

8th September, 2023

# Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Where responsible, respectful, caring and resilient children strive to be the best versions of themselves



I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and that you have enjoyed a positive start to the school term.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big WELCOME to all the children and their families who have joined us at Wherwell. We look forward to getting to know you all even better and working with you over the coming years. There can be a lot of information to take on at the start of a new year in a new school, so please remember that the staff are always available if you have any questions or concerns (no matter how big or small). Teachers are available at the start and end of each day for a quick question or message but you can request an appointment to see a teacher by contacting Mrs Hall via [adminoffice@wherwell.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@wherwell.hants.sch.uk) at any time. I am in the playground each morning at drop off too so please do not hesitate to chat to me then or alternatively you can email me: [m.ovenden@wherwell.hants.sch.uk](mailto:m.ovenden@wherwell.hants.sch.uk). It is much better to know about a potential problem or concern before it becomes a problem, so that we can be proactive rather than reactive.

A big well done to all of our children for the amazing way they have settled back into school life after the Summer holidays. They are working hard, behaving well, enjoying interacting with friends and class mates, adapting quickly to any new routines and clearly enjoying their time in school. We are particularly impressed with our new Reception children in Robins who are extremely settled and enjoying all of the new experiences and opportunities.

Please take a moment to have a look at the Curriculum map (paper copy sent home and on the website) to see the focus for learning this half term. This is also the place where you will find useful information about homework and PE days as well as any trips coming up. There will also be a date towards the end of the half term for you to come in so that children can share what they have learnt during this learning unit.

We are all very much looking forward to the new term and the exciting learning we have planned for our children.

Everyone will be tired this week as we re-establish routines so I wish you all a restful weekend!

Mandy Ovenden, Headteacher

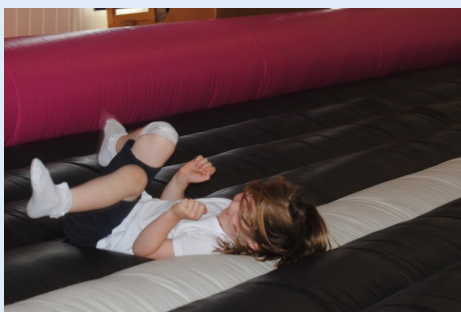
CLASS	Attendance last week	Attendance this week
Robins		98.99%
Puffins		95.88%
Kingfishers		100.00%
Sparrowhawks		98.70%
Housemartins		99.56%
		98.62%

## Dates for your Diary

- September 22nd  
**Bags2School**
- September 27th  
**11am to 12 noon**  
**Open Door Session (Details to follow)**
- October 19th  
**OPEN MORNING FOR NEW INTAKE**
- 23rd to 27th October  
**HALF TERM**
- November 1st  
**OPEN MORNING FOR NEW INTAKE**
- November 7th  
**Flu Immunisations**  
**Whole School**  
**(School Nursing Team)**
- November 10th  
**Photo Day (individual & siblings)**
- November 13th  
**INSET DAY**
- December 4th to 7th  
**Year R, Balance Bike Training**
- December 14th  
**6pm**  
**Carol Service, Wherwell Church**
- December 15th  
**Last Day of Term**
- February 12th to 16th  
**HALF TERM**
- February 19th  
**INSET DAY**
- March 29th - April 12th  
**EASTER BREAK**
- May 27th - 31st  
**HALF TERM**
- June 3rd  
**INSET DAY**
- June 7th  
**SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS VISIT**
- June 19th  
**Class photographs**
- July 15th  
**INSET DAY**

# Inclusion Day

Anyone walking past the school today will have heard shrieks of joy, singing, laughter and banging bass lines - all at once! They have been challenged, they have engaged in teamwork and they have supported one another. It has been a joy and we suspect they will all sleep well tonight!



Huge thanks to Personal Best Education for hosting the day on our behalf.

## Clubs

We are pleased to announce the following teacher-led clubs will start during the week commencing 18th September. All teacher led clubs will run until the week ending 1st December. We will send a form for booking these clubs on Monday afternoon. Places will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

Art and Craft (Mrs Ovenden)	Monday	KS2	Maximum of 20	3.10 - 4pm	£10 / term  To cover cost of materials
Born to Move (Miss Upton)	Monday	KS2	Maximum of 20	3.10 - 3.45	£50 / term  To cover licensing costs
Construction (Mrs Gray)	Monday	KS1, YR	Maximum of 20	3.10 - 4pm	Free - We may ask for donations of materials
Netball (Miss Ball)	Wednesday	KS2	Maximum of 14	3.10 - 4pm	Free
KS1 Art (Miss Gilbody)	Wednesday	KS1, YR	Maximum of 15	3.10 - 4pm	£10 / term  To cover cost of materials

In addition to teacher-led clubs we will also be offering football and tennis on Friday afternoons. Football can be booked via the school, but Tennis MUST be booked direct (see attached flyer).

