

12th January, 2024

# Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Happy New Year and welcome back; I hope you all had the most wonderful Christmas and New Year! It may have taken all of us a bit of time to adjust so quickly back into the school routine, but now we are raring to go with lots of exciting things to look forward to in the year ahead.

We start the year with a few changes to staffing. As you know Mrs Abbott has moved on to pastures new and we welcomed Miss Smith as SENDco, who will be at school every Wednesday. She has already been in the classrooms getting to know all the children to ensure the very best outcomes. If you have any concerns or you would like to make contact with Miss Katie Smith, please drop her an email:

[K.smith@wherwell.hants.sch.uk](mailto:K.smith@wherwell.hants.sch.uk)

Teachers are currently updating IEP targets for children on our SEN register and parents will be invited in to review these with teachers on the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The teachers will be in touch with you shortly to arrange these meetings.

I am also delighted that Miss Young, who works as an LSA, is doing a few days in the office. Mrs Hennekam and Mrs Toombs have increased their LSA hours too.

We are also very pleased to welcome two student teachers who are doing their final 10 week placement with us. Emily Day will be working alongside Mrs Gray in Puffins and Samantha Steven will be with Miss Ball in Sparrowhawks.

You may remember that we have decided to write children's progress reports earlier in the year, which will be sent home in March rather than July. This is so that you get a clear picture of how your child is doing and that there is plenty of time to work on targets identified. There will be an optional parent's meeting in March if you need to discuss the report further and then there will be a meeting in July to review these targets and the progress made.

Finally, I would like to let you know that we are busy creating a new website. Once complete we hope that you will find it easy to navigate (compatible on mobile phones) and a quick and easy 'go to' for important information. As new content is being uploaded to the new site, I would like to apologise for the existing site being out of date. We are working hard to launch our modern website as soon as we can.

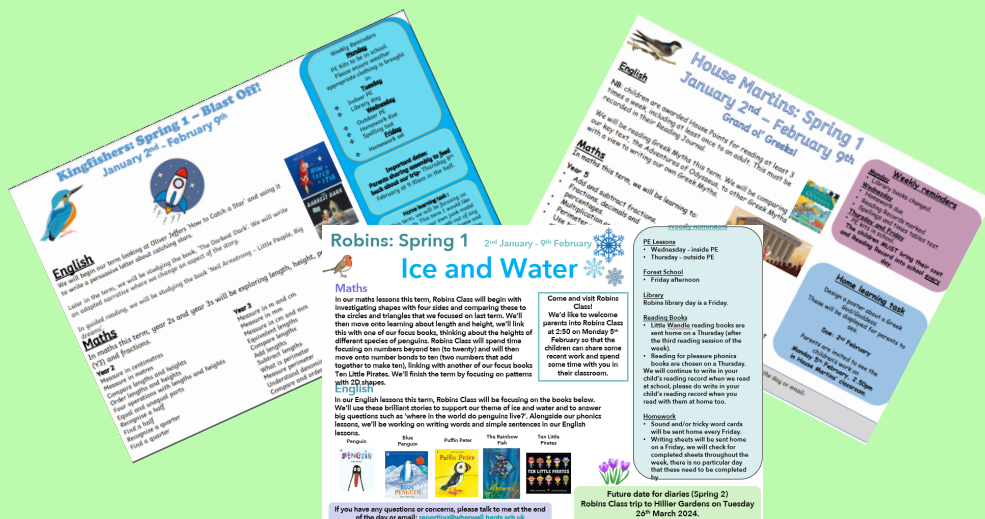
Hopefully you have had the change to look at this half term's curriculum map to see the exciting learning opportunities planned.

Have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,

Mandy Ovenden

Head Teacher





## ROBINS

Early on Tuesday morning, Robins Class popped on their coats and wellies and went for a wintery walk around our school field; it was very cold and frosty. When we came back inside, we created a list of words to describe winter and the way that we felt when we were outside.

We have started focusing on a new book in class, Blue Penguin, and have had fun playing with some penguins in our classroom.



