

24th September 2025

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome back to a new term and academic year! We're delighted to see our school community come together again. As always, there's lots of important information to share.

**Our Core Values**

This term we focus on Friendship, underpinned by our wider school values of Perseverance and Hope. We aim to nurture kindness, resilience and optimism in every child.

**Curriculum Overview**

Core Values/Drivers	Friendship		Perseverance			Hope and Aspiration		
Themes/Key question	How can we live together?		How can we overcome problems?			How can we make a better world?		
Key concepts	community society	cooperation citizen	resilience determination invention development			development stewardship	change sustainability	freedom
Terms	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2		Summer 1	Summer 2	

Our 2025–26 curriculum is organised into engaging, cross-curricular themes. You can view subject skills and knowledge for each year group on our website's curriculum pages.

[Curriculum Implementation 2025–26 – Donnington Wood Church of England Junior School](#) (will have final update in next few weeks)

- Year 3 – Victorians
- Year 4 – Romans
- Year 5 – Egyptians
- Year 6 – Mayans

**Open Afternoon**

- Today at 2:00 pm: Year 3 families only, to welcome our new Junior School pupils.
- Next week at 2:00 pm: Whole-school Open Afternoon.

**Attendance**

High attendance is closely linked to strong achievement. Well done to 4B for winning our attendance award last week! Remember, school starts at 8:25 am (not 8:35 as previously stated).

**Family Learning Courses**

On Monday we're offering two free workshops—please sign up via the office:

- Bringing Stories to Life (Year 3 focus) [Year 3 Bringing stories to life](#)
- English Language Skills for Parents [All English Language Skills for Parents](#)

## **School Priorities & Inspection Feedback**

We're proud of our recent SIAMS inspection, which noted:

“The Christian vision is made real through the core values of hope, friendship and perseverance. Care for vulnerable pupils and their families is exemplary.”

Ofsted highlighted:

“Pupils develop close friendships, show perseverance when challenged and feel safe and supported by staff.”

To build on this, our priority areas this year are:

- Foundation skills in maths and writing
- Quality SEND adaptations

Please support your child at home with reading, spelling and times-table practice.

## **Updated Policies and links to letters**

- [Behaviour Policy:](#)
- [Online Safety Policy and rules for using internet.](#)
- [Attendance news](#)
- [Dates for Term](#)

## **Homework**

This year we're strengthening the key foundational skills that underpin learning.

- Set: Every Friday
- Due: The following Thursday
- Format: Paper or digital (Seesaw and other app logins shared before digital homework begins)
- Parental Support: Independent completion is encouraged, but adult assistance—especially with spelling and times-tables games—boosts impact

## **What to Expect**

- English
  - Weekly spelling lists
  - Reading at least five times per week (please record a brief comment in your child's reading log)
- Maths

- Times-tables practice
- Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)
- Termly Extension Projects (historical themes as above)

### **Support & Rewards for Homework**

- 1 Class Dojo point per completed homework task
- Weekly spelling and times-tables checks every Friday
- Rainbow Room drop-in sessions at playtime and lunchtime, Monday–Thursday
- Interactive online practice via BBC Bitesize spelling and maths games

We value your partnership in reinforcing these essential skills. If you have any questions about homework, policies or support sessions, please contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Fox  
Headteacher