



# Ocean wave

## February 2026



SELF-WORTH

ENGAGEMENT

PURPOSE

*Bringing Learning To Life: No Limits. No Barriers.*

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half of Spring term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very positive and successful time for our school.

One of the highlights of the term was the visit from author Maz Evans. She was incredibly complimentary about our school and, most importantly, about our children. She commented on their enthusiasm, their behaviour and the *brilliant questions* they asked throughout the day. The children absolutely loved her visit and represented Ocean Academy superbly.

I am also delighted to share that behaviour continues to be a real strength of the school, with it being consistently graded as *exemplary* during all monitoring visits this term. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support of our uniform policy – this consistency plays an important role in setting high expectations and contributes positively to behaviour across the academy.

Academically, pupils have shown strong progress, with test scores reflecting the hard work they are putting into their learning. It is wonderful to see pupils applying themselves so well and taking pride in their achievements.

Thank you also for your ongoing support with our car park system. After a few updates over time, it is now working very well and is helping to keep everyone safe at the beginning and end of the school day.

I am pleased to announce that I have now been appointed as the Principal of Ocean Academy on a permanent basis. I am deeply honoured to lead such a fantastic academy and community. Over my four years here, in a variety of roles, I have been continually impressed by the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and, above all, the quality of our pupils. I look forward to building on this strong foundation together and to bringing a period of stability and consistency to the leadership of Ocean Academy.

I am especially looking forward to seeing our current Year 6 cohort successfully complete their time with us. I joined Ocean Academy at the same time as they did, and I have consistently been impressed by how they always rise to meet my very high expectations. They truly lead the way for the rest of the school – and I am proud to say that the rest of the pupils are following their example.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back next term. **Mr West - Principal**

## Year 3 Updates

We have had a fantastic half term in Year 3 and are excited to share some of the highlights with you.

We were thrilled to welcome **author Maz Evans** for a very special visit. The children loved hearing about her books and learning what it's like to be an author. It was a truly inspiring experience and sparked lots of enthusiasm for reading and writing.

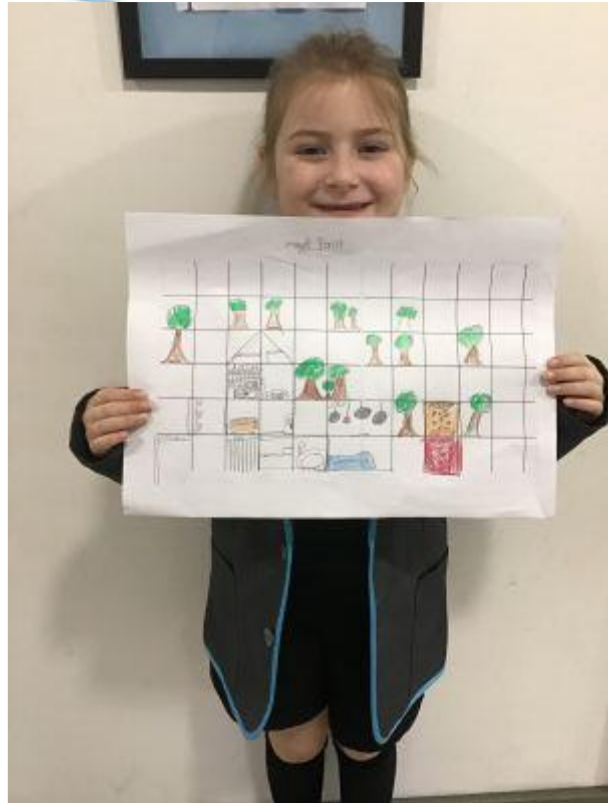
In English, we have been working on letter writing inspired by *The Day the Crayons Quit*. The children wrote imaginative and humorous letters from the point of view of different classroom objects — including one very fed-up glue stick! (Has your glue stick ever given up on you?) The creativity and voice in their writing has been wonderful to see.

