



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrated our annual Families Week and we want to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful diversity that make our school communities so special.

At Viridis Schools, we believe that families are at the heart of everything we do. Families come in all shapes and sizes: some big, some small, some with grandparents, carers, step-parents, foster families and siblings of all ages. Every family is unique and every child brings with them a story that is shaped by the love and support of those around them. This week, we are taking time to reflect on and celebrate the many different kinds of families that make up our school. Through special assemblies, classroom activities and story times, children will be learning that there is no one way to be a family. What matters most is the love, care and respect that families show one another. This week also included some special events, such as and our much-loved Grandparents' Afternoon Tea, where we welcome older generations to share in the joy of school life.

We want our children to grow up feeling proud of who they are and where they come from, and to appreciate and respect the differences in others. When children feel seen and valued at school, they thrive - not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. As a school, we are proud to uphold the British Values of mutual respect, tolerance, and individual liberty. These values are deeply connected to our whole school value of equality, reminding us that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and fairness, no matter their background or family makeup. Families Week gives us a chance to put these values into action by celebrating what makes us different and recognising what brings us together.

It is also most definitely gardening season again and children have been busy planting and sowing in our fantastic school garden. Teaching gardening in school offers numerous benefits for our pupils, encompassing academic, social, and emotional growth, as well as a deeper understanding of nature and sustainability. It fosters a connection with nature, provides hands-on learning experiences, promotes healthy lifestyles and can even improve academic performance. We look forward to our traditional home-grown vegetable and salad sales happening over the summer term.

Many thanks for all your support and enjoy the long Bank Holiday weekend.

Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher

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Reminders

Book Bags & Reading Diaries

Remember book bags and reading diaries need to be brought to school every day. This teaches both responsibility and independence.



Packed Lunches

We are committed to healthy lunches. If your child does bring a packed lunch, this must contain healthy options. Please do not include chocolate bars, crisps or biscuits.



Animal Workshop

This week in EYFS, children got to interact with some exotic animals and learned some interesting facts about each one. They held creatures such as a millipede, cockroach, giant snail, gerbil, frog, tarantula, and snake!



Habitats

This week, Year 1 took part in an exciting gardening workshop where the children explored animal habitats and discovered a range of invertebrates living in the school garden. They collected, inspected and drew the different creatures they found!



PGL

This week, children in Year 5 enjoyed a residential trip to the Sussex countryside. They settled in quickly and jumped into a range of activities from raft building to archery and even had a go on the giant swing! It was a great opportunity to build confidence and their teamwork skills.





Significant Female Morning

As part of Families Week, we celebrated the important people in our lives with a special "Significant Female Morning." It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome mums, aunts, sisters, and other special women into the classroom, sharing meaningful moments together and strengthening our sense of community.



Grandparents Tea Party

This week at Orchard, we welcomed grandparents for a special tea party! Everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon filled with tea, cake, and sandwiches, along with a wonderful performance from our choir. A heartfelt thank you to all the grandparents who travelled from near and far to join us.



Key Dates

May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 4th May - School closed

Year 1 Ash Class Assembly
Thursday 7th May at 10:15am

Year 4 Hazel Class Assembly
Thursday 7th May at 10:15am

KS2 SATs Week
wb Monday 11th May

Year 1 Oak Class Assembly
Tuesday 19th May at 10:15am

Year 4 Hawthorn Class Assembly
Tuesday 19th May at 10:15am

Science & Technology Day
Thursday 21st May

Science Fayre
Thursday 21st May at 3:30pm

Children break up for May half term
Friday 22nd May at 3:30pm

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 22 nd May	<u>Science</u> : What exciting and simple experiments can I try with my child at home? (Children can attend this session)

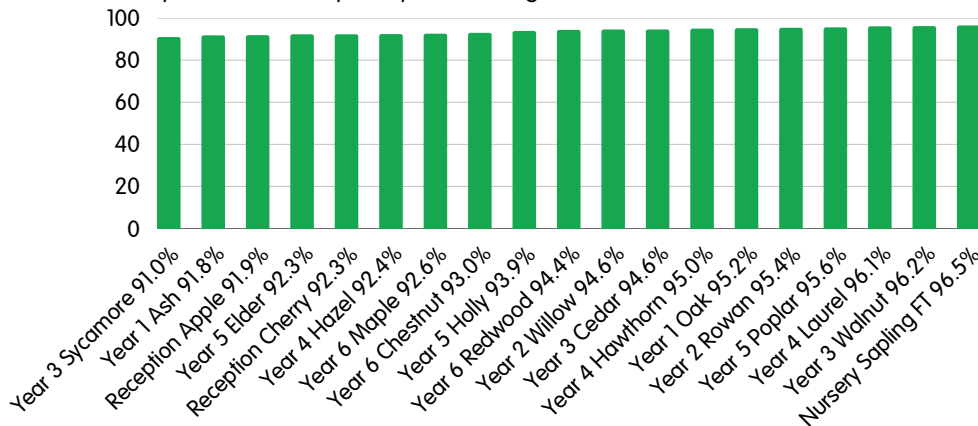
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.8%.

Well done to Nursery Sapling FT, last week's winners with 96.5% attendance.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



Term End and Start

The first half of the summer term ends on Friday 22nd May at 3:30pm. Please scan the QR code to view our 2025 -2026 term dates.




School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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