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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

## Autumn 2 2025 Newsletter

### Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November



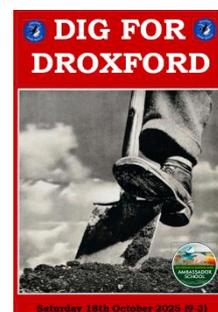
We commemorated Armistice Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> November by ringing the school bell and observing a minutes silence to remember those who were killed or injured in the two World Wars and subsequent campaigns since.

Poppies were sold and assemblies based on World War 1 took place in school. Two members of the Year 6 School Council (Oscar Light and Bea Eason) laid a wreath on behalf of the school on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Janet Melson, Chair of the Parish Council said they were a credit to the school.

### Autumn Dig Day

Just before the school broke up for the Autumn half-term, we held another Autumn Dig-day. This is a day where parents and children come in to school and help us achieve many things we find hard to do throughout the year. On the day we complete many tasks to benefit the children and school.

- Support with any tasks on the school allotment
- Plant Spring bulbs – native bluebells (not Spanish bulbs), alliums, daffodils, crocuses and / or snowdrops.
- Tidy up and weeded the wildlife area and 'pond of ponds'
- Used hedge trimmers / strimmers / loppers to cut back unwanted brambles and hedges
- Tidied up areas of the planting at the front of school
- Cleared leaves and weeds around the site
- Cleared weeds in main plant beds in front and around school
- Weeded the shrubs and tree line on main field
- Mulched around the apple trees and shrubs
- Created BRAND NEW 'dead hedges'.
- Cleared the area outside my office ready for the Spring Day in April.
- Ate lots of pizza, salad, cake and biscuits!



**A huge thank you to all the many parents and children who came in to help myself and Mr Parkin (site manager) on a glorious Autumn Saturday. You all brought tools, heavy machinery; a will and desire; community spirit and lots of fun and achieved so much.**

**I am so proud of what we all achieved and the school looks wonderful for it!**





### National awareness in schools - Anti- bullying week



Anti-Bullying Week 2025 is coordinated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year it has the theme ‘Power for Good’ and will take place from Monday 10th to Friday 14th November.

The week kicked off with Odd Socks Day on Monday, **where adults and children** wore odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/anti-bullying-week-2025>

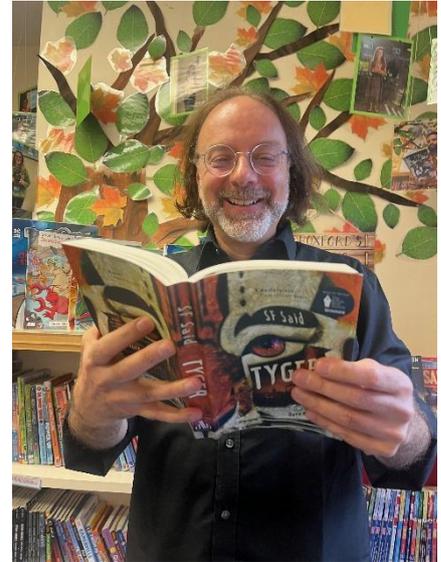


## Wet breaktime / lunchtimes

As the weather is less dry, we still wish the children to use the field. Bring and store the wellies or old trainers / walking boots in school (not the ones for PE) and children can play on the field all year round – even when it snows! The playground can be less fun, cramped and far more busy!

## Author visit: SF Said

Just before half term we were lucky enough to have the famous children's author SF Said visit the school. He engaged the school with two informative workshops then signed books for those who bought from the Roving Bookshop who were also in attendance.



## From SF Said afterwards...

*Dear Mr Dampier,*

*Thank you so much for organising that fantastic visit today! I hope the children enjoyed it as much as I did. I thought they were brilliant kids, and it was so nice to see their enthusiasm for reading and books - a tribute to the great work you've clearly been doing!*

## Fundraising: FODS

Two dates to be aware of with details to follow from FODS

Christmas Wreath making – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – 6:30 – 9:30  
Christmas Fair & Elfridges – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – afternoon

A huge thank you in advance to the FODS team, who will create, with the children and parent's support, a lovely Christmas market.



**A reminder that Christmas lunch in school is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – this is a non-school uniform day: children to wear festive clothes for a donation for the Meon Valley Food Bank which can be brought in anytime between Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

**FODS lottery. Congratulations to two recent lucky lottery wins: Melanie Cleary & Philomena Bergin**

## Staffing news

Congratulations to Mr Banham and his wife who have recently announced the birth of their first child named Oscar. Everyone healthy and happy if a little sleepy!



## Christmas festivities

It is at this time of year that the children in Years 3 / 4 children are preparing for the school's Christmas Service which takes place in the village church. Space is always a premium down at the church so we have two services.

**Service #1 - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Starts at 1:30 (Church open at 1pm)**  
**Service #2 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Starts at 10:30 (Church open at 10:00)**

We have two services for families of Year 3 / 4 as these are lovely and popular, occasionally people end up standing at the back – although this is a good way to see what is going on.

Service #1 is generally for grandparents and those who cannot make Service #2 and vice versa – please avoid attending both. Year 5 / 6 will watch a special rehearsal on the Wednesday.



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## Year 6 residential: Calshot Activity Centre.

Good luck to our Year 6 children and staff who will be attending their residential next week. It is always a fun packed week – so much to enjoy and learn from. Perfect for engaging our 'Skills for Learning' and gaining valuable life experiences in a really enjoyable way. Pictures to follow.

And Finally...



We are now officially part of Winchester University Multi Academy Trust. Very exciting – an even more wonderful future ahead for our children and staff. The CEO, Mrs Nicola Wells will be down soon (hopefully at the Christmas Fair) to meet as many people as possible. We have already been made to feel very welcome amongst an incredibly supportive and experienced team.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Dampier'.

Matthew Dampier  
Headteacher

**Vision: 'Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully'**

