

9th October 2026



Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

This week in Collective Worship, we have been exploring another important aspect of courage: having the courage to try something new and the determination to try again when things don't go quite as we hoped.

We have been talking about the power of yet. There is a world of difference between saying "I can't do it" and "I can't do it yet." That one little word opens the door to possibility. It reminds us that learning is a journey, that mistakes are part of the process and that success often comes from being prepared to persevere, rethink and try a different approach.

This is something I feel passionately about. We want William Gilpin children to embrace challenge rather than shy away from it, to understand that finding something difficult is not a sign of failure but an opportunity for growth. There is enormous satisfaction in achieving something that once seemed beyond our reach, and developing that sense of resilience and self-belief is just as important as the knowledge and skills we teach.

Our school improvement journey continues at pace, and it has been particularly encouraging to receive feedback from parents about how much their children are enjoying the increased level of challenge in their learning. Children are capable of extraordinary things when we combine high expectations with the right encouragement and support. We want every child to experience that wonderful feeling of "I did it!", especially when it has taken real effort to get there.

Alongside our focus on courage and resilience, we have continued to think carefully about children's emotional wellbeing. Today, we joined in with YoungMinds' Hello Yellow Day, raising awareness of children's mental health and supporting the important work of this charity. Thank you for helping your children find something yellow to wear and for your generous donations.

Our focus today has been on the importance of communication and connection. Being able to recognise our feelings, find the words to express them and know who we can turn to for support are essential life skills. In Acorns, the children have been learning to recognise and name different emotions, an important foundation for understanding both themselves and others. We want all our children to know that they do not have to face difficulties alone and that asking for help is itself an act of courage.

A little reminder, too, about our five home reads each week. Reading remains one of the most valuable things you can do to support your child's education. A little and often approach really does work best, helping children to build fluency, confidence and, importantly, enjoyment. Every child who records five home reads, either reading to an adult or having their independent reading countersigned by an adult, will receive a House Point. Please help us to make regular reading a positive and enjoyable part of family life.

Finally, I am looking forward to coming together next Friday for our Harvest Celebration at St John's Church, Boldre. Harvest offers us an opportunity to reflect on gratitude, generosity and our responsibility towards one another, themes that connect so closely with our school values of Courage, Compassion and Community.

As we head into the weekend, perhaps we can all take a little inspiration from the children and the power of yet. We are never too old to learn something new, to make a mistake or to discover that, with a little perseverance, we are capable of more than we first imagined.

After all, the most important part of learning is not always what we can do today, but what we are becoming capable of tomorrow.

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Headteacher Awards & Class Updates



Headteacher Awards



In Acorn Class, Hector and Felix received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE, COMPASSION and COMMUNITY values



In Saplings Class, Zoryan and Sol received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE and COMPASSION values



In Oak Class, Megan and Ev received headteachers awards for showing our COURAGE value



The Attendance Cup was won by Oak this week, with 100% - just pipping Saplings to the post with 98.3% attendance



Acorns exploring numbers

Acorns

Acorns have had an interesting week of exploring numbers and how to partition them. They have shown their understanding using part - whole models and the corresponding additions

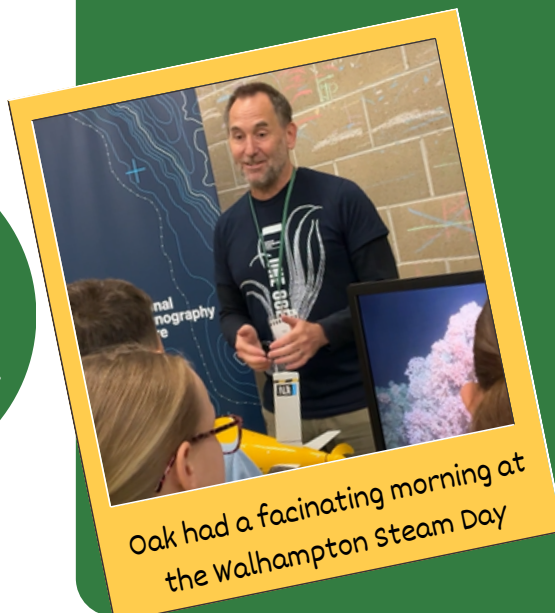


Saplings

This week, Saplings have been enjoying their Science learning all about magnets. They have planned their own experiments, thinking carefully about variables and making thoughtful predictions. In Maths, we have been brilliant problem solvers, tackling word problems and using a range of mathematical strategies to find solutions.



saplings learning about magnets



Oak had a fascinating morning at the Walhampton Steam Day

Oak

This week, Oak class have begun work on mental multiplication and division strategies in Maths, and have started work on writing a persuasive letter based around our class reader, Son of the Circus, in English. In Science we investigated how temperature affects the rate of dissolving and thought carefully and scientifically about all the variable we needed to keep the same to ensure it was a fair test. We also made an exciting visit to Walhampton's STEAM morning, where pupils completed various activities around the theme of water, including listening to a talk by George McGavin, an expert on sewage!