



# Ocean wave

## December 2025

SELF-WORTH

ENGAGEMENT

PURPOSE

### Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of our first term, I want to say how proud I am of the amazing start the children have made to the year. Attendance has been strong, behaviour has been excellent, and it has been a pleasure to see so many children arriving at school each day in such smart uniform. In lessons, pupils are working hard, showing real focus and enthusiasm, and they are making the most of our active playtimes and extra-curricular opportunities with energy and commitment. Most importantly, they are consistently living out our three guiding principles of **self-worth, engagement and purpose**, which shines through in everything they do.

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to share their views following Parents' Evening appointments. We received 116 responses, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the strong partnership between home and school. **100% of parents said they would recommend Ocean Academy, 100% agreed their child is happy, and 100% felt their child is safe here.** We were also pleased to see that **99.1% of parents feel able to contact members of staff, 100% agreed that we have high expectations and that their child is doing well, 100% felt our curriculum offers a good range of subjects, and 95.7% said our extra-curricular provision is accessible** - an area we recognise as a balancing act and aim to continue to strengthen for all pupils. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us reflect on what we do well and where we can continue to improve. Please also look out for opportunities to join a parent forum in the future - there will be termly opportunities available throughout the remainder of the academic year.

I am also pleased to let you know that we have appointed **Rob Fletcher** as our new Assistant Principal. Rob will be joining us after Easter and brings valuable experience alongside a shared commitment to high expectations and ensuring every child succeeds. I know he will be a real asset to our school community, and I look forward to introducing him properly in the new year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you and your families have a lovely Christmas holiday and enjoy a well-earned break. I look forward to the Spring Term as we continue to build on this strong start and maintain high expectations for all pupils.

Kind regards,

Martin West  
*Acting Principal*

## Inclement weather

### School opening and closure procedures in the event of snow



At Ocean Academy we have a robust process in place in the event of very inclement weather and this is a good time to remind students and their parents of the procedures for informing you about a possible school closure.

We are very keen that the school should remain open as we do not want to disrupt learning wherever possible. School will close if:

- It is dangerous for staff/children to get to/from school or it is dangerous at school
- A majority of staff are unable to get to school
- Roads are unsafe

Procedures that will be used to keep parents and students informed:

- By far the best way to keep yourself up to date is check the Ocean Academy website. Our website is updated regularly. It will not only say if the school is closed but, on days where there is any doubt, will confirm that the school is open if this is the case. The advantage of the school website is that specific staff can update it, even when they cannot get to school themselves. Information will be posted onto the website by 7.30am
- We will send a text by Teachers 2 Parents and an Arbor message informing you if the school is closed
- If during the school day, the weather causes us to make a decision to close the school early, our website will have up to date information. You will be sent a text/email as soon as the decision has been made

It is essential during these winter months that children have their coats at school please, so children can wrap up before they go outside at break and lunchtime.

## Year 3 Updates

This half term, Year 3 have been busy developing their descriptive writing skills by creating detailed character descriptions. The children have been exploring how to use powerful adjectives, similes, and expanded noun phrases to bring their characters to life. They have practised describing appearance, personality, and movement, and have enjoyed sharing their imaginative creations with one another.

In Reading, we have just begun learning about playscripts. The children are discovering how playscripts are structured, the difference between dialogue and stage directions, and how characters are presented through speech and action. They are also beginning to use expression and performance skills when reading aloud, helping them to understand characters more deeply.

In Maths, the class has been consolidating their understanding of the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have been practising a range of strategies including number lines, partitioning, arrays and mental calculation methods. We have also been focusing on choosing the most efficient method for different problems and developing confidence in explaining mathematical reasoning.

Our Science learning has centred on the topic Animals Including Humans, where we have been investigating skeletons and muscles. The children have learned how the skeleton

supports and protects the body, how muscles work in pairs to help us move, and how joints allow us to bend, stretch and turn. They have also compared the skeletons of humans with those of other animals!

In Geography, our topic Water, Water Everywhere! has led us to explore the key question: "How can we find solutions to the problem of coastal erosion in Dorset?" The children have been learning what coastal erosion is, how waves, wind and weather wear away cliffs and beaches, and the impact this has on people and places along the Dorset coastline. They have researched different coastal defences such as sea walls, groynes, gabions and beach nourishment, considering the advantages and disadvantages of each.

To apply this learning, the children worked collaboratively in a critical thinking and problem-solving challenge to design and build their own model coastal defences. Using their understanding of structures and materials, they planned and created protective structures and tested them using model waves. They then reflected on how well their designs reduced erosion and shared ideas for improvement. This hands-on project encouraged teamwork, creativity and an excellent application of their geography and science learning.

### The Year 3 Team

## Year 4 Updates

Year 4 have enjoyed a wonderfully creative and hands-on half term, filled with new skills, exciting experiences, and thoughtful exploration across the curriculum.

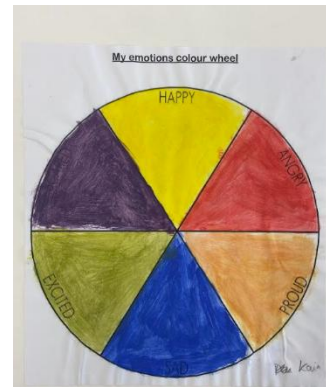
In **English**, the children have been diving into *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. Inspired by the book's rich illustrations and mysterious atmosphere, they have been writing detailed character and setting descriptions. They've worked hard to use vivid vocabulary and imaginative ideas to bring the world of the story to life.

In **Art**, pupils have been developing their understanding of colour theory. Through experimenting with shades, tones and colour mixing, they have explored how colours can represent emotions. Their artwork has shown great creativity and sensitivity as they expressed different feelings through visual choices.

Our **Design and Technology** work has focused on healthy eating. Year 4 have learned about balanced diets, nutritious ingredients, and food preparation skills. The highlight of the unit was making their own healthy pizzas in the studio—an activity that was as delicious as it was educational!

In **RE**, the children had a special opportunity to enrich their learning about Judaism. A visiting educator led them through the celebration of Passover, allowing them to experience key traditions first-hand and understand their significance within the Jewish faith.

It has been a fantastic half term, and we are incredibly proud of Year 4's enthusiasm, curiosity, and hard work. We look forward to even more exciting learning ahead!



## Year 5 Updates

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting term, we're thrilled to say that the Year 5 pupils have continued to do us proud. Their positive attitude, curiosity, and excellent behaviour have shone through in everything we've done together.

One of our highlights was our wonderful trip to Marwell Zoo, where the children impressed us with their enthusiasm, thoughtful questions, and fantastic behaviour throughout the day. It was a pleasure to take them.

In English, pupils have been crafting engaging narratives about Harry Paye. They have also been polishing a wide range of grammar skills, including adding detail with adverbs and adjectives, and using direct speech to move their stories forward. In Reading, the children have been practising how to use evidence from the text to support their ideas - a key skill they are growing more confident with.

In Maths, our most challenging topic has been column multiplication. Multiplying by 2-digit numbers stretched everyone's brains but Year 5 approached it with determination. As always, we'll continue to revisit and revise these skills to help build confidence.

Our Ancient Maya history topic has been very well received. The children particularly enjoyed learning about everyday Maya life and taking part in the confusing (but very entertaining) game of pok-ta-pok! It has sparked lots of curiosity and great discussions in class.

Our creative subjects have also been highlights this half term. Do ask your child about what they've been learning in Art, Computing, and Design Technology. They've created some fantastic work and shown real imagination.

As we wrap up 2025, we'd like to wish all our families a wonderful Christmas break. Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to even more fun, learning and adventure in 2026!

**Merry Christmas from the Year 5 team!**





## Year 6 Updates

It has been another brilliant half term for year 6 and we have been delighted to see the children continuing to go from strength to strength!

This half term in English, we have focused on different ways of writing to entertain the reader. This has taken in firstly a short unit on poetry, which allowed us to explore different forms of figurative language such as simile, metaphor and personification, before moving on to looking at diary writing. During this unit, we focused in on use of the passive voice, and we were really impressed with the way in which the children took this tricky concept on. Finally, we have been concluding the half term by looking at the use of dialogue to enhance a piece of writing, particularly in its ability to move the story onwards and to add characterisation to the people involved within it. The children are working hard to incorporate all the many features we are exploring into their writing as they go along, frequently showing off all their acquired skills in each piece, which is great to see.

