

Lytchett Matravers Primary School and Preschool

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Headteacher: Matt Vernon

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Dominey

Assistant Headteacher: Amy Foster



Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Recently, several children have been to see me to request that specific clubs can be set up over lunchtime. The first was a suggestion to resurrect the school newspaper – 'For the children, By the children'. Our initial edition is imminent for circulation in the next couple of weeks. Next, came a suggestion to support healthy lifestyles through a fitness club and then another for a craft club. Both of these activities will be in place in the upcoming weeks!

Although our capacity to provide further clubs in line with the wishes of the children is now a little stretched, we are so proud of the children for their demonstration of leadership and being active in their pursuit of their ideas. The fact that they are ready to actively raise their ideas with others also demonstrates one of the most important qualities of all: self-confidence.

Self-confidence is essential for a child's overall development and well-being. It shapes how they view themselves and their ability to face challenges. When children believe in their own abilities, they are more likely to try new things, take risks, and persevere through difficulties. This sense of assurance fosters independence and resilience, which are crucial life skills.

Confident children tend to perform better academically and socially. They approach learning with curiosity rather than fear, and they are more willing to participate in class discussions or group activities. Socially, self-confidence helps children build healthy relationships because they feel secure in expressing themselves and respecting others.

On the other hand, low self-confidence can lead to anxiety, withdrawal and a reluctance to engage in opportunities that promote growth. It may also affect emotional health, making children more vulnerable to negative peer pressure or feelings of inadequacy.

We all must take our place in nurturing self-confidence amongst our children, whilst being aware of the dangers of being over-confident. We should celebrate effort rather than perfection and continue to create a warm and supportive environment. Simple acts like listening, praising progress and allowing children to make choices can significantly boost their sense of self-worth and their ability to thrive.

With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon
Headteacher



INSED Dates

Thank you to all of the families who completed the online form in relation to the setting of INSED dates during the 2026-2027 academic year. There was a clear appetite for grouping 2 INSED days together to support the taking of holidays during a (short) period away standard holiday dates:

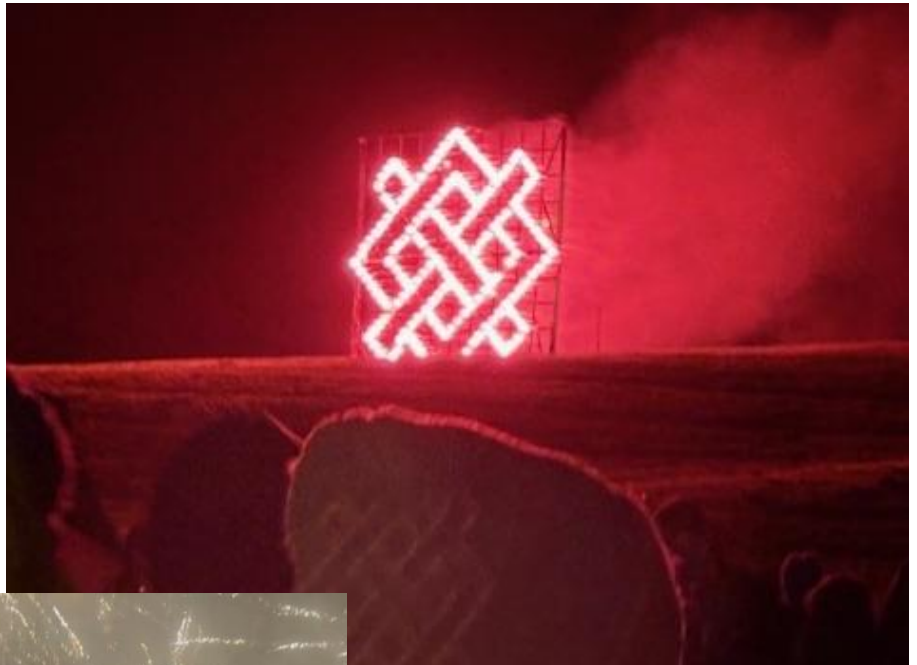
- 58% of respondents considered taking a holiday during term time with 19% suggesting this was a possibility.
- 75% of those completing the survey recorded that grouping INSEDs together would encourage holidays to be taken at these times.
- 64% of responses suggested that the 2 INSEDs in September might support them to take holidays without affecting attendance.
- There was a variety of responses as to which dates would support families best, however dates around the May half term were the most popular.

We will now consider this response as we plan for INSED for next year. These dates will be available to families within the next few weeks as we also need to liaise with Hamwic Education Trust.

Fireworks

A **HUGE** well done to the PTFA for organising such a wonderful evening for the community and to so many families and members of the local community for attending the event!

The gasps, cheers and shrieks of joy would not have been possible without the tireless work of those running the PTFA and the volunteering of so many on the evening. We are all extremely grateful to you all!



Holiday Clubs

We have attached a range of information about Christmas Holiday Clubs to this newsletter, including activities specifically for children with SEND.

