

26th January, 2024

Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Once again it has been a busy couple of weeks in school. I hope you enjoy looking at the class updates to see what your children have been learning.

Phonics

It was lovely to receive a letter (on the next page) from the Minister for Schools to recognise our outstanding phonics results from last year (95% of pupils in Year 1 passing the Phonics Screening check). From the minute I started here at Wherwell, we prioritised phonics. We ensured that all staff were trained and that we had all the resources we needed for the children to have the right book to match the sounds they were learning. We are proud that we are in the top 5 percent of all schools in the country which is down to the combined efforts of the staff, parents and of course the children. It is often the case, that I get feedback from Year R parents, commenting how quickly their child learns to read. This is testament to the Little Wandle programme and the commitment and expertise of staff.

What do we do once children have learnt to read?

The author Neil Gaiman explains this well.

It is very tempting as a parent to let children read independently once they are confident, but it is so important to share books together right up to Year 6 and beyond.

"We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read things they enjoy. To read stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not stop reading to them just because they learn to read to themselves." Neil Gaiman

Reading aloud to already fluent readers can still be hugely valuable:

- It gives children the chance to listen to books they might not be able to read independently- books that are too long for their current level of reading stamina, books with tricky vocabulary or tricky concepts.
- Listening to an adult read gives a model for fluent reading.
- It enables book talk – time to discuss ideas and share opinions.
- It can safeguard some shared time together – time to share a book that you both want to read, a book you now share in common.

Enjoy a book together over the weekend!

Best wishes,
Mandy



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

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Mrs Mandy Ovenden
Whenwell Primary School
Hampshire
Whenwell
Andover
SP11 7JP

08 January 2024

Dear Mrs. Ovenden,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 95 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at Whenwell Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 5 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

'Learning to read is a priority. Staff deliver the phonics programme well. They excite pupils about reading and books. Teachers seize regular opportunities to read high-quality texts to their classes. Children learn to read as soon as they start in the Reception Year... This means that pupils are now becoming more confident readers by the end of Year 2.'

OFSTED May 2023



ROBINS

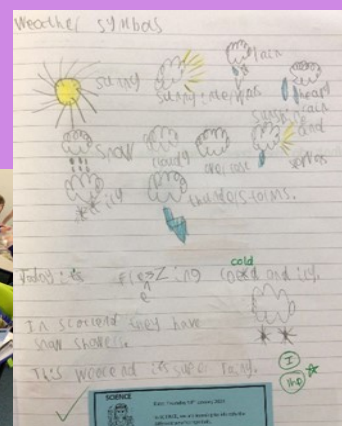
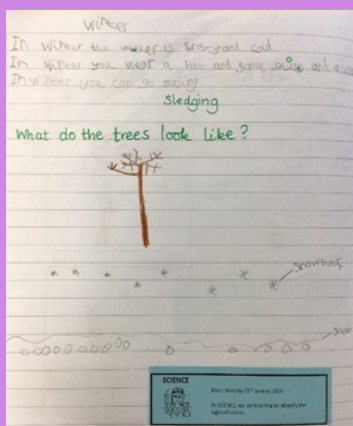
Robins have had lots of fun continuing our learning about penguins. The children have all created a wonderful piece of Blue Penguin artwork, based on one of the illustrations in the book. We've also linked our penguin research into our maths learning and have been comparing the heights of different species of penguin. Did you know that the Emperor Penguin can be as tall as 120cm and that the smallest species, the Little Blue Penguin is only about 30cm tall? We enjoyed seeing how tall we are in comparison to the penguins.

We've also thoroughly enjoyed exploring the wonderful woodland area during our forest school sessions in the last few weeks, a big thank you to all of the families who worked hard to clear this area a few months ago!



PUFFINS

In Puffins Class the children have been busy retelling and rewriting the story of 'Mrs Gray's Scarf'. They were very excited to see what adventures the scarf got up to and where it finally ended up! As both our Geography and Science topics are weather based, we have been talking a lot about the changes in the weather recently. The children have enjoyed watching weather forecasts and finding out what the different symbols mean on the weather maps.





KINGFISHERS

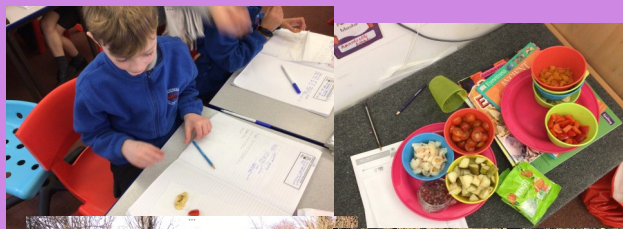
Kingfishers have been learning about robots and algorithms this week. They have been instructing each other to move like a robot and debugging their algorithms when they did not work.

Kingfishers have also been working hard on their current history topic of space. They have learnt about the first moon landing and what the astronauts did while they were there.



SPARROWHAWKS

In PSHE, Sparrowhawks looked at making healthy snack choices. To do this we tried various fruit and vegetable snacks and rated them to see if we could widen our pallets.

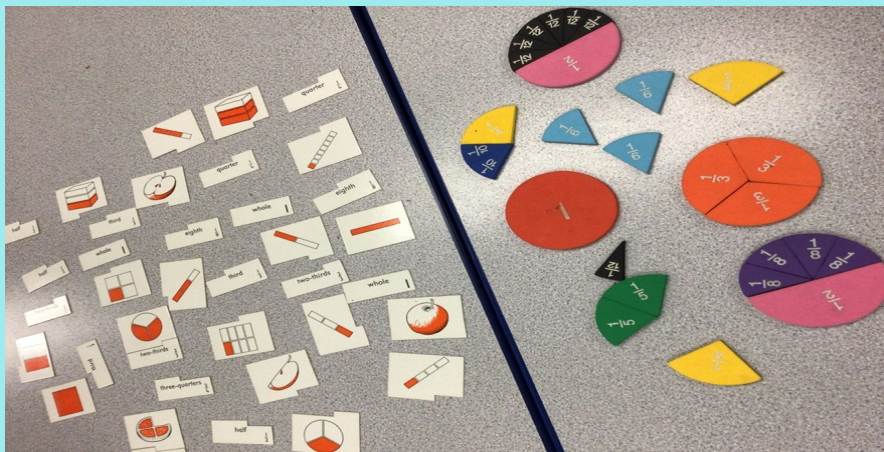


We have continued our Science longitudinal study by exploring which plants were growing on our school grounds. Sparrowhawks were not surprised when we did not find many plants but they did enjoy the frost.



HOUSE MARTINS

House Martins have been consolidating their understanding of fractions this week with a carousel of fraction puzzles and activities.



Pop Up Ensemble

FREE



Pop Up Ensemble The Lights, Andover

3 West St, Andover
SP10 1AH
Sunday 3rd March 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4

Come and be part of a
'from scratch' orchestra!



Scan the QR code to
register your place



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk/hms



Future Andover Schools Competition

What do you think future Andover will look like?
We'd love to know what you think!

Andover Museum are running a competition for local school pupils to design and draw a building of the future that they would like to see in Andover.

All entries will be displayed at the museum and will be judged by local artist Alex McGarry. A £30 art supplies voucher and a goodie bag from Alex McGarry's gallery shop will be awarded to the winners from the following age categories; ages 4-7, ages 8-11 and ages 12-15.

Please use the submission template provided and send them in to Andover Museum by hand, or post to Andover Museum, 6 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP.

All submissions must be received by 3 March 2024



Discover more:
hampshireculture.co.uk/andover-museum

Hampshire Cultural Trust is a registered charity (No. 1105955) and company (No. 0896223) in England and Wales.

Name:

Age:

Draw your future building above and fill in your name and age.
Send it in to Andover Museum by hand, or post to; Andover Museum, 6 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Contact Details:

Contact details will not be shared with third parties or kept on file after the event. They will only be used to notify winners.

Reminder

P.E Kits – Winter Weather

It was certainly chilly last week! A gentle reminder that children still take part in outdoor P.E during the colder months, so it's a good idea to pop a sweatshirt/hoodie and jogging bottoms (blue, navy or black), into your child's P.E kit.



Diary Dates

Activity	Date (New Dates)
House Martins The Drama Hut	Friday 2nd February
Sparrowhawks The Drama Hut	Friday 2nd February
House Martins outcome to parents at 2.50pm	Monday 5th February
Robins learning unit outcome at 2.50pm	Monday 5th February
Kingfishers' trip to Winchester Science Centre	Tuesday 6th February
Sparrowhawks' 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
HALF TERM	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