In Science, our learning has focused on the driving question: **“How can I clearly report my findings about magnetic force?”** This term, we have been learning all about **forces and magnets**. The children have explored friction, as well as balanced and unbalanced forces. We have investigated which materials are magnetic and discussed what makes them magnetic, alongside learning about the **north and south poles** of a magnet. The children have enjoyed carrying out investigations and clearly reporting their findings like real scientists.

To end the half term, we are very excited about our **walk down to St Peter's Church on Friday 13th**. We are really looking forward to this experience and sharing a lovely end to a busy and successful half term together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.





**The Year 3 Team**

### Year 4 Updates

Year 4 have been busy across the curriculum this term. In maths, pupils are building confidence with fractions, exploring parts of a whole and how they relate to everyday problems. Our writing focus has been on clear, well-structured instructions, helping children think carefully about order and precision. In science, the children have been investigating freezing and melting, carrying out simple experiments and learning how materials change state. In art, the class has been developing sketching skills, while in DT they are designing and making picture frames. Music lessons have been full of energy as the children learn samba rhythms with Kathy, working together to create lively performances.



**The Year 4 Team**

## Year 5 Updates

We've made an excellent start to 2026 in Year 5, and the children have returned to school with enthusiasm, resilience and a wonderfully positive attitude to learning - even despite the many wet playtimes January has thrown our way!

We were delighted to welcome author Maz Evans into school. The visit was exciting and inspiring. Our pupils asked thoughtful questions about what it is like to be a published author and what it takes to become one themselves.

In English, pupils have been writing explanation texts about a fictional bedroom tidying machine in the style of Wallace and Gromit, as well as creating fact files about exotic creatures. In Reading, we are enjoying our class reader Cosmic, which the children are finding hilarious. We look forward to concluding Cosmic this in Spring 2.

In Science, pupils have been learning about forces, with a focus on gravity. They carried out an investigation into air resistance by designing parachutes to see how surface area affected the time taken to fall. In Maths, children have been working hard on fractions, including reasoning, finding equivalent, and converting between forms.

It has been a fun-filled, encouraging start to the year and we are looking forward to even more exciting learning ahead.



**Year 5 Team**

## Year 6 Updates

Year 6 have been working fantastically over the last half term, impressing us every day with their hard work and determination to improve and develop their understanding further.

In English, we have been looking at information texts. This began with a study of newspapers – one of the trickier types of text to write – and the children did some great work exploring the use of the passive voice in creating authentic-sounding newspaper articles. We went on to explore recipes, including the organisational elements involved in them, before moving on to create fact files around a variety of areas they have learnt about over their time at Ocean. The children worked really well on their formality here.

Maths has seen us exploring a variety of different topics. We began by looking at the concepts of ratio and proportion, which also brought in the subject of recipes, adapting the quantities of ingredients according to the number of portions being produced. We then spent a couple of weeks immersing ourselves in algebra, developing skills of substitution, problem solving, formula creation and enumeration! The children had been keen to start exploring these areas since our taster session in year 5, and have grappled with the different skills well. We finished by looking

A packed afternoon curriculum has included lots of different activities and subjects. Geography has been focused on earthquakes and tectonic plates, culminating in some impressive and informative presentations being produced and delivered to the . In science we have explored electricity, including designing and carrying out our own experiments into the effects of varying the voltage of a circuit on different components. And during creative time, we have been getting to grips with clay during art and designing cam toys in DT, ready to start constructing them after half term!

Day after day, this year group is such a pleasure to work with, and we are enjoying every minute with them! We hope you have a great half term break and look forward to seeing everyone back again later in February. Thank you for your continuing support, and, as ever, if you have any queries about anything, please don't hesitate to contact us or catch us at the end of the day.

## Visit by Maz Evans

The CPTA kindly paid for a visit by Maz Evans. She is a best-selling children's author.

She inspired the children answering questions and sharing stories of her life. She also did some book signing. It was a wonderful morning and gave all pupils an insight to life as an author and chasing their dreams.



