

THE OAKS CE LEARNING FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

April
2025

Our School Vision

Connected through the values of love, respect and compassion. Three separate schools, we journey together to grow physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, so that everyone can fulfil their potential. We strive to preserve the wonder of childhood, whilst ensuring our children are future ready.



A Message from Mr Bowen

Many of you will know that just before half-term, two inspections took place within our Federation. Copythorne had its SIAMS inspection, and Saint Michael and All Angels had its Ofsted inspection. Although parents at these schools will have already seen the reports, I would like to share them with our whole Federation community, as they highlight the collective work of our staff across all three schools. We have worked hard to ensure a consistent approach across our schools so that teaching and learning remain of a high standard throughout the Federation. Therefore, even though inspectors focus on individual schools under their respective frameworks, the successes and targets identified apply across all of our schools.

Copythorne SIAMS report click [here](#)

Saint Michael and All Angels Ofsted report, click [here](#).

Netley Marsh has also been inspected by our Local Authority Learning Partner, who supports school improvement across the Federation. Our inspection partner could not believe the levels of engagement in our reception class, who were all focused on all the different areas of learning happening simultaneously in class. He was also really impressed by the development of our mathematical vocabulary within Math Lessons in butterfly and Bumblebee class. Again, our partner inspector comment on the consistency of strong practice which he has seen within all our schools across the Federation. Well done Netley Marsh Team!

We continue to strengthen our maths curriculum through our work with the Solent Maths Hub. We are seeing excellent progress, with pupils demonstrating stronger retrieval of mathematical language in every lesson. This year, we have recorded the highest percentage of pupils making accelerated progress in Years 1 and 2 in many years—an achievement we are incredibly proud of.

For those of you were able to attend our forum on the future of our schools in the current education landscape, you know that there are many challenges currently facing schools. We were thrilled that again, we have attracted many more children from outside our catchment area, which ensures that our schools continue to move forward and reflects the hard work of all the Federation team. This is a growing area of focus, and I was fortunate enough to be invite to the houses of parliament this term, to be part of working group exploring the benefits and challenges of small rural school working. I continue to be really proud of the work my team does each and every day and any additional support to continue developing the work we do, is always a blessing.

Inter-Federation Sports

At last, we were blessed with good weather for our Year Two inter-federation football competition! A huge well done to St Michael and All Angels, who took home the trophy this year! Our next event will be our multisport competitions. Ace Sports will be working with the children to develop a range of skills in preparation for a competitive event at the end of next half term. We warmly invite spectators to join us for the following events:

Year R – Monday 12th May, 10am-11:30am

Year 1 – Monday 19th May, 10am-11:30am

Year 2 – Tuesday 20th May, 10am-11:30am

Staffing Changes

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Buchan, who will be retiring this term. Mrs Buchan has been part of the Federation for over 31 years, taking on many roles, most recently as our Senior Finance Officer. She will be greatly missed. Miss Instrall, who has worked at Saint Michael's in Lyndhurst for many years, will be stepping into this role, and we know she will do a fantastic job!

Arbor

A reminder that all school communications have now been moved to Arbor. Thank you to those who have already signed up to Arbor's Parent Portal and/or Parent App. If you have not yet signed up and need assistance, please contact the school office.

It is very important that we have your up-to-date contact information, and any changes to your child's medical records should be reported either through Arbor or by contacting the office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

"Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" Joshua 1:9

Reading

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent forums focused on home learning, particularly reading at home. Many valuable views were shared, and we will be discussing them with senior leaders across the Federation.

At one forum, I mentioned a wonderful video designed to support adults in reading with children at home. Although it's been around for a while, I believe it's just as useful today as when it was first made.

[Watch the video here](#)

Moving On!

Next term, we will begin preparing the children for their transition to Year Three. Our teachers will start discussing their new schools with them and answering any questions they may have about moving up.

Mr Noble has been working with Bartley Junior School to plan the transition for those moving up to Bartley, while also considering how best to support children transferring to other schools. If your child will not be attending Bartley next year, please inform their class teacher so we can plan the best possible support for their next step.

KS1 Swimming Lessons

A reminder that from Thursday 24th April, Hedgehog Class and Bumblebee Class will begin their swimming lessons at Totton Leisure Centre. These lessons will take place every Thursday for five weeks.

Badger Class, Butterfly Class, Otter Class, and Year 1 Dragonfly Class will start their lessons from Thursday 5th June.

Diary Dates and Inset Days

Diary dates for the rest of the academic year are on the next page. Dates may occasionally change or new ones added – we'll always give as much notice as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

INSET Days

Next year's INSET days are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Comic Relief

COMIC
RELIEF

Thank you to everyone who donated to Comic Relief!
Together, we raised over £350!

PTA

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to the PTAs from all three schools for their incredible dedication and hard work. The time and effort they invest, often outside of their own busy schedules, to organise so many fantastic activities for our children is truly appreciated. These events not only bring our school communities together, but they also raise valuable funds that benefit every child in our schools.

Looking ahead, the PTAs have some exciting events planned for the new year. However, the reality is that we need more families to get involved to help share the load. The work of the PTAs is vital, but it's a big task, and more support would make a huge difference in the success of these events.

The funds raised by the PTAs play a crucial role in enriching the educational experiences of all our children. Thank you to everyone who has supported their efforts so far – your generosity and involvement help make school life extra special. Let's continue to work together to make our school communities even stronger!

If you would like to get involved, please contact the PTA or the school office, and they will be happy to point you in the right direction.

Uniform

Lots of families have reported lost uniform recently. Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled and check that they haven't accidentally brought home the wrong items.

HAPPY EASTER

Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Summer Term
Thursday 24th April	KS1 Anderwood Visit
Tuesday 29th April	Year 2 Bartley Open Morning
Thursday 1st May, 2:30pm	Family Worship – All Welcome
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 12th May 10–11:30am	Year R Sports Day
Wednesday 14th May	KS1 Heritage Centre
Thursday 15th May	Year R Countryside Education Trip
Monday 19th May, 10–11:30am	Year 1 Sports Day
Tuesday 20th May, 10–11:30am	Year 2 Sports Day
26th May – 30th May	Half Term
Wednesday 4th June	Year 1 Lepe Beach Trip
Thursday 5th June, 2:30pm	Family Worship – All Welcome
Thursday 5th June	KS1 Swimming
Monday 9th June	Class Photos
Wednesday 11th June	Year 2 Lepe Beach Trip
Thursday 12th June	KS1 Swimming
Thursday 19th June	KS1 Swimming
Thursday 26th June	KS1 Swimming
Thursday 3rd July, 2:30pm	Family Worship – All Welcome
Thursday 3rd July	Move Up Day
Friday 4th July	Move Up Day
Thursday 10th July	KS1 Swimming
Wednesday 16th July, 2pm	Leavers Service – All Welcome
Friday 18th July	End of Summer Term