

24th November, 2023

Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Once again it has been a busy couple of weeks in school and children have been enjoying their learning. This week we had a monitoring visit for the day from a Primary Phase inspector, who had previously visited the school just over a year ago. She was very impressed with our learning environment and how all the children demonstrated superb learning behaviours. When we did a book scrutiny, it was noted that teachers were carefully designing tasks which were appropriate for the various abilities in our mixed age classes. In lessons, it was clear that children knew what they were learning and how to be successful. As always, it was great to see buzz.

As a school we have made significant improvements to many areas of teaching and learning and we work hard as a staff team to provide the very best for your children. When you have a strong team, it is very sad when a member of staff chooses to move on. Mrs Abbott, my Deputy and SENDCo, has decided to leave at Christmas and explore new ventures outside of teaching. I have enjoyed working with Mrs Abbott and she has been instrumental over the last year in the progress we have made in driving school improvement. We wish her lots of luck and will miss her greatly.

For the remainder of the year, we will be supported by another experienced SENDCo who will work with us each Wednesday. Mrs Abbott will be doing a thorough handover in the coming weeks. I will give you more details soon.

Finally, I would like to share with you some pictures of the fantastic working party organised by one of our Governors, Kelly Orvis, to clear our woodland area. You may not be aware that we have an amazing area at the end of the field but this has not been in a fit or safe state for the children. Now, with the energy and enthusiasm of parents and children, I am delighted to say that it's now a perfect area for children to explore and enhance their learning. This will be used for Forest Schools' for Robins and Puffins but will also be used by the other classes too. I wasn't sure if this was a before or after photo as all volunteers look far too happy to have completed this back breaking work! Thank you to all involved. The children will love using this area and I am once again overwhelmed by the generosity of time and effort given by our parent community.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mandy Ovenden



Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for completing the Parent questionnaire. Seeking the views of parents is an extremely important way of informing school improvement priorities and I am always keen to hear feedback, good or bad! The results were incredibly positive and I will do a more in-depth analysis later. From the 61 responses we received, I was delighted to see that in response to the statement, **My child likes school**, 100% answered either strongly agree or agree. (68% strongly agree and 42% agree). This is extremely important to all the staff because happy children learn well even when the learning challenges them. In response to the statement, **My child is making good progress**, 93% responded either strongly agree or agree (30% strongly agree and 63% agree, 2% strongly disagree and 5% didn't know). Below are some of the comments made about the school's strengths.

What are the school's strengths?

- ◆ Sense of community
- ◆ Rural setting
- ◆ Staff

Friendly, caring environment where children can thrive and be themselves.

- ◆ Great communication with staff
- ◆ Challenges my children in regards to what they are learning
- ◆ Wonderful, supportive community with good after school activities

Sense of community and children caring for one another and taking responsibility for themselves and their environment.

Instilling important values—resilience being a key one.

Communication with teachers is 'easy' as they are at the doors.

The children are valued and the mixing of year groups is really helping them integrate.

The new phonics system is working brilliantly.

My kids have a good sense of belonging at Wherwell School. The teachers and support staff are always on hand, supportive and approachable.

- Friendly
- Approachable leadership and teachers
- Inclusive
- Teaching staff and assistants are capable and experienced
- Good planning of lessons and curriculum
- Good manners encouraged

I think the school is strong in instilling behavioural values and bringing them to the forefront of their learning too. There is clearly a strong positive culture at school which means our daughter is always happy to go to school.

Robins

Robins Class have created a wonderful and very colourful autumn tree based on the lovely book 'Tree'. We have displayed this in our outside area. Robins have also had lots of fun constructing with the wooden blocks and the loose parts resources. We've created towers, museums, homes for animals and butterfly gardens.

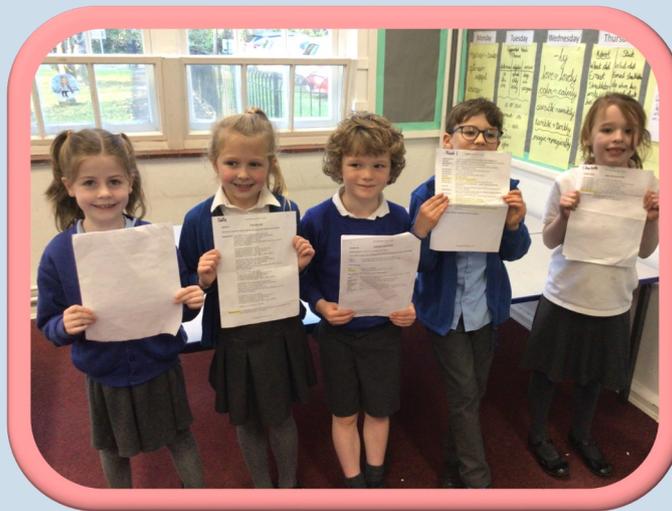


Puffins

Puffins have continued to learn about playtime in the past. This week we went outside and played some traditional games such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' and 'The Farmer's in his den' which the children really enjoyed! In DT, we have designed our vehicles and the children have had a go at making their own wheels and axles. Next week, we will begin to make our own designs.



Kingfishers



This week Kingfishers have been working hard on their lines for the Christmas Nativity, 'The Bethlehem Star'. Many of them no longer need their scripts and their singing sounds so beautiful. Miss Upton has been giving out all the Christmas stickers she can! Please come along to support Kingfishers by returning the slip for a seat!

Sparrowhawks

In Sparrowhawks, we have written and typed up our own instructions. It was very interesting typing on a laptop and Miss Ball did have to support children in finding letters on the keyboard. After a while, the class had all written their instructions and some even added pictures and got to have fun with colour and fonts.



House Martins

This week in D&T, House Martins have learned how to make felt out of wool, in preparation for decorating their sewing projects; Harry Potter themed tote bags.



In addition to their usual English lessons, House Martins have been following a poetry trail outside. They've used a map and QR codes to find and complete poetry related tasks.



A note from our School Council - Wet play games



Dear Parents,

If you can, we would love to receive any unwanted board games, top trumps or puzzles to keep us busy during wet play. Our classes need more to play with when we cannot go outside. Please make sure that they are in useable condition.

Thank you,

School Council



Christmas trees



If you have an artificial tree, of any size, that you no longer want, we would be very grateful to receive it.

Bark chippings



We are in need of bark chippings for our woodland paths and for the areas under our play equipment on the field. If you have any you can give us, please let us know!

Thank you!

We were delighted when these books came through the post. Some of these books will be used in assembly as we celebrate and find out about outstanding black people in our assemblies on the theme of Black History.



Diary Dates

Activity	Date (New Dates on this newsletter)
Last day for Christmas trees orders	28 th November - (was originally 30th)
Sparrowhawks' Tree Planting	Wednesday 29th November PM
Dress down day for hamper item donations Last day for Autumn competition entries	Friday 1 st December
Parents and community event in the hall at 2:30. Come and see work from across the school. Tea and coffee available.	Friday 1st December at 2:30
Christmas tree collection from school	Saturday 2 nd December- (9.30-11.30am)
Puffins and Kingfishers' Nativity at 6pm (refreshments available)	Monday 4th December
Puffins and Kingfishers' Nativity at 2pm (refreshments available)	Tuesday 5th December
Year R, Balance Bike Training	4th– 7th December
Sparrowhawk's listen to me performance in the hall	Thursday 7th December at 11– 11:30
House Martins' Learning unit outcome for parents in the hall	Thursday 7th December at 9am in the hall
Robins' Learning unit outcome for parents in the classroom	Friday 8th December at 2:50
Hamper raffle draw	Monday 11 th December
Kingfishers and Sparrowhawks' Learning unit outcome for parents	Tuesday 12th December at 2:50
Robins Nativity	Wednesday 13th December at 2PM
Puffins' learning unit outcome to parents	Thursday 14th December at 2:50
Carol Service, Wherwell Church (refreshments available)	Thursday 14th December at 6pm
Last Day of Term and Christmas Dinner	Friday 15th December
Back to school	Tuesday 2nd January
Bags to school collection	Wednesday 17th January
Sparrowhawk's bake sale	Thursday 8th February
HALF TERM	12th to 16th February
INSET Day	Monday 19th February
Easter Holiday	Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27th May—31st May
Year 6 SATS week	Monday 13th—16th May
Year 3/4 residential to Liddington	Monday 13th—Friday 17th May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27th—Friday 31st 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
Sports Day /reserve sports Day	Thursday 11th July (reserve Thursday 18th July)
INSET DAY	Monday 15th July
Last day of term	Tuesday 23rd July