## School Office reminders

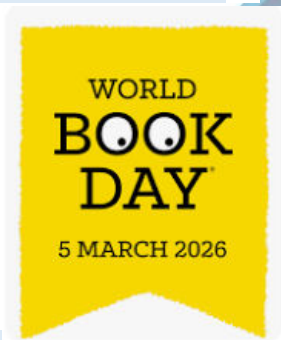


If your child is unwell or not coming into school please call before 9.30am and let us know why. We will call/text you if your child is not at school. If your child has an appointment during the school day, please let us have proof of this in the form of a letter, card or show us the text/email. Thanks for your support!

Lunch reminder – if you wish to book a school lunch for your child you should have an individual IFG login. This needs to be placed by the Saturday before the week that is required. Please book for after the half term until Easter

## World Book Day 2026

**World book day alert – Thursday 5 March.** Dress up as your favourite book character – Please be mindful that this day is to celebrate reading, literary excellence and a love of books, writing and storytelling. This is **not** a mufti or wear your own clothes day! If your child does not wish to dress as a literary character, they should come to school in full uniform. A voucher will come home with your child to spend on their favourite book.



## Uniform

There are some exciting changes to advise which come into effect from 1 August. Our uniform from this date will be available to buy from PMG Schoolwear in Poole High Street. This will provide an opportunity to try items on and make a purchase from them. We still have a small stock at school which can be purchased via Arbor but in time will only be selling school ties.

We also have a number of preloved blazers so drop in between 0900-1400 and we can help with your requirements.

## Sports report

Girls' football squad training has resumed after the Christmas break with as much enthusiasm as ever. The girls have shown great character, turning up week in week out despite the awful weather. Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott have been encouraging some of the girls who play for clubs outside of school to run the skills part of our training sessions and they have risen to the challenge. Bella and Bridget have organised some great drills which have incorporated keeping the ball, tackling, dribbling, shooting and throw ins. Ocean also ran a game for our younger squad members to help them build their confidence and collaborated this week with Inca to deliver some goalkeeper training. Thank you and well done to those four players!

In the final week of the half term, Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott are delighted to be taking 12 girls to a Football Festival aimed at girls who are quite new to football. In March, we will be taking our first team to play our group matches in the Dorset Shield competition. All in all, it looks to be an exciting Spring term for the girls' football squad.

## Attendance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance %</u>
Year 3	Dolphins	96.58
	Seahorses	92.32
	Sharks	98.12
Year 4	Penguins	92.14
	Turtles	96.55
	Jellyfish	95.19
Year 5	Orcas	95.49
	Seals	95.78
	Piranhas	94.06
Year 6	Barracudas	95.93
	Swordfish	94.78
	Stingrays	95.9

Attendance figures are from Sep 25 to 5 Feb 26. Great effort particularly to Y3 Sharks!



## CPTA

As we approach our first CPTA event of the year, we'd like to look back on what's been happening over the past few weeks. We were delighted to book an amazing children's author visit to the school, and Maz Evans visited us last week, which was a huge success with the children. We also sponsored a poetry competition and funded £100 worth of vouchers. We're excited about our upcoming events, starting with a cake sale on Friday 13th February, followed by Family Bunny Bingo in March. We have attached a poster with upcoming CPTA events so you can mark your diaries. We are actively looking for new volunteers to help run events, so if you have a spare couple of hours, please email [cpta.oceanacademy@gmail.com](mailto:cpta.oceanacademy@gmail.com) to register your interest. Thank you for your continued support and donations. CPTA Team

**13** FEBRUARY  
PALENTINE CAKEY SALE

**26** MARCH  
BUNNY BINGO

**16** APRIL  
GLOW DISCO

**15** MAY  
CAKEY FRIDAY

EVENTS



Term ends at the normal finishing time of 3.20pm on Friday 13 February. Term re-commences on Monday 23 February.

Have a safe and a great half term!

### Diary dates

16-20 February	Half term
23 February	Back to school
23 February	Fire safety workshops
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
13 April	Inset day – school closed for pupils
14 April	Welcome back – Summer term

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>