

15th November, 2024



Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



We were so proud of the children on our visit to the war memorial on Armistice Day. Not only did they walk sensibly there and back, but they were calm and respectful throughout the service lead by Revd Kevin Rogers. We were joined by many members of the village, which was lovely. The year 6 children placed crosses at the base of the memorial, each inscribed with the name of a fallen Wherwell service member.

We were very lucky to have one of our music teachers, Mrs Shaw, dressed in full guard uniform to bugle The Last Post to mark the start of the 2 minute silence and the Reveille to mark the end. Mrs Shaw also accompanied us as we sang the National Anthem and we are incredibly grateful to her for giving up her time to be with us.

Our thanks also to Revd Kevin not only for officiating the service, but for the assembly he gave in school just before we left. His ingenious way of connecting with the children with a story about resolving conflict with Lego meant that even the smallest of our children understood the importance of the 2 minute silence!

Of course, this would not have been possible without the parents who volunteered to walk to and from the school with us, some in uniform which is always lovely to see. Thank you everyone!



Parent's Evening

Next week you will be receiving a letter inviting you to attend Parent's evening (26th and 27th November). This is a little later than usual as I wanted teachers to be able to give you more detailed information about your child's attainment and progress, which is in response to the feedback you gave us in the parent questionnaire. We will have just completed our assessment period therefore you will get a clear picture of how your child is achieving academically. Obviously, we will also discuss how your child is getting on in class and around school generally.

Finally, I want to say that the press events of this week have been extremely shocking and stressful for everyone, and I and the staff have received many challenging emails and phone calls from strangers from all over the country. The report has been misinterpreted to suggest that we have cancelled Christmas, which of course is not the case. I and the rest of the staff are thoroughly enjoying the run up to Christmas and we will not let this spoil the joy of the season - the children certainly won't let it!

I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from you, our wonderful parents, many of which I have shared with my staff who are as shaken by this as you all are. I have never been prouder to be Headteacher of Wherwell Primary School than I am today. Thank you.

Mandy Ovenden, Headