

Autumn 2 Newsletter - December 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, and all members of our school community,

What a fantastic first term it has been to start off this academic year! As always, it has been full of exciting opportunities for all the children across the school. Our students have demonstrated outstanding creativity and real-world skills across many areas. Year 4 participated in the “Nature Music” performance at the Performing Arts Centre, where they had the fantastic opportunity to work alongside established composers. Year 5 utilised the Fab Lab at the Guille Alles Library to design and create their own custom made key rings, applying important design technology skills. Meanwhile, Year 6 truly blew away the Dragons with their Dragons’ Den projects! Their detailed product thinking and precise, informative presentations secured the funds they needed—a credit to their entrepreneurial spirit.

We also embraced the challenge of fundraising for Children in Need with great enthusiasm. Our “Can You Bear It?” challenge saw staff and students alike take part in different fun challenges throughout the day. This was complemented by our Mismatched Mufti challenge, where children and staff were encouraged to wear hilariously clashing outfits. This was undoubtedly one of our most enjoyable and successful dress-up challenges to date!

We are continuing to strongly embed our tagline “Learning together for a better tomorrow” alongside our three new school rules: Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be the Best You Can Be. These rules have been thoroughly explored at a classroom level, allowing children to define their meaning and impact, and we have also focused on their application across the school, particularly in the playground. The school has successfully adopted the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach for break and lunch times, developing different areas across both playgrounds for children to access, such as den building, dress up, small world play, and a skipping zone to name a few. This has been a great success, leading to greater engagement with different types of play and stronger relationship-building across year groups. We must thank our Autumn House Captains, who have brilliantly promoted and led inclusive play across the school. Additionally, we extend our sincere thanks to all the parents who have generously donated toys to add to our playground resources; your support is greatly appreciated.

I am also very pleased to report that we have seen a greater engagement with reading across the school, with our new reading reward program proving extremely effective. Several classes have celebrated their Bronze Reading Awards earlier this half term by reaching their reading goal as a team—a fantastic achievement! We know that the other year groups are close behind and showing great enthusiasm to reach their goals.

By the time you are reading this, we will have wrapped up all of our Christmas Parties and KS2 will be looking forward to the KS2 ice-skating trip. These events are always a highlight of the year, and we love seeing the children make the most of these festive opportunities. Finally, we were extremely proud to welcome all our parents and carers to our Nativity performances. The children and staff always put so much time and effort into these productions, and every year they surpass expectations. It is always a joy to witness the talent our school has and the excitement the children have for performing.

With best wishes as always,

Adrian Paul

Headteacher

Merry Christmas

Reception

What a busy and fabulous first term we have had settling in and becoming a part of Vauvert school. Our first term at school finished with a super Christmas play; full of songs actions and storytelling.

This term we have had two visits, first visiting the pumpkin farm and more recently the Guille Alles Library; what an adventure climbing into the story tower and hearing magical Christmas stories. The children have been so busy working in all EYFS curriculum areas at school. We have read many books such as *Little Red* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. Our handwriting is coming along nicely and we even wrote our own letters to Santa!

We are developing our phonics and learning to blend to read. We were so proud of both classes achieving their Bronze Reading Award for reading; showing that the classes are loving reading at home and at school.



Year 1

Wow! We can't believe the first term of Year 1 is almost over! The children have been so busy working in all subject areas. We were so proud of both classes achieving their Bronze Award for reading. They are now working towards their Silver Award. We recently had a fantastic trip to the museum where they looked at old toys as part of their History topic. We were so proud to see the children push themselves to be the best they can be!



Year 2

What a fantastic first term it's been in Year 2! The classroom has been full of energy, creativity, and plenty of proud moments as the children have grown in confidence and independence. We've journeyed through addition and subtraction, into exploring the wonderful world of shapes. As budding authors we stepped into the role of interviewers, creating thoughtful questions for story characters—such imagination and curiosity on display! Art has been a real highlight this term. The children designed and painted their own clay pinch pots with incredible attention to detail—each one unique and full of personality. Our trip to the library and the PTFA Grotto were real highlights, so much excitement choosing gifts and enjoying festive crafts. It's been a term packed with learning, laughter, and creativity. We're so proud of everything Year 2 has achieved and can't wait for more adventures next term.



Year 3

Year 3 had a high-achieving half term! In Geography, we focused on the UK, learning its countries, capital cities, closest neighbours, and key physical features like the biggest mountains, rivers, and lakes. We also looked at the world's continents, and oceans. Maths saw us successfully start multiplication and division, exploring the link between repeated addition, grouping, and sharing. In Science, we studied the human skeleton and its purpose, then learned how to group animals as vertebrates or invertebrates. Our English work involved writing detailed newspaper reports about 'The Tear Thief,' and P.E. boosted our ball skills by practicing football dribbling and netball passes like the chest and shoulder pass.



Year 4

This term, our year group has been very busy. In English, we began by exploring the text *FaRther* by Grahame Baker-Smith, which sparked wonderful discussions, and more recently, the classic *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. Our Maths lessons have focussed on securing the methods used for both addition and subtraction, and learning new multiplication and division facts. We have worked together to perform a range of experiments in Science as we investigated solids, liquids and gases and the changes between these states. Finally, our D.T. unit saw us testing our sewing skills while creating practical book envelopes. We even squeezed in an exciting trip to the Performing Arts Centre as part of Guernsey's Cultural Enrichment programme.



Herm Class

It has been a positive start to the school year with two different year groups in Herm - Reception and Year 6. In Reception we have completed phase two of our phonics, developing our writing with Kinetic Letters and improving our subitising skills. The books we have looked at in detail are *Little Red*, *Oi Frog* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. Year 6 have been learning more detail about the different Maths operations, developing Science knowledge about the Solar System, along with what makes our world. Other topics covered this term in various subjects are Festivals, Christianity, Romans, Tudors, Natural Disasters, Communities and Festivals. Books looked at in detail include *Here We Are*, *Polar Express*, *Christmas Carol* and *The Race to Space*.

We have taken advantage of being on Herm creating a regular Outdoor Learning time that has seen understanding more about our local environment as well as fun activities including shelter building, nature trails and beach combing. We have enjoyed visits from some of the island's younger children and future students. Our students have participated in many activities at the main Vauvert Site including educational visits, performances, and 'Dragon's Den'.



Year 5

The Year 5's started this half term by planning, practising and respectfully leading a whole school assembly for Remembrance Day, which included kennings poems they had written inspired by World War I. After this was trip week! The Fab Lab was great fun, especially the coding robots and seeing our keyring designs come to life. Castle Cornet was the perfect way to end the first half of our Tudor topic, a period of history we will continue to study in the Spring Term. Learning badminton from a professional coach has been a fantastic experience for the children.



Year 6

This half term we have thoroughly enjoyed our Dragon's Den project. We pitched our ideas to the 'Dragons' who were made up of local business people. We then prepared our products ready for sale at the Dragon's Den market this week. All profits will go towards the Y6 residential to Rockley in May. Thank you to all who supported our ideas and bought from our stalls. We continued our work with Ralf from PWC in our computing lessons and learnt more about coding, databases and micro bit programming. Our English focus has been *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold and we have used this to guide our written work. Maths has seen us working with fractions, learning how to simplify them and find common denominators to help us add and subtract.



Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performances are a key part of our wider curriculum as well as the Music and Drama curricula. By the end of the term, most children will have been in a performance to their parents and the school. This term has also seen Year 3 and 4 lead a Harvest celebration, Year 5 lead Remembrance, and both Year 3 classes learning the trumpet and taking part in a short performance to their parents. Working together to learn their roles, and then to stand on stage and perform is a big thing. We are very proud of how well the children have done. Thanks to everyone involved.



ROAR 2025

For the second consecutive year, we proudly entered the ROAR Challenge where our children design and develop original inventions to improve day-to-day life. This year exceeded all expectations! Children from Year 4 to 6 demonstrated impressive entrepreneurial and creative thinking, culminating in an exciting whole-school competition. Our winning design, The Fidget Focus by Year 5 student Martha, was selected to represent our school. Martha's invention went on to compete in the UK finals and was even showcased in the live broadcast. Although we didn't take the overall prize, The Fidget Focus was highly praised for its intuitive design. This competition remains an amazing opportunity for children to showcase their creativity in a different, real-world context, and we are already looking forward to next year's innovative designs!

Sports Teams

This Autumn Term has seen over 30 Y5 & 6s attending Netball Club. Thank you to Mrs Armstrong for supporting Mrs de Villiers so we were able to take the numbers and advanced thank you to Mrs McCreight who will be helping in the Spring Term. We were able to play two teams in a very cold friendly at Amherst and our Development team played in the four schools tournament in November. Well done to all who took part. We now look forward to the main Primary Schools Tournament in February and a mixed tournament in March. Our different football teams have also participated in the two cup tournaments and the festival, representing the school fantastically well and putting in some great performances along the way. We also sent out a huge squad to the Zedra X-Country challenge in September which was also a great celebration. Well done to everyone who has represented the school so far this year and we are all looking forward to an equally successful 2026!



PTFA

We have had a really positive start to the year with the election of new committee members and two excellent events. Our recent film shows were a huge success with more children attending than ever before. The Grotto proved very popular with lots of presents purchased. If you received a present, we hope that you like it.

On a separate note, the PTFA has agreed to support the purchase of our new library shelving, and soft furniture, which, together with sponsorship from PWC and the money raised from our Sponsored Swim will soon be ordered. We will write to you in January to explain more about this exciting development.

Our new PTFA committee are working hard and we thank them for everything they are doing.



This term's dates for the diary:

Thursday 18th December	KS2 Ice Skating
Friday 19th December	School finishes at 1pm for the Christmas holiday - no school bus

Future dates for the diary:

Tues 6th January	Children return to school after the Christmas Break
Mon 16th - Fri 20th February	Half Term Break
Fri 27th March	School finishes at 1pm for the Easter Break
Tuesday 14th April	Children return to school after the Easter Break
11-15 May	Y6 Poole Residential
3-5 June	Y5 Herm Residential

Lost Property

Please ensure items are named. The amount of clothing that we collect each day is phenomenal. We return it where we can but it is so much easier if it is named. If your child is missing anything, please check the lost property box.