Football (Coaching in the Community Sports)	Friday	KS1, KS2	Maximum of 20	3.10 - 4.10pm	£40 / term
Tennis (JR Tennis)	Friday	KS1, KS2	Maximum of 16	3.10 - 4.10pm	Please see flyer attached for both pricing and booking.

## Ice-Packs

When children suffer from the inevitable bumps and grazes in the playground, we will often decide to give them an ice-pack. However, we have a feeling that some of these are going home with the children and not coming back! These ice-packs are a not insignificant expense for the school but, more importantly, when we open the freezer door, there should be an ice-pack to hand. Mrs Hall purchased 20 new ice-packs in July and has just had to purchase another 20! If your child comes home with a re-useable ice-pack could we ask that they are returned to us the next day please? Also, if you happen to have any lying around at home that you are not using, we'd love to give them a home!

## PTA fundraising

Please keep an eye on the PTA noticeboard on the playground. There is QR code on there which you can use to set up an Easyfundraising link for any on-line purchases that you make with major retailers including booking.com, Ebay, M&S, Groupon, Argos, Tui, USwitch, John Lewis, Apple, Viking, Asos, BT, Just Eat, Boden and many, many more. These retailers make a donation every time you make a purchase, but don't worry, it doesn't cost you a penny more!

Just recently, the PTA received a cheque for £20.37 from Easyfundraising. We are sure that there is some untapped potential out there, so do please ask your friends and family to support us. Use the QR code or go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)

You can also select Wherwell School PTA as your chosen charity when using [Smile.amazon.co.uk](http://Smile.amazon.co.uk). If your Amazon habit is as bad as Mrs Hall's, it could make quite a difference to the PTA funds and again, it costs you nothing extra.

## Bags to School

You will see from the diary dates that there is a Bags to School collection on Friday 22nd September at 9am. If you are having an end of summer clear out, check the list for accepted items (on the PTA noticeboard) and bring your bags in either on the afternoon of Thursday 21st, or at drop-off on Friday 22nd September. You all did really well last time and the PTA appreciate every last sock!

If you have any questions about this, or any other fundraising matter, you can speak to your Class PTA representative.



## Free School Meals

The cost of living crisis has seen changing circumstances for many of our families.

Could you now be eligible for Free School Meals?

This is not to be confused with Universal Infant Free School Meals which every EYFS and KS1 child receives. If a child is given Free School Meal status, the school receives extra funding which we can then use to help support children of families with financial need. It is very easy to check if you might be eligible and we would encourage all of our parents, including Years R, 1 and 2 to check their status here:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

A successful application will help you, and will also help the school provide what your children need.



## Help!



We are sure you will have noticed that we are fighting a constant battle with moss falling from our roof and gutters. Mrs Ovenden sweeps every morning but within an hour, it's all back!

We do feel like we are always asking for your help, but you have all proved to be so willing and supportive, we thought we would try again. We have just been quoted over £2,500 to clear the gutters, and moss from the roof which is simply not do-able on our current budget.

I suppose we should be grateful we don't have any RAAC panelling, but sometimes this old building, lovely as it is, can cause us a bit of a headache!

Do we have a small group of people who could work together to clear this for us? Many hands make light work and can provide refreshments for all volunteers.

We would love to hear from you.




## Managing Your Child's Anxiety

*An online webinar for parents and carers of primary-aged children, offering information around what anxiety is and tips for how to support your child*

**Monday 25th September 9.30—10.30am**  
Meeting ID: 991 3351 0561 Passcode: 725031  
<https://spft-nhs-uk.zoom.us/j/99133510561?pwd=UWVoY3lFT1BHakcrYVNqZWRLbGRjQT09>

**Wednesday 27th September 7.00—8.00pm**  
Meeting ID: 915 1684 7114 Passcode: 244952  
<https://spft-nhs-uk.zoom.us/j/91516847114?pwd=NVYyT1hkR1NyLOtEQ2prVi9xTDJldz09>



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

Service delivered in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System.

hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk