



Ocean wave



March/April 2025

Message from the Principal

As we approach the Easter break, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly productive and vibrant term here at Ocean. From the sporting field to the classroom, our students continue to embody our guiding principles: Self-Worth, Engagement, and Purpose. Our Girls' Football Team delivered a stunning performance recently, securing a fantastic 4-0 victory. Their teamwork and sportsmanship were exemplary. Meanwhile, our Year 4 students returned from their residential at Hooke Court with stories of adventure and newfound independence. These experiences are so vital for building character. I am very proud that every time our children work with external professionals, we receive high praise regarding their impeccable behaviour and manners.

I was delighted to hear the positive feedback from parents regarding the sustained improvements to our morning drop-off. Thank you for your cooperation in making the start of the day smoother and safer for everyone. We hope that because the current system is working so effectively, we can work together to manage upcoming changes for September (please see the separate letter sent today for full details).

Our enrichment offer has also been reviewed with parents and celebrated. Whether through our diverse range of in-school enrichment or our popular after-school clubs, it is wonderful to see so many children exploring new passions and developing skills beyond the core curriculum. Please look out for the Summer Term clubs offer, which includes some exciting new clubs.

We are looking forward to Mr. Fletcher joining us after the Easter holidays. His arrival brings our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) back to full capacity. Having the Assistant Principal role filled once again will bring so much back to Ocean, and I know the whole community will benefit. A key area of focus for the expanded team will be our PTA events. SLT and the PTA leaders met this term to form a sustainable plan, that is still driven by children's enjoyment and fundraising, for events going forward. We are looking forward to a vibrant Summer Term, including school discos and a Summer picnic; full details will be shared with you soon. My sincere thanks go to the PTA volunteers who have done so much for us already this year.

Beyond our gates, we have been busy sharing our best practices with other schools, specifically highlighting our STEM and Writing provision. It is a testament to our staff's hard work that our methods are being used to inspire educators across the region.

Finally, a special mention must go to Year 6. They have just completed their mock SATs with very strong results. What has impressed me most, however, is not just the scores, but their mature commitment to learning shown every single day.

To our Year 6 pupils: Good luck with the final preparations for your SATs after the Easter break. We are already so proud of you - continue to work hard, stay focused, and I know you will do yourselves proud!

I wish all our families a restful and happy Easter holiday. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Summer Term.

Kind regards,

Mr West - Principal

School Office reminders



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. Thanks for your support!

Do not forget we have a small stock of uniform if you wish to purchase new uniform for September 2026. From 1 August PMG School wear based in Poole High Street are stocking Ocean Academy uniform. You can visit the shop to try on uniform and buy it from them. This should make the process so much easier for everybody.

Second hand uniform is available at any time so please call the office!

The new hot lunch menu will be sent out to you separately. Please ensure if you want your child to have a hot lunch this is ordered over the Easter holidays – no hot lunch ordered your child needs a packed lunch!

Have a lovely break!



Year 3 Updates

This half term our topic was “**Destination: Poole.**” The children explored Poole, learning about its harbour, beaches, tourism and local community. We also discussed some of the challenges busy places can face, such as litter, protecting wildlife and keeping public spaces welcoming for everyone. Our big question was: **How can we collaborate to improve an area of Poole that we might visit?** The children learned why people visit Poole, explored how tourism supports local places, and worked together to suggest improvements for areas such as beaches, parks and public spaces. They shared their ideas through discussions, posters, models and presentations while developing teamwork, creativity, problem solving and communication skills.

English

In English we read *The Twits* by Roald Dahl and focused on writing to entertain by creating detailed **character descriptions** inspired by the horrible and humorous characters in the story. The children explored how authors describe characters using appearance, actions and personality to make their writing engaging for the reader. Alongside this, we practised key grammar skills including prepositions (before, after, during, in, because of), apostrophes for singular possession (e.g. *Mr Twit's beard*), revising simple and multi-clause sentence structures, and using the **present perfect tense**. Oracy was also an important part of our learning as pupils read their writing aloud, retold parts of the story, discussed ideas together, took part in hot seating and role play, and shared their work with a partner during the editing process.

