM** in your diaries—we cannot wait to celebrate with you all!



Class Learning Highlights & School Trips

It has been a vibrant, action-packed term across all of our classrooms, filled with hands-on discovery and inspiring educational visits!

Oak Class

Our youngest learners in Oak Class have off to a fantastic start! They have been diving straight into phonics, exploring the outdoors in Forest School, and trying out natural dyeing. In class, they have been focusing on making new friends and enjoying favourite stories like *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Vegetable Glue*.

Beech Class: Journeying to the Stone Age

As part of their Stone Age learning, Beech Class went on a memorable visit to **Stonehenge** and walked to the nearby **long barrow**. Back in the classroom, they have been reading *Stone Age Boy* and *Stig of the Dump*, and are currently writing creative diary entries based on what they discovered at Stonehenge about daily prehistoric life.

Chestnut Class: Fossil Hunters at Lyme Regis

Chestnut Class enjoyed a brilliant trip to **Lyme Regis**, immersing themselves in the life and legacy of pioneer paleontologist **Mary Anning**. Their reading and writing have revolved around fossils and Mary Anning's discoveries, and they have even set up their very own fossil shop in their outdoor play area!

Sycamore Class: Living History at the STEAM Museum

Sycamore Class traveled to the **STEAM Museum in Swindon** for an extraordinary immersion into World War II history. The museum has truly raised the bar, and our pupils took part in four fantastic workshops:

- **Women in the War:** Discovering how WWII opened up new opportunities for women.
- **Air-Raid Shelters & Evacuees:** Experiencing the realities of life during the Blitz.
- **The Railways in Wartime:** Learning about the crucial role trains played during wartime efforts.

The children looked incredible in their period costumes and truly looked the part—an unforgettable day of history coming to life!



Pupil Leadership Overview

We are delighted to introduce our pupil leaders for this academic year, all of whom play a vital role in shaping school life and representing our core school values. Our Year 6 pupils have stepped into key leadership responsibilities, acting as Buddies to support our younger children during break times and school activities. They are also taking turns conducting Morning Gate Duty (one pupil per week) to welcome everyone at the front gate alongside the Headteacher—if it is your child's turn, please ensure they arrive as close to 8:30 AM as possible for that week.

In our senior pupil roles, we are proud to announce Finlay as our Head Pupil. Working alongside him are our new House Captains, who will welcome visitors, lead school tours, and organize house events such as the Christmas quiz, talent show, and Sports Day: Grace (Anglo Saxons), Luke & George (Joint Romans), and Amelia (Celts).

Our newly elected Pupil Voice teams are also ready to make a huge impact across the school. Heading up physical activity and outdoor play, Hebe serves as our Sports Lead, supported by Vice Leads Mason & Maisie, acting as Play Leads for OPAL assemblies and lunchtime play. Creative life across the school will be driven by Arts Ambassador Noah, with Vice Leads Amelia & Mia, leading art projects and cultural activities. For our bookworms, Library Lead Alexander and Vice Leads Indie & Matilda will be helping launch Accelerated Reader and guiding children in book choices. Finally, environmental care remains at the heart of our school through Eco Lead Rosemary and Vice Lead Leyna, who will be spearheading our recycling and energy-saving initiatives.

Active & Agile: Term 1 Clubs & Sporting Success

It has been a vibrant, energetic start to the term with a fantastic turnout across all of our extra-curricular and lunchtime clubs!

- **Thriving Clubs:** From building problem-solving confidence in Maths Club and getting creative in Crochet Club, to teamwork in Monday KS2 Football Club (Premier), Wednesday Lunchtime Running Club, and Wednesday Netball Squad Practice, our pupils have been staying active, creative, and engaged every day.
- **Tennis Court Thanks:** A huge thank you once again to Sophy and Mark Larbalestier, who have kindly shared their private tennis courts with us. The children are thoroughly enjoying heading up to use the court, and having a proper flat surface has been brilliant for our Netball squad practices and PE sessions!
- **Cross-Country Triumph:** We have already competed in our first BANES Cross-Country fixture, and every single runner made us proud! It was wonderful to see all the children joining in and celebrating each other's achievements. Most of our runners achieved solid mid-field finishes, with special mention to our rising stars in Year 5 Boys, who took an incredible 2nd and 7th place!
- **Fixtures Update:** Alongside cross-country, our athletes will be representing Shoscombe with fantastic determination and sportsmanship across our local Football friendly fixtures and the MSN GA Netball Small Schools tournament on 12th October. Well done to all involved!



Creative Arts Update

- Artsmark Platinum Drive: We are thrilled to welcome Edwin Bridgeman to our Governing Body to help support our creative vision as we work toward achieving Artsmark Platinum status—a major milestone we are all incredibly excited about!