Specific places are fully funded for children who qualify for Free School Meals and further information is available through the Council website:

[Holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme - Dorset Council](#)

Key Christmas Dates

Please find below some key dates for the end of term events:

Monday 24 th November	18:00 – 19:00	Y6 Victorian Evening
Wednesday 26 th November	18:30 – 20:00	SEND Parent Information Evening
Friday 5 th December	15:45 – 18:00	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Thursday 11 th December	9:30 – 10:30	Nativity for Reception Parents
	15:00 – 15:30	Christmas songs on the playground: Years 5 and 6
Friday 12 th December	9:30 – 10:30	Nativity for Year 1 Parents
Wednesday 17 th December	N/A	Christmas lunch
		Christmas Jumper Day
	15:00 – 15:30	Christmas songs on the playground Years 2, 3 & 4
	18:30 – 19:30	Y6 Christmas performance
Thursday 18 th December	am	Pantomime Trip

Curriculum Newsletters

We have now updated the website to show the topics and overview of learning for this half term for each year group. Please do have a look and ask the children about what they are studying!

[Learning | Lytchett Matravers](#)

Online Safety

We know that many families will be considering Christmas presents for their children at this point in time, including the potential for purchasing devices with internet capability. This continues to be a highly contentious area with different perspectives in relation to when children should have devices and which ones are most appropriate. We have attached a guide from internetmatters.org with a range of information to consider. Please understand that this is not to promote or dissuade from device ownership, but to provide relevant information to inform any decisions.

We continue to be committed to helping families stay informed about the latest online safety challenges. Our **Online Safety Hub**, which has been put together by Hamwic Education Trust, provides practical advice, expert reviews and guidance to protect children from new and emerging safeguarding risks and online harms.

Via the hub, you'll find detailed reviews of popular apps, games and social media platforms, helping you understand potential risks and how to manage them. The hub also includes clear instructions for setting up and navigating parental controls so you can confidently manage your child's online activity. Stay up to date with trends, tips and resources designed to support your child's digital wellbeing.

Explore everything here: [Online Safety Hub - Hamwic Education Trust](#).

Poole Forest School Event

We have attached a flyer for a Christmas Family Day being run on 29th November from 1-3pm.

Online Support Sessions

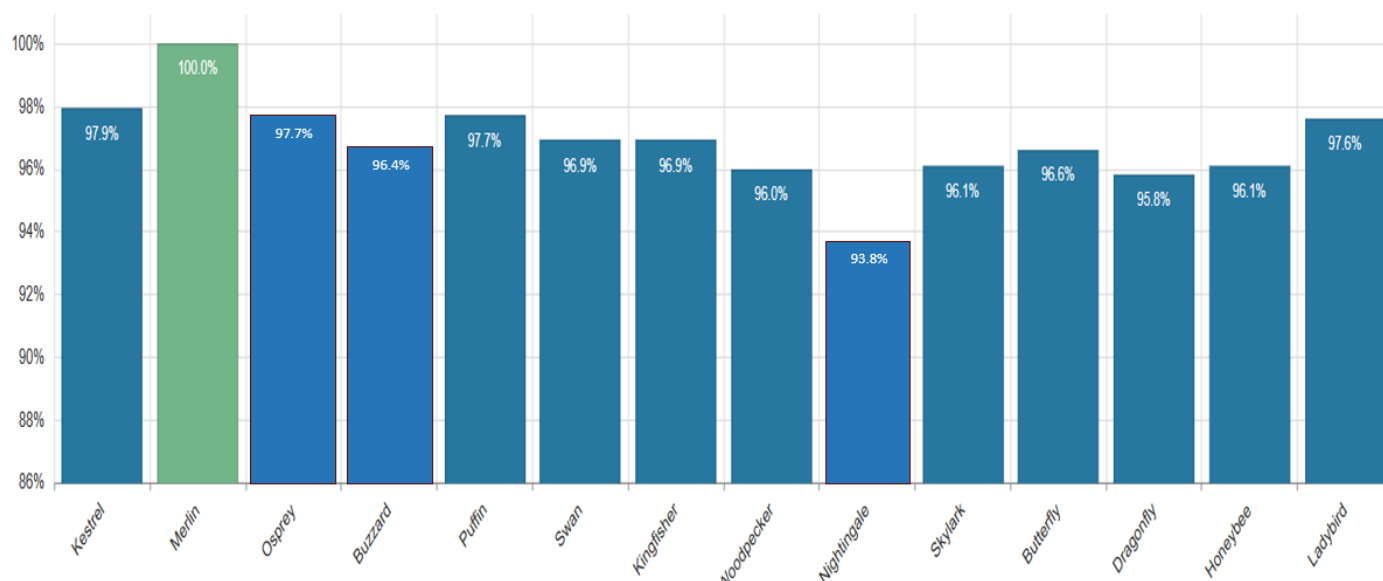
There are some online sessions being held in December to support parents / carers in specific areas that might be affecting their children. Unfortunately, the school are not members of this association so there is a cost to attendance:

Attendance

Currently, 10.8% of our children have attendance below 90% - that is 45 children. Whilst we know that many of these children's absence is unavoidable due to medical issues, we want to support all children to achieve high rates of attendance.

We are improving – last year during the first half of the Autumn term 13.2% of children had attendance below 90% - and we want this to continue! If you need support in any way to help us to help you get your children into school, please do let us know.

Over the last two weeks since returning from the half term break, attendance has remained positive, especially for Merlin class who have achieved perfection – **Well done Merlin!**





Merry Christmas!

December Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm