



# 8th December, 2023

## Wherwell Primary School

### Newsletter



People often think that the last weeks of school, especially at this time of year, is a time when we ease up, but this certainly hasn't been the case! Obviously, many of our Christmas celebrations have been taking place. We kicked off the festive season with a bang with a brilliant performance of, 'The Bethlehem' Star, by Puffins and Kingfishers. The singing and acting was incredible and there were super costumes too. A huge thank you to parents for coming in to see these performances and to the *Friends of Wherwell* for organising the refreshments. We are looking forward to our Year R children's performance next week as well as our Carol Service at the church. Have a look at our class updates later to see some of the highlights of the last two weeks.

Over the last month, I have been showing many prospective Year R parents around the school. I am always so proud of how focused, hard-working and motivated the children are with their learning. Frequently, visitors to our school comment on our calm, productive and happy learning environment. Below are a few images of what learning looks like in our school where our school values and learning behaviours are lived out each day.



As you know, sadly Mrs Abbott is leaving us at the end of the year. We wish her lots of luck for the future. Mrs Abbott has spent time handing over to Miss Katie Smith who will be our SENDco from January, working every Wednesday for the remainder of the year. Miss Smith works at King's Somborne School as the SENDco, and so has a lot of experience and expertise. She will be working across both schools and she is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and we will look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 2nd January.

Mandy Ovenden

Head Teacher



# AUTUMN ART COMPETITION

Have a look at these amazing entries for a competition organised by the Friends of Wherwell.



## Robins



Miles, Robins, age 5



Henry, Robins, age 4



George T, Robins, age 4



Elestren, Robins, age 5



India Robins, age 4



## Puffins



Rory, Puffins, age 5



Matilda, Puffins, age 6



Hamish, Puffins, age 5



Daisy, Puffins, age 5



Jude, Puffins, age 6



## Kingfishers



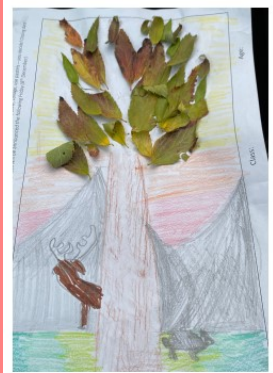
Finley S, Kingfishers, age 7



Thomas G, Kingfishers



Fergus, Kingfishers, age 6



Rex, Kingfishers



Leo, Kingfishers, age 7



Emma, Kingfishers



Belle, Kingfishers, age 6.5



Nellie, Robins



## Sparrowhawks



Annabelle, Sparrowhawks, age 7



Bertie, Sparrowhawks, age 9



Finlay, Sparrowhawks, age 8



Amelie, Sparrowhawks, age 9



Dexter, Sparrowhawks, age 9



Emilia, Sparrowhawks, age 9



Elizabeth, Sparrowhawks, age 8



Tommy R, Sparrowhawks, age 7



Lucas, Sparrowhawks, age 8



Daisy, Sparrowhawks, age 8



## House Martins



Leo

Housemartins, Age 10



Daisy L., Housemartins, Age 11



Caitlin, Housemartins, Age 11



**And the overall winner is....**

**Lucas, Sparrowhawks**

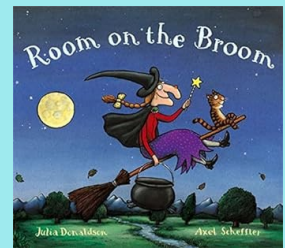
**Well done, this sums up Autumn beautifully! I am sure you will enjoy your prize!**



**Thank you to the *Friends of Wherwell* for organising this.**



## ROBINS



Nativity rehearsals are well and truly underway in Robins Class and we're so excited to share our Nativity with the rest of the school and with our families next week.

This week, we've been focusing on the story *Room on the Broom*. We all drew a picture of a special object to throw into the witch's magic cauldron, like the characters do at the end of the story. We've also been designing our very own 'truly magnificent brooms'.

Last week, Robins Class all enjoyed creating Gruffalo faces, these are now up in our classroom and looking wonderful!



## PUFFINS

What a busy couple of weeks we have had in Puffins Class! A huge well done to all of the children for showing bravery and teamwork during the Key Stage 1 production of The Bethlehem Star. We spent many hours rehearsing lines and learning songs and we are sure that you will agree that the children did a fantastic job during both performances.

Back in the classroom, we have been making our vehicles by sawing dowels and connecting them to wooden wheels to create an axle. You will have the opportunity to share your child's work with them next Thursday at 2.50pm during our learning unit outcome. We hope to see you then.







## KINGFISHERS (and Puffins)

Kingfishers and Puffins have worked extremely hard on their Nativity over the past few weeks and it really showed in their performances. The adults have had so much wonderful feedback about how brilliant the children were, how clear their lines were and how beautifully they sang. They did themselves (and you) proud!



## SPARROWHAWKS

Sparrowhawks went tree planting in Bury Hill. It was cold and muddy but that didn't stop them from each planting a tree. We even had some help from the Mayor of Test Valley.



Sparrowhawks have also been lucky enough to play the Samba drums in their Listen2Me session run by Hampshire Music Service and funded by the Friends of Wherwell. They did an amazing job performing all the skills they have learned to parents. It was a very loud but fun concert, they were all amazing at remembering their lines and cues.



## HOUSE MARTINS

This week, House Martins have enjoyed using watercolours to illustrate their information texts in the style of the Wonder Garden.



## Reminders

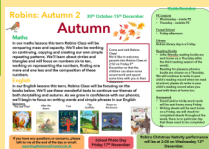


As our Carol Service starts at 6pm on Thursday 14th, we would like to close Woodpeckers at 5:30 to enable our staff to get to the church. Thank you.

We welcome two student teachers from Winchester University in the new year from 2nd January—28th March. Both are third year students.

Miss Steven will be working alongside Miss Ball in Sparrowhawks and Miss Day will be with Mrs Gray in Puffins.

## Parent sharing session



Hopefully you enjoyed seeing what your children have been learning in House Martins and Robins this week. Well done for a fantastic assembly led by House Martins.

Next week, Kingfishers, Sparrowhawks and Puffins will be sharing their work.

Tuesday 12th December—Kingfishers and Sparrowhawks at 2:50 in the classrooms

Thursday 14th December—Puffins at 2:50 in the classroom

## Uniform reminders

So that we are ready for the new year, I will be giving children a few reminders about uniform expectations. Please can you support us in ensuring the following:

- Children do not wear nail varnish
- Children with long hair should have it tied back
- Children can wear a watch and stud earrings to school; rings, bracelets and necklaces are not allowed for health and safety reasons.
- Children should have sensible footwear - no high heels

## Health and Safety

Please may I ask that children are not dropped off before 8:30 as there is no staff supervision until this time. If you are going to the playground from the front of the building, please use the footpath. Please do not use the staff carpark for dropping off children to school or Early Birds or walking through, as this is a dangerous and busy place.

Remember that you should not park in the disabled bay out the front unless you have permission to do so and also the bus bay needs to be kept clear for the morning and after school collection. Thank you.

## Thank you!



On behalf of our School Council, I would like to thank you for your donations of games for wet play days and for indoor Christmas trees. These were gratefully received.



Speaking of trees, the Christmas Tree sale was an incredible success again this year, thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of this. Not only that, the Friends of Wherwell kindly donated the magnificent tree that has been adorning the playground this last week. We must remember to buy some more decorations next year though!

We were delighted to be gifted this book for Caitlin's birthday! Thank you, we love books!





# Diary Dates

Activity	Date (New Dates)
Hamper raffle draw	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Kingfishers' and Sparrowhawks' learning outcome for parents	Tuesday 12th December at 2:50pm
Robins Nativity	Wednesday 13th December at 2PM
Puffins' learning outcome for parents	Thursday 14th December at 2:50pm
Carol Service, Wherwell Church (refreshments available)	Thursday 14th December at 6pm
Last Day of Term Christmas Dinner	Friday 15th December
Back to school	Tuesday 2nd January
Kingfishers' trip to Winchester Science Centre	Tuesday 6th February (details to follow)
Sparrowhawks' bake sale	Thursday 8th February
<b>HALF TERM</b>	12th to 16th February
INSET Day	Monday 19th February
Easter Holiday	First day -Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27th May—31st May
Year 6 SATS week	Monday 13th—16th May
Year 4/5 residential to Liddington	Monday 13th—Friday 17th May
INSET DAY	Monday 3rd June
Sports for Schools visitor	Friday 7th June
Year 6 residential to Runways End	Monday 10th—14th June
Class Photos	Wednesday 19th June
INSET DAY	Monday 15th July
Last day of term	Tuesday 23rd July
Sports Day	Thursday 11th July
Reserve Sports Day	Thursday 18th July