## PUFFINS

Puffins started back to school last week by going on a virtual bus tour of London! The children particularly loved driving across Tower Bridge. This was our 'hook' lesson before starting our new English Learning Journey using the text 'The Queen's Hat'. This book has proved popular so far and has also been useful as a discussion point about London and the UK. In Science we are finding out about the seasons and weather changes. Puffins enjoyed a very chilly winter walk around the school grounds on Tuesday looking out for signs of winter.







## KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have been really excited about their new unit of learning all about space. They listened to some sounds which gave them clues to their new learning and discovered they were listening to sounds from the launch of the first ever moon landing. They are keen to learn more about it. Meanwhile, in art, they have been using lines to draw space themed sketches. Have a look at Rex's wonderful work!



## SPARROWHAWKS

Despite the cold weather, Sparrowhawks have enjoyed their PE lessons. We have looked at dribbling in football and even had some flurries of snow. We also created some interpretations of ancient Egyptian painting with different balances.

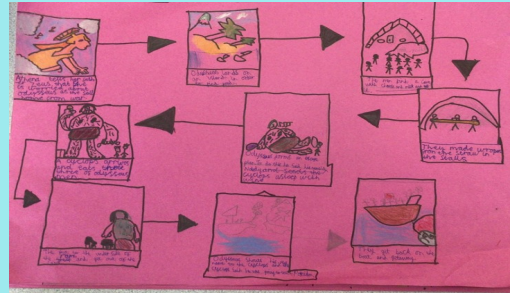
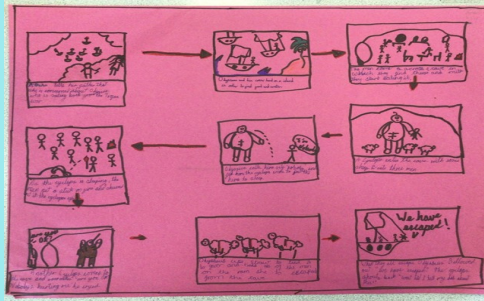
In computing, Sparrowhawks have enjoyed exploring our new Micro:bits, which we will be coding to perform different tasks.





## HOUSE MARTINS

House Martins have made an enthusiastic start to their English unit on Greek myths. Take a look at their wonderful story boards depicting The Adventures of Odysseus!



## PPEP care training Autumn 2023

**Delivered by Hampshire MHSTs**



**MENTAL HEALTH  
SUPPORT TEAMS**

### January

#### Autism Awareness

Helping to develop a broad understanding of children and young people on the autism spectrum, looking at key features and issues. Exploring the world through the eyes of a child or young person with autism, and how best to support using practical strategies including helpful communication styles and environmental changes.

**When?** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 5.30-7.30pm

**Where?** Online via Zoom (please find link below)

**Who?** Parents and carers

<https://spft-nhs-uk.zoom.us/j/94467970767?pwd=QXZkTDJsRVpiSjZtdmVlOEFDN053QT09>

Meeting ID: 944 6797 0767

Passcode: 681206

To access the meeting, please click on the above link. When directed to, type in the meeting ID and Passcode, as well as your first name.



# BAG 2 SCHOOL

## FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation



Wherwell Primary School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT).

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

***We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:***

**Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.**

**(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)**

***The more we weigh the more we pay!***  
***Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit***

***Please return your Bag2School on:***

Wednesday 17th January 2024 by 9am



01609 780 222



[www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)



[helpdesk@bag2school.com](mailto:helpdesk@bag2school.com)

# Diary Dates

Activity	Date (New Dates)
Closing date for Year R applications	Monday 15th January
Bags to School	Wednesday 17th January
Robins learning unit outcome at 2.50pm	Monday 5th February
Kingfishers' trip to Winchester Science Centre	Tuesday 6th February (details to follow)
Sparrowhawk's outcome to parents at 2.50pm	Tuesday 6th February
Kingfishers' outcome to parents - an assembly at 9.10am	Thursday 8th February
Puffins, outcome to parents at 2.50pm	Thursday 8th February
Sparrowhawks' bake sale	Thursday 8th February
Dress Down Day - wear red for Valentines (details to follow)	Friday 9th February
<b>HALF TERM</b>	12th to 16th February
INSET Day	Monday 19th February
World Book Day - come as a favourite character	Thursday 7th March
Reports go home	Friday 15th March
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