Outdoor Play & Playground Progress: Phase 3

Thanks to your generous support, Phase 1 (Reception Active Play), the Hillside Pirate Ship, and our Performance Staging (Phase 2) are fully installed and being enjoyed daily by the children!

We are now actively turning our focus toward funding Phase 3:

1. The Tented & Oracy Performance Area (£9,500 Target): Replacing the old trim trail with wooden teepees, a 6m-long hut, and a central mud kitchen to support storytelling, drama, and sensory play.
2. Permanent Forest School Shelter (£7,500 Target): A dedicated sanctuary shelter featuring a smoke hole to unlock outdoor environmental learning for over 60% of our pupils daily.
3. Oak Class Water Play Enhancement (£2,000 Target): Enhancing sensory water play provision for our youngest learners.

We have already made great progress thanks to grant support and carry-forward funds. A huge thank you to **Joy Luxford**, who has already been busy researching and identifying potential grant opportunities to help bring these exciting plans to life! If you or a local business would also like to support our remaining fundraising targets, please feel free to contact the school office.



Key Dates & FOSSA Announcements

FOSSA Pumpkin Party!

Get ready for a spooky, fancy-dress celebration in the school hall! FOSSA will be opening the Eco Shop for Fancy dress on the 14th, 15th & 16th October after school.

- **Date:** Wednesday, 21st October 2026
- **Timings:**
 - **Nursery & KS1:** 17:30 – 18:30
 - **KS2:** 18:45 – 19:45
- **Details:** Fancy dress in the school hall!
- **Tickets:** £4.00 standard ticket | £3.50 sibling ticket
- **Where to Buy:** Tickets are available on the FOSSA shop website at fossa.org.uk/shop (please check the event poster on the school website/Dojo for full details!)

End of Term & Looking Ahead

Please note that school finishes for pupils on **Wednesday, 21st October** at the normal time.

- **Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October:** INSET Days (School closed to pupils).
- **Monday 26th – Friday 30th October:** Half Term Holiday.
- **Monday, 2nd November:** Term 2 begins (Pupils return to school).

Thank you all for such a warm, energetic, and supportive start to the academic year. We wish you all a restful, cozy half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in November!

Warmest regards,

Mrs Tania Rorison & the Shoscombe Staff Team





Key Dates for your diary



New to the Key Dates list



FOSSA Event



Change/update to details since last Key Dates list

Date (& Time)	Item	Audience	Description
Term 1: 7 th September -23 rd October 2026			
12 th October 26	Open Morning 27 Sept Reception Starters	All Parent/Carers & Friends of Shoscombe	Book Online
13 ^h October 26 2pm	Harvest Festival	All Parent/Carers & Friends of Shoscombe	Letter On Dojo
13 th Oct 26 After School	OPAL Stay & Play	All Parent/Carers & Friends of Shoscombe	
21 st October 26	FOSSA Pumpkin Disco	KS1 (including Nursery) 17.30-18.30 pm KS2 18.45 -19.45	Tickets availbe via FOSSA see poster
22 nd & 23 rd October 26	Inset Day		
31 st October 26	Secondary school application Deadline	Year 6 Parents	Final deadline to submit your on-time application to your local council
Term 2: 2 nd November - 18 th December 2026			
9 th November 26	Parent Reading Meeting	Oak Class	More Info to follow
12 th November	FOSSA Meeting	All Parent/Carers & Friends of Shoscombe	Time TBC
16 th & 17 th Nov 8.30-9.00 3.30-6pm	Parent Meetings with Class Teacher	All Parent/Carers & Friends of Shoscombe	Booking information to follow
W/C 23 rd Nov TBC	SEN Parent Meetings		Booking information to follo



Key Dates for your diary



New to the Key Dates list



FOSSA Event



Change/update to details since last Key Dates list

Date (& Time)	Item	Audience	Description
Term 2: 2 nd November - 18 th December 2026			
1 st December 26 6-7.30pm	Stargazing	Sycamore Class	More Info to Follow
 3 rd December 26	Beech Class Sleepover New Date	All Beech Students	More Info to Follow
7 th December 26	Lifeskills Visit	Sycamore Class	More Info to Follow
10 th December 26	Choir Carols at the Abbey	Choir	More Info to follow
13 th December 26 4pm TBC	St Lucia Service & Oak Nativity	Oak parents /careres	More Info to follow
14 th December 5.30pm	Chestnut Christmas Production	Chestnut Parent/Carers	Children in school for 5.30pm -6pm Start more info to follo
15 th December 26	Arthur at The Egg Theatre	Years 2,3,4,5 & 6	More Info to Follow
15 th December 26 6-7.30pm	Stargazing Reserve Date	Sycamore Class	More Info to Follow