Maths

In maths, the children focused on **measurement**, learning to measure and compare length, mass and capacity, as well as solving problems using different units of measure.

Workshops

This half term we also took part in **road safety** and **fire safety workshops**, helping the children learn important ways to stay safe in everyday situations.

Conclusion

It has been a busy and enjoyable half term in Year 3. The children have worked hard, shown creativity in their learning and developed important skills in teamwork, communication and problem solving. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to another exciting half term ahead.



Year 3 Team

Year 4 Updates

We had a fun and creative Roman-themed week. The children learned about life in Roman times, designing their own colourful shields and mosaics. They also had a go at weaving, showing great patience and skill, and crafted their own clay pots. To finish the week, we enjoyed making biscuits and practising our tennis skills.



Year 4 have had an exciting and enriching few weeks! We were thrilled to welcome students from Bournemouth University, who worked with us to create fantastic stop-motion animation films, bringing our creativity to life. We also enjoyed energetic cricket sessions with Terri from Dorset Cricket, where we developed our basic skills and teamwork. The highlight of the term was our residential trip to Hooke Court, where we spent three days taking part in a range of engaging activities linked to our learning about the Romans—an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!



Thank you to the Year 4 staff who helped the children have an exciting few days!

Year 4 Team

Year 5 Updates

It has been another busy and enjoyable half-term of learning in Year 5.

In Science, we have been exploring the solar system. Pupils have learned about the planets, what a day and a year represent and why planets orbit the Sun. As part of this topic, the class carried out an investigation to show that the Earth revolves by measuring the length of shadows at different times during the day. The children enjoyed seeing how the results changed as the day went on.

In History, we completed a short topic about Harry Paye and the history of piracy in Poole. Pupils explored how pirates could be viewed differently depending on perspective, with some seeing them as heroes and others as villains. This led to some thoughtful discussions about how history can be interpreted.

In English, pupils have been learning how to write to persuade. They have written letters to Mr West attempting to persuade him to introduce their ideas for improving the school. Suggestions included banning homework, getting rid of uniforms and several other imaginative proposals. We've also thoroughly enjoyed Michael Morpurgo's book, *Kensuke's Kingdom* - a fascinating adventure story about a boy and his dog marooned on a desert island.

In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. Pupils have been practising how to calculate with them and how to order them within number sequences.



Year 5 Team

Year 6 Updates

As we approach the end of the second term of the year, we are seeing some really promising progress from the children in year 6, who should feel justifiably proud of their efforts so far this year. They really are going from strength to strength, which is fantastic to see.

In writing lessons, we have begun our work on our writing portfolios of significant pieces. During this time, the children focus on a different genre of writing each week, developing a piece that aims to 'show off' all the many skills they have been working on over the last few months, including things like use of parenthesis, relative clauses, a variety of sentence structures and carefully selected vocabulary. The children seem to be really enjoying this process and the opportunity to demonstrate just what good writers they are becoming. At the time of writing, we have written a setting description of a sweet shop, developed our ability to turn a page of dialogue into a narrative, and created a review of a fictional talent show act. Future weeks will see us composing a persuasive argument, an animal fact file and a character description, amongst various others. The children are already showing some of their best work of the year, so we are excited to see where things will go from here!

During maths lessons, we have continued to practise all our different arithmetic skills, and the growing confidence and fluency we are seeing from the children in this regard is really promising. Alongside this however, we are seeing a growing ability to apply these arithmetic skills to increasingly tricky reasoning problems, across a wide range of areas, and the way in which children are approaching these – making links between areas and showing an impressive willingness to ‘have a go’, however tricky they might seem – is exactly what we would hope for. Particular areas of focus have included different units of measure, including both metric and imperial, alongside time developing our skills in finding perimeters, areas and volumes of shapes. We are ending the term by focusing on statistics, including line graphs, bar charts, pie charts and exploring how to calculate the mean average.

