



Ocean wave



October 2025

Message from the Principal – Mr West

Our Vision: Bringing Learning To Life: No Limits. No Barriers.

Our Values: Self Worth, Engagement, Purpose

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to the year it has been!

This half term, our guiding principles of **Self-Worth, Engagement, and Purpose** have been clearly reflected in the life of our school. Pupils have shown growing confidence and pride in their achievements, demonstrating strong self-worth in both their learning and behaviour. Engagement has been evident through their enthusiasm for lessons, clubs, and wider opportunities, with children embracing new experiences and challenges. Above all, a strong sense of purpose has underpinned everything we do - staff and pupils alike working together towards shared goals and making meaningful contributions to our school community.

Our attendance remains above the national average - thank you for your continued support with this. We are also proud to remain in the **top 25% of schools nationally**.

Behaviour across the school has again been recognised as **outstanding**, following a recent Aspirations Trust monitoring visit.

Engagement with extra-curricular activities is high, and we're delighted to see so many children taking part. Thank you for supporting this by ensuring your children have access to these valuable experiences and opportunities. We're proud to offer so many club spaces free of charge throughout the year, as we are passionate about the positive impact this level of engagement has on pupils' personal development.

We are also thrilled to share that - despite the weather - our recent **Poetry Day** was a huge success! Staff and pupils worked incredibly hard to deliver confident, expressive performances that showcased their oracy skills. Thank you for your kind donations to **Great Ormond Street Hospital**. Your generosity reflects the strength of our supportive community, and it's wonderful that the children know their efforts have supported such an important charity.

Thank you, too, for your patience during the ongoing field repair works. We're pleased with the progress made so far and will continue to manage the field carefully. We're looking forward to hosting an **U11 PEDSSA Cup football match** next half term.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 3rd November** after the half-term break. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday. Let's return ready for more exciting learning and activities together in Autumn 2!

Please note that we have a **staff INSET day on Friday 28th November**, so school will be closed on this date.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards
Mr West

School Office reminders

Reminder!

Hot lunch orders should be placed via IFG by midnight on Saturday before the week you want your child to have a lunch.

If your child is unwell or not coming in to school please call before 9.30am and let us know why. We will call/text if your child is not at school. If your child has an appointment during the school day please let us have proof of this in the form of letter, card or show us the text/email. Without this information, your child may have an unauthorised absence recorded. Please try to arrange appointments out of school time where possible. Thanks for your support!

We have a small amount of uniform stock – preloved or new. For preloved items enquire at the office and for new items please order through Abor and if we have the stock we will deliver the item to your child.

Parking Issues



Thank you to everyone who is supporting us and the community in driving and parking safely. As it becomes darker in the evenings and mornings, the weather becomes more inclement it is vital cars enter the site in the mornings slowly and with attention at all times. It is a very busy time. This is the same after school – **there is no parking on the premises unless you have permission.**

We have had reports of parents parking illegally in private driveways, on double yellow lines and other issues that are causing offence to our neighbours, parents and above all the safety of our children.

Please can we emphasise that in the morning we have a drop off zone for your child to be dropped off safely in the permitted zone and they can then walk down the side of the field into school. At the end of the day, unless you have a permit, there is **NO** access to the car park. Please try not to park in Jellicoe Close, the residents get very upset. Please can parents **NOT PARK** on double yellow lines. We have had a resident from Constitution Hill Road complain and send us the picture of where there is a new trend for parents to park. A traffic warden is often policing the area. Thank you for your support with this!



School gates closed

Just to advise our school gates will be open at 0830 and shut after the morning drop off. They will be opened by the Site manager at the end of the day.

Year 3 Updates

We've had a fantastic start to the school year in Year 3! The children have settled in beautifully, and it's been lovely to see new friendships forming as they begin their exciting journey through Key Stage 2 at Ocean Academy.

Belonging Week

We kicked off the term with **Belonging Week**, focusing on building relationships, confidence, and a sense of community within our classes. The children took part in team activities, shared their interests, and created class charters to help everyone feel included and respected.

Stepping Back in Time - The Stone Age

In History, we've begun our fascinating topic on the **Stone Age**. The children have loved exploring what life was like thousands of years ago and imagining how people lived, hunted, and survived. A highlight of this topic has been our **Stone Age workshop**, where pupils had the opportunity to handle artefacts, take part in hands-on activities, and deepen their understanding of this prehistoric period.

National Poetry Day Performance

To celebrate **National Poetry Day**, Year 3 put on a wonderful performance, showcasing their growing confidence and creativity with spoken word. We were so proud of how each child contributed – whether reciting, acting, or supporting their classmates. A huge well done to all!

Marvellous Maths

In Maths, we've been focusing on **place value**, building a strong foundation for the year ahead. The children have been working on reading and writing numbers, understanding the value of each digit, and using practical resources to represent numbers up to 1,000.

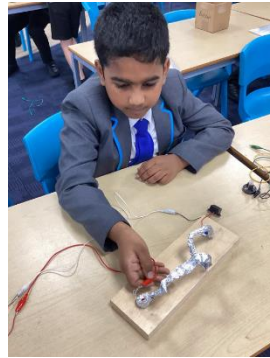
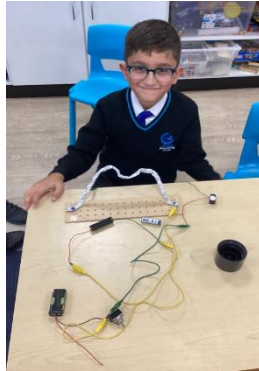
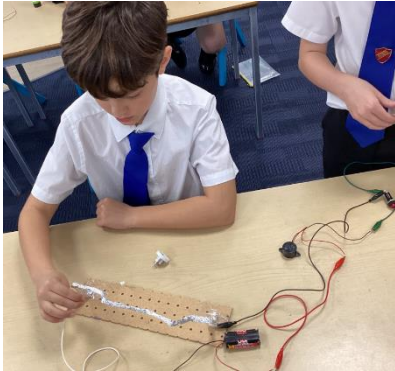
We're incredibly proud of how Year 3 have settled into the term — they've shown great enthusiasm and a positive attitude to learning. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an exciting term ahead!



Year 3 Team

Year 4 Updates

We have been having a fantastic time in Year 4 this term! In science, we've been learning all about electricity and creating simple circuits to see how bulbs, wires, and switches work. We've also been researching and writing about brilliant inventors and scientists like Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, and Marie Curie. In creative lessons, we've expressed ourselves by painting our emotions, cooking delicious pizzas, and designing our own Google Slides presentations to share our ideas. With so much hands-on learning and creativity, it's been a fun and inspiring term in Year 4!



Year 4 Team

Year 5 Updates

What a brilliant start we've had in Year 5! The children have settled back into school life wonderfully; they're showing great behaviour, enthusiasm, and a real growth mindset towards their learning. Pupils have established a culture of working hard, supporting one another, and embracing new challenges with smiles on their faces.

Our Rainforest topic has been a big hit! The pupils have loved diving into the wonders of this vibrant ecosystem - from discovering fascinating creatures to exploring the importance of rainforests to our planet. The classrooms buzz with curiosity and excitement daily!

In Maths, we've been flexing our brains with rounding, working with inverses, adding and subtracting powers of 10, estimation and ordering numbers. The children are showing fantastic progress and growing confidence in tackling trickier problems. In English, we've recently been learning how to punctuate dialogue accurately and applying this knowledge creatively, making our writing sound lively and realistic.

Overall, it's been a joyful, energetic start to the year, and we can't wait for all the fun and learning still to come. Well done, Year 5! Keep up the brilliant attitude and enthusiasm!



Year 5 Team

Year 6 Updates

It has been a fantastic start to the year in year 6 and we have been so impressed with both how the children have settled into their new classes, and the effort and focus they are showing in lessons. Classrooms are a hive of activity and some lovely work has been produced already!

In English, we have been focusing on persuasive writing, exploring different genres in which this can be found, including adverts, letters and arguments. We have tied much of this into our current class book – *Holes* by Louis Sachar – and this has provided a really good context for several of our pieces of writing. Our studies here are culminating in a link across to our topic work for this half term on the English Civil War, engaging in a class debate and accompanying written arguments to justify our views. The children have been becoming increasingly good at justifying their views with evidence, which has been great to see!

Maths has seen us exploring lots of key numbers skills, including the four key operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as ordering, comparing and rounding numbers and exploring multiples, factors, negatives and prime numbers. We are also beginning to explore key fractions skills too, involving ordering and comparing, adding and subtracting and simplifying fractions using equivalents. Alongside this, we continue to practise our wider arithmetic every day too. The children are working incredibly hard on developing in all these areas, and we are impressed by their efforts to date.

Across the wider curriculum, the children have explored light in science lessons, created some lovely paintings in art and explored bridges and structures in Design Technology. They have also had the opportunity to engage in an exciting STEM activity with Mr Beedie exploring maze design.

All in all, it has been a really successful first half term! We hope you all have a lovely well-deserved rest over the half term holiday (when we get there!). We are looking forward to meeting you all properly in November for parent consultations. In the meantime, if you ever have any questions about anything, do please come and speak to us at the end of the day or send in an email, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



Year 6 Team

Reminder about PE Uniform

- Academy logo, house colour T shirt
- Plain black shorts
- **Plain** black or navy tracksuit may be worn in cold weather
- Trainers for games skills indoors or out
- An optional Ocean black drawstring PE bag can be purchased or other drawstring named bag.
- Long / shoulder length hair must be tied back and no jewellery or watches worn. Please remove earrings at home on PE days
- **A reminder PE days are on the following days. Children need to bring their PE kit into school to get changed into:**

Monday Year 5
 Tuesday Year 6
 Wednesday Year 3
 Thursday Year 4



PLEASE CAN IT ALL BE NAMED

Children, Parent, Teacher Association - CPTA

The Ocean Academy CPTA is delighted to share that we ended the last school year on a wonderful note, raising an impressive £2,696 at our Summer Fair. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents, carers, staff, and pupils who contributed to this success.

Earlier in the year, the PTA was pleased to provide three new outdoor basketball hoops, over 30 basketballs, and replacement netball nets, enhancing opportunities for our pupils to enjoy sport and physical activity.

Our fundraising focus for this year will be the purchase of new professional football goalposts with wheels, allowing for greater flexibility and use during lessons and matches. We are also looking forward to our first Bake Sale of the year, which is always a popular event for families and staff alike. The CPTA warmly welcomes new members to join and support our activities. Whether through event planning, volunteering, or sharing ideas, every contribution helps us continue to make Ocean Academy a fantastic place for our children to learn and thrive.



8 WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CPTA AT OCEAN ACADEMY

- Attend CPTA Meetings**
Stay updated, share your thoughts, and be part of the conversation.
- Volunteer at Events**
Even an hour of your time makes a big difference at school events!
- Join a Committee**
Support areas like fundraising, planning, or communication.
- Share Your Skills**
Are you great at graphic design, photography, or building things? We'd love your help!
- Support Fundraising**
Join a fundraising team. Help organize, or simply participate.
- Bring a Friend**
Get more parents involved-it's more fun together!
- Offer Creative Ideas**
Got a cool idea for an event or activity? Let us know!
- Just Ask!**
We always need extra hands-reach out and tell us what you'd like to do!

Attendance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance %</u>
Year 3	Dolphins	98.99
	Seahorses	92.3
	Sharks	99.3
Year 4	Penguins	95.52
	Turtles	95.89
	Jellyfish	96.55
Year 5	Orcas	95.42
	Seals	96.25
	Piranhas	96.3
Year 6	Barracudas	96.41
	Swordfish	95.08
	Stingrays	95.93

National attendance expectations are 95% for all children – please aim for this or better!

Well done all classes for the period 4 September to 17 October!