Key Dates for your diary



New to the Key Dates list



FOSSA Event



Change/update to details since last Key Dates list

Date (& Time)	Item	Audience	Description
Residentials & Trips More to be Confirmed			
12 th Jan 26	Young Voices Concert	Beech Class	Letter sent on Dojo
April	Dance Umbrella		TBC
19 th - 21 st May	Sycamore London Residential	Sycamore	More info to follow
23 rd -25 th June	Beech Swanage Residential	Beech Class	More Info to Follow



Key Dates for your diary



New to the Key Dates list



FOSSA Event



Change/update to details since last Key Dates list

Date (& Time)	Item	Audience	Description
Term 1 Clubs 3 rd Sep 26 - 23 rd Oct 2026			
Monday	ASC Football KS2	Every Monday from 14 th Sept -12 th Oct	KS2 book on Arbor
Monday	Choir	Every Monday 14 th Sept	Reception - Year 6 Book on Arbor
Wednesday	Netball Club	16 th Sep - 14 th Oct	KS2 book on Arbor
Wednesday	Cross Country	Lunchtime	Book on Arbor
Friday	KS1 Multi Sports	18 th Sep-16 th Feb	KS1 book on Arbor
Term 2 Clubs: 2 nd November - 18 th December 2026			
Monday	ASC Football KS2	Every Monday 9 th Nov -7 th Dec	KS2 book on Arbor
Monday	Choir	Every Monday	Reception - Year 6 Book on Arbor
TBC	Cheerleading	Date TBC	Book via Obsidian
Wednesday	Cross Country	Lunchtime	Book on Arbor
Thursday	Yoga	Year 1 -6 5 th Nov -10 th Dec	Book via Go with the flow Yoga See Poster
Friday	KS1 Multi Sports	18 th Sep-16 th Feb	KS1 book on Arbor



Shoscombe
CHURCH SCHOOL

DIRECTORY



"Pupils are at the centre of this vibrant and inclusive school.
Inspiring everyone to shine's lived out in all aspects of the
school's work"

- Ofsted , 2023

Reception OPEN DAYS



Is your child starting school in September 2027?

We're a small village school with high aspirations for all children. Come and take a look for yourself. Morning and afternoon visits available.

Thursday 16th September - 1.30pm

Friday 2nd October - 9.30am

Monday 12th October - 10.30 am

Tuesday 3rd November - 1.30pm

Wednesday 18th November - 3.30pm

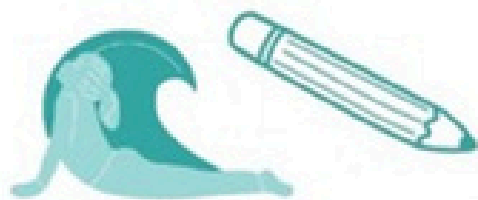
Thursday 3rd December - 10.30am

Thursday 7th January - 3.30pm

Monday 11th January - 10.30am

Please contact the office to arrange a
visit

office@shoscombe.mnsp.org.uk



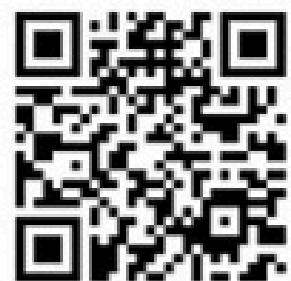
Yoga and Craft Club

Yoga and Craft Club is a chance for children to relax after school and have fun while doing mindful crafts, yoga poses and playing games which promotes emotional and physical wellbeing!

Yr 1-6
Thursdays
3:30-4:30
5th November-
10th December



"Our daughter does yoga with Laura after school and loves it. She is often showing us what she has learnt and Laura makes it really fun for them. I highly recommend Go With The Flow Yoga."



Book at www.gowiththeflowkids.co.uk/bookings

Go With the Flow Kids

info@gwtheflowyoga.co.uk





FOSSA Pumpkin Party

When: Wednesday 21st October 2026

KS1 (including Nursery): 17:30 - 18:30

KS2: 18:45 - 19:45

Where: Shoscombe School (in the hall)

Halloween/fancy dress welcome

Cost: 1st Child - £4; Siblings - £3.50

Tickets available by scanning the QR code or from the following link:

fossa.org.uk/shop

Tuck bags and drinks will be available to pre-order,
with some available on the evening for KS2.





october

Loads of activities. Tonnes of fun.

For children aged 4-11.



BOOK TODAY!



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your Nearest Holiday club...