The children have also been busily engaging in a wide range of other subjects and topic areas too. Science has seen a focus on evolution and adaptation, with time spent exploring the life and works of Charles Darwin and the important concepts and theories he developed, whilst our history studies have been centred around an introduction to the Victorians and the ‘Trade Triangle’, with a particular emphasis on the role of Poole within this. Around this, the children have been creating clay tiles in art, cam toys in DT and their own musical compositions using digital music tools during our creative rotation lessons on a Friday afternoon.

Next half term will be another busy one, as we continue to develop our significant pieces portfolio and to engage in some revision of our maths, reading and spelling, grammar and punctuation learning from across the year ahead of the children completing their end of key stage assessments during the week beginning Monday 11th May. Everything we are seeing tells us the children should absolutely be entering those full of confidence, safe in the knowledge that all their hard work this year to date has set them up brilliantly to show exactly what they are capable of. We wish you all a lovely Easter break, full of relaxing and fun (and possibly the odd chocolatey treat!) and we look forward to seeing everyone again when we return in the middle of April.



Year 6 Team

Summer Uniform

As the weather gets hotter and the days longer children can wear dresses and shorts if they have not already. Please put sunscreen on the children before they come to school. Sun hats/caps should come in to school so that children can wear them at play and lunch times. Please also send your child in with a water bottle.



Attendance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance %</u>
Year 3	Dolphins	96.61
	Seahorses	93.38
	Sharks	96.51
Year 4	Penguins	93.49
	Turtles	96.57
	Jellyfish	95.73
Year 5	Orcas	96.22
	Seals	95.14
	Piranhas	94.02
Year 6	Barracudas	95.2
	Swordfish	96.21
	Stingrays	97.5



The figures are taken from 1 Jan 26 to 20 March 26. Well done the Y6 Stingrays class – with others in hot pursuit. Thank you for your support with good attendance at school.



Sports report

The girls' football squad has finally been enjoying some slightly better weather this half term and we have been making the most of our weekly training sessions. Our squad has now increased to 20 strong which shows just how much girls' football has grown in popularity at Ocean. This bodes very well for the future.

With an important match to prepare for, our captains, Bella and Bridget, have worked really hard with the year 6 players to improve all aspects of their game play. Inca and Ocean in year 5 have stepped up to organise exciting drills for our year 4 and 5 players to build confidence on the ball.

Last Wednesday, the whole squad came together as we hosted a team from Allenbourn Middle School for a 9-a-side 'winner-takes-all' match in the Dorset Shield competition. The victorious team would progress to the semi-finals. The match could not have started any better for the Ocean team as we scored in the opening minutes of the game. From that point on, the team got better and better and we finished the first half 4-0 up. There was a fantastic hattrick by Ocean and another goal by Amiya, who didn't stop running for the whole match. In the second half, goals were harder to come by although there were chances aplenty. Mr Beedie commented how cohesive the team were, with every girl knowing her job, and for this reason, the final result never felt in doubt. The match finished 4-0 to Ocean and we are so excited to be going through to the next round of a county-wide competition! A big thank you goes to Mr Chamberlain for preparing the pitch for us.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Elliott would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the 11 girls who represented the school in this match - the result was so well deserved. But also, a massive thank you and well done to the rest of the squad who turn up every week with enthusiasm. It was a wonderful opportunity for those girls to be able to watch the first team play and get a feel for what it is like to be part of a competitive fixture. Our players gave a first class display of what great skill, resilience and teamwork looks like. Be very proud of yourselves!



Cultural day at Ocean Academy

On Friday 17 April children are invited to dress in clothes representing their culture. They can bring artefacts and photos.



Diary dates

13 April	Inset day – school closed for pupils
14 April	Welcome back – Summer term 1
17 April	Cultural day
4 May	Early May Bank Holiday
11-14 May	Year 6 SATs
22 May	RNLI Water safety workshops
25-29 May	Half term
1 June	Welcome back – Summer term 2
1-3 June	Year 6 Residential and non-residential
10 June	Year 6 trip to the Tank Museum
22 June	Year 3 (September 2026) Parents Information Evening
17 July	Last day of term 1.00pm finish