The first week of half term in maths saw us continuing our fractions focus, with time spent looking at multiplying and dividing fractions, and on finding fractions of amounts. Our attention then turned to angles for two weeks, initially looking at measuring and drawing them, and then going on to calculate missing angles, on straight lines, around a point and in both triangles and quadrilaterals. The remainder of the half term is being spent on aspects of shape – properties of 2D and 3D shapes, exploring reflection and lines of symmetry, and then going on to translation, which are combining with a few sessions on identifying and finding coordinates in both 1 and 4 quadrants. All in all, a packed half term, but the children have risen to the challenge brilliantly, all whilst continuing to develop their arithmetic skills which are coming on really well.

In other subjects, science has seen us exploring living things and habitats, including time spent understanding the classification system developed by Linnaeus, and using it as we looked at different types of vertebrates and invertebrates. In Geography, we have been finding out about trade, including that between the USA and the UK, whilst the creative rotation on a Thursday afternoon continues to be a weekly highlight, as the children have the chance to develop their art, DT, music and computing skills in a variety of ways.

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening, and we hope you enjoyed seeing your children's books and discussing their successes to date. This has been a great first term of the year for the children, and we have been really impressed with all their achievements so far. Thank you too for all your support throughout. As ever, if anything comes up over the coming weeks, do please catch us at the end of the day or email in. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, and look forward to seeing you all again in 2026!

### School Office reminders



Mrs Burry and Mrs Fudge wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year! We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6 January 2026!

### National Online Safety

Please see a handy poster from the National Online Safety team particularly if new electronic gadgetry is purchased. There is also some information on age ratings.

**What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS**

**RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS**

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos, providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

**WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?**

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

- U** Unrestricted suitable for all ages
- PG** Parental Guidance required
- 12** Suitable for people aged 12 and over
- 15** Suitable for people aged 15 and over
- 18** Suitable for people aged 18 and over
- R18** Restricted to people aged 18 and over

**WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?**

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

**LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS**

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. So to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

**RATINGS FOR GAMES**

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

**WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?**

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional content descriptors help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

- 3** www.pegi.info
- 7** www.pegi.info
- 12** www.pegi.info
- 16** www.pegi.info
- 18** www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

- Sex
- Violence
- Bad Language
- Drugs
- Discrimination
- Gambling
- In-Game Purchases
- Intimidation

**LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS**

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. So to this, we advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

**PARENTAL CONTROLS**

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

**STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES**

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro on surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've put together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you keep a step ahead of the latest information and viruses at large. There's even a handy tip to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an update only worth doing once before you start using any new devices.

**STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES TIPS:**

- SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS
- BE HONEST WITH PARENTS & CAREERS
- TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU
- DON'T GO ON WITH STRANGERS
- ASK PERMISSION before downloading anything
- AVOID SHARING PRIVATE PHOTOS
- Don't give away personal information
- TAKE A WITNESS UP TO AGE RESTRICTIONS
- DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NEWS SOURCES
- Stick to trusted apps
- BE SUSPICIOUS OF NEW INFORMATION
- HAVE BREAKS FROM BEING ONLINE

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk | Source: www.pegi.info

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety | Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.06.2023

## Community

In November Isaac and his friend (from a different school) set up a little table selling drinks and sweets to the community. Some one posted on Facebook and it's gained so much attention. A lady has contacted Mum to award them with a Santa award which is amazing for both boys.