Venue: St Julian's CofE Primary School

Dates: Tuesday 27th October - Thursday 29th October (3 days)

Times: 9:00-15:30

Price: £22.50

Ages: 5-11 (4 Year olds can attend half day 9-1pm)

Additional info: Please book by Friday 16th



Looking for something exciting this October half-term? Our multi-activity holiday clubs are packed with fun, energy, and variety for children of all ages!

Each day brings something new – from archery and fencing to dodgeball, cricket, and loads more. With a mix of sports, team games, and seasonal crafts, there's never a dull moment.

Book now for a half-term full of fun!

Download the Premier app



Book and change your child's clubs, manage your account – all in one place!

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play





NEURO SPORTS COLLECTIVE

Everyone included ● Everyone valued ● Everyone active

Day: Mondays

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Downside School

**£12.50 per session
10% discount for termly bookings**

*Sign up for a free trial session
or for more information,
email us at...*

Team@neurosportscollective.com

***Neuro-
Affirming
Inclusive
Multi-Sports
Club***



**NEURO SPORTS
COLLECTIVE**

Family Support & Inclusion Day

Come together, find support, and see what's out there for your family



Family Support & Inclusion Day - for parents, carers and professionals

 Wednesday 14th October 2026

 Doors are open from 9:30am - 7pm, join us at any time

 Apex City of Bath Hotel
James Street West, Bath, BA1 2DA

Ever wondered what support is out there for your family? Not sure where to start or who to talk to?

Come along, meet the teams and hear more from services

Pre-book your place or just drop in on the day!



Scan here for more information and to find updates on the event
banespcf.co.uk/event/family-support-inclusion-day

Free Online Parent & Carer Webinars



Join the Mental Health Support Team for 1-hour online webinars for parents/carers of Primary School aged children to understand more about your child's mental health and learn some tips to help



Understanding Anxiety in Children and Young People

- Understanding anxiety
- Signs of anxiety
- Tips on how to support children who are anxious

Mon 19th Oct
9:30-10:30am

Click
here to
sign up

[Teams Event Link](#)



Sleep Hygiene

- Understand more about sleep
- How sleep relates to mental health
- Tips to improve sleep

Tues 20th Oct
4-5pm

Click here
to sign up

[Teams Event Link](#)



Recognising and Understanding Barriers to School Attendance

- Anxiety and attendance
- Talking about school worries
- Working together
- Parent wellbeing

Weds 7th Oct
4-5pm

Click
here to
sign up

[Teams Event Link](#)

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) provides early mental health and wellbeing support for pupils aged 5-18. We offer individual and group support for mild to moderate anxiety and low mood.

If you feel your child would benefit from support, speak to your school's Mental Health Lead about a referral to the MHST



Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

BaNES Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Introducing Charlotte, our MHST link



My name is Charlotte and I'm an Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP).

I am part of the BaNES Mental Health Support Team (MHST). This is a school-based service, delivered by the NHS.

MHSTs provide low-intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) interventions for children aged 5-18 struggling with worries, anxiety, low mood or difficulties managing big emotions. These interventions are usually 6-8 sessions. For children under age 7 we typically offer parent interventions only.

CBT is based on the idea that our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours are all connected. By learning to change our thoughts and behaviours, we can start to feel better.

MHSTs also support schools with their 'whole school approach' to mental health and well-being by offering assemblies, workshops and group sessions for children, workshops and groups for parents, and staff trainings.

To enquire about support from the MHST, please speak to Charlotte Webb who can make a referral on your behalf.

If your child is referred to our team, we will contact you to arrange an initial assessment for them. Following this, we will work together to come up with a plan of how best to help your child.

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/banes/mhst/>

Beavers - what have they done for us?



Book
here



Did you know beavers are amazing animal builders? Join Dr Richard Young from Beaver Trust to discover how these clever creatures are helping nature across Britain.



In this FREE, fun and fascinating talk, you'll learn how beavers are making a big difference to our environment and how they could help protect nature as our climate changes.

Perfect for curious young nature lovers aged 5+ and their families who want to learn more about one of Britain's most remarkable animals!

Bath Central Library
Thursday 29 October
11:00am to 12:00pm

Please book a place on our Eventbrite page or ask a member of staff.



Presented by



The library
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BOOKING A HOLIDAY? RAISE £50 FOR FOSSA - FOR FREE!



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£1.7 MILLION RAISED IN 2025. LET'S GET OUR SHARE FOR FOSSA!



SIGN UP HERE





Lifeboats

Struggling in the water?



FLOAT TO LIVE

Photo: RNLI

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHY 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ


#RESPECTTHEWATER

261543950