Lets keep this up!



Girls Football

Girls' football at Ocean Academy is back with a bang after the summer break! Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott were blown away by the interest shown in attending the trial session. Over twenty girls came along and an initial squad of seventeen was selected. We hope to welcome the girls on our waiting list into the squad once the school field is back in action.

After two training sessions, we took our first match squad of ten girls to take to the annual 7-a-side tournament held at St Aldhelm's School. The squad was a mix of old and new faces with five girls representing Ocean for the first time. Our first match was a tough one against Talbot, an experienced team, which we lost. The team learned so much in that ten minute match, our first competitive one of the year and that was evident from our performances in the next two matches against Longfleet and Canford Heath. Both these finished as 0-0 draws but there were plenty of chances to be had and on another day we might have won those games. Our final match was against Canford Heath, another very strong team but we managed to hold them off from scoring for the first half which was an impressive feat. Both Canford Heath and Talbot progressed to the semi-finals, both winning and then meeting each other again in the final. We had a most enjoyable afternoon of football, and given we were clearly drawn in the strongest group, our performance exceeded all expectations. Well done to all the girls on a fantastic effort - they all ran their socks off and showed amazing strength of character and resilience.

We have more matches coming up in November and Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott are looking forward to seeing the progress made by all the girls in the squad in the weeks leading up to the next tournament. Here is our team in Ocean kit and our whole squad ready to smash another training session!

Library news

As always, the library has been a hive activity from the moment it opened this term. Our new team of twenty four librarians is now in place (chosen from nearly seventy applications across the school!) and they have confidently taken up their new leadership roles. Books have been flying off the shelves!

All our children are allowed **one book** from the library to **read for pleasure**. We have a large catalogue of both fiction and non-fiction texts to choose from. Some children may also be asked to select a second '**book band**' book with either a brown, grey, blue or red label. The children are

more than welcome to take their library books home but it would be really helpful if the children could be reminded to **put their library book back in their school bag every day so they always have it with them in school** for reading to the adults and for quiet reading sessions.



Diary Dates

- 3 November Autumn term 2 starts
- 6 November Year 3 Boat trip
- 7 November Year 3 Boat trip
- 11 November Wessex Water visiting Year 3
- 13 November New year 3 - Sep 26 Info Evening
- 14 November Children in Need – own clothes day
- 27 November Parent Consultations
- 28 November Inset day – school closed
- 2 December Christmas Movie Night after school CPTA
- 5 December Year 6 NCMP Measuring event
- 10/11 December Carol performances to parents tbc
- 12 December Christmas Cake sale CPTA
- 15 December Rocksteady concert 1 10.00am
- 15 December CPTA disco time tbc
- 17 December Rocksteady concert 2 9.30am
- 17 December Christmas Lunch
- 18 December Class parties
- 19 December End of term 1pm finish
- 5 January 2026 Inset day – school closed
- 6 January First day of term
- 16-20 February Half term

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025

INSET Day – School Closed	Tuesday 2 September 2025
INSET Day – School Closed	Wednesday 3 September 2025
First Day of School Term	Thursday 4 September 2025
Half Term	Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October 2025
Return to school after Half term	Monday 3 November 2025
INSET Day – School Closed	Friday 28 November 2025
Last Day of Term for Christmas	Friday 19 December 2025 (1pm finish)

Spring Term 2026

INSET Day - School Closed	Monday 5 January 2026
First Day of Term	Tuesday 6 January 2026
Half term Holiday	Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February 2026
Return to school after Half term	Monday 23 February 2026
Last Day of term for Easter	Friday 27 March 2026 (1pm finish)

Summer Term 2026

INSET Day - School Closed	Monday 13 April 2026
First day of Term	Tuesday 14 April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Half term Holiday	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026
Return to school after Half Term	Monday 1 June 2026
INSET Day - School Closed	Friday 26th June 2026
Last Day of term for Summer Holidays	Friday 17 July 2026 (1pm finish)

INSET Day – School Closed

Monday 20 July 2026