## Sports report

On what felt like the coldest day of the year, Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott took eleven girls to compete in the Dorset Girls' Football League, playing matches against Baden-Powell, Heatherlands and Manorside. We started the afternoon with a really tough match against Baden-Powell, an incredibly well-organised team, most of whom play for the same club outside of school. Although we suffered a heavy defeat, the team's resilient attitude was outstanding and demonstrated the great character of all the girls. A special mention goes to Inca, our goalkeeper in this match - she bravely saved far more goals than were scored against our team. Our second match was against Heatherlands and we were much more evenly matched with this team. The girls made a big improvement in their teamwork and despite narrowly losing 3-1, we came off the pitch feeling much more positive about our abilities. Our final game was against Manorside and once again, the girls improved in every aspect of the game. This time, the hard work really paid off and resulted in a 5-0 win! With three penalties confidently scored by Bridget (captain), Amiya (vice-captain) and Ocean (who scored in every match) plus a further two goals from open play, this really was a clinical performance by the whole team. This win was so well deserved and every girl played their part. A massive well done to the whole team from Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott - we are very proud! Congratulations to Ava and Isla on making their first appearances for the team - great energy from Ava and amazing tactical awareness from Isla. Our results mean that we progress to the shield draw so there will be more matches to look forward to in 2026.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott would like to thank the whole squad for their effort and commitment this term and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. See you back at training in January!



### CPTA update

The CPTA is delighted to share some exciting updates with you! Recently, we purchased eight **FORZA football posts** in three different sizes for the school, along with **120 tennis balls**, plenty of **new skipping ropes**, and **two new basketball backboards**, which we hope will match the hoops already on the playground. We also proudly hosted our very first school event — **Movie Night** — which was a fantastic success with the students. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and volunteered to help make it happen. Even more exciting, the CPTA has purchased **330 books** so that every child in the school received a special gift. Thank you once again for all your support, donations, and help throughout the year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A big thank you from the school to all the hardworking CPTA team – we are very grateful for all you are doing for Ocean Academy!

### Poppy Appeal 2025



A big thank you to our amazing Year 6 poppy team!

The team - Anays, Rueben, Anna, Lily, Elena. Each day they came into school early, set up and raised a staggering £469.47. The local Poppy Appeal are so grateful – Thank you!

## Year 5 and 6 Reading Shed

Mr Chamberlain has been very busy as ever. His latest project is building a Literacy shed in the Years 5/6 playground. He has built it, painted it and we are sure you agree a valuable asset to our playground!



## Attendance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance %</u>
Year 3	Dolphins	95.35
	Seahorses	91.1
	Sharks	98.16
Year 4	Penguins	87.7
	Turtles	97.22
	Jellyfish	91.48
Year 5	Orcas	94.04
	Seals	97.5
Year 6	Barracudas	94.67
	Stingrays	94.19
	Swordfish	96.63

As we finish the Autumn term attendance remains high in most classes – well done and keep it up!

We look forward to the Spring term and great attendance!



**Be an Attendance Hero...**



**Here Every day Ready On time**

Good attendance means our children will...

- Achieve well and be successful
- Know the value of hard work and efforts
  - Be kind
  - Dream Big!

**Work hard. Be kind. Dream big**

## Diary Dates

5 January 2026	Inset day – school closed
6 January 2026	First day of term
8 January	AFC Bournemouth, Dance and Casa clubs start
9 January	Tennis, Martial arts and Casa clubs start
12 January	Other squads and clubs start
27 January	Author visit
13 February	Palentine's cake sale CPTA
16-20 February	Half term
23 February	Back to school
27 February	Road safety workshops
4 March	Learning links
5 March	World Book day
12 March	Class photos
16-18 March	Hooke court Year 4 residential
27 March	Last day of term 1pm finish



## **SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025-2026**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

<b>INSET Day – School Closed</b>	<b>Tuesday 2 September 2025</b>
<b>INSET Day – School Closed</b>	<b>Wednesday 3 September 2025</b>
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
<b>INSET Day – School Closed</b>	<b>Friday 28 November 2025</b>
Last Day of Term for Christmas	Friday 19 December 2025 (1pm finish)

### **Spring Term 2026**

<b>INSET Day - School Closed</b>	<b>Monday 5 January 2026</b>
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**

<b>INSET Day - School Closed</b>	<b>Monday 13 April 2026</b>
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
Last Day of term for Summer Holidays	Friday 17 July 2026 (1pm finish)
<b>INSET Day – School Closed</b>	<b>Monday 20 July 2026</b>