



# Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School Newsletter

## Foundations for Life

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Kindness

Justice

Respect



**This term our Collective Worship theme is:**

**SERVICE**

*This week, we learnt about animals who provide service to humans and thought about how we can be safe around dogs.*

### Headteacher's Update

We've had such a super week in school. We were incredibly proud of our pupils' efforts at the recent netball tournament — their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship were a real credit to them. Earlier in the week, it was a joy to see Years 4, 5 and 6 immersed in some fantastic enquiry work. Classrooms were buzzing with practical investigations, hands-on learning and lots of thoughtful discussion. The curiosity and collaboration pupils showed was brilliant. We've also been reviewing and strengthening our pastoral offer. As part of this, Bear and Koko are now visiting school to read with pupils and support wellbeing through calm, positive interactions. In addition, Mark, our wonderful volunteer chaplain, is leading small groups focused on fine motor skills, group interaction and pastoral support. These sessions are already having a really positive impact. We hope you have a lovely weekend — we're certainly enjoying the sunnier weather and the sense of spring arriving across the school.

PAT Dog - Bear



PAT Dog - Koko



### Little Wandle Reading Groups

This week, Miss Orphan, our Phonics Lead, has reorganised our phonics groups to ensure every child continues to make strong progress in their early reading. As part of this, all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are now reading with an adult on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week. To maximise high-quality 1:1 reading time, we are no longer signing reading records. Please be assured that every child is being read with regularly and staff are closely monitoring progress. As with any new system, there may be a few teething issues with book allocations while we settle in. If you notice anything that doesn't look quite right, please do let us know so we can put it right quickly. I've been incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm and focus and I'm thoroughly enjoying having my own reading group each week. Their progress and confidence are already shining through.

### EYFS & KS1 Flexible Fridays

To strengthen collaboration and enrich pupils' outdoor learning throughout the summer term, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes have introduced Flexible Friday mornings. These sessions give children the chance to learn outside, work in small groups and take part in meaningful project work that builds independence, curiosity and teamwork. Last week, pupils loved getting stuck into some gardening, exploring the outdoors and caring for our school environment. This week, they enjoyed a range of small, focused tasks designed to develop key skills while keeping learning active and engaging. A huge thank you to our brilliant team for making Flexible Fridays such an exciting and enriching experience for our pupils.

### Key Dates

WB 11<sup>th</sup> May – Y6 SATS Week

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Y5/6 Residential – Fairthorne Manor

10<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day

**Best Wishes,**  
Mrs Emily Woolf  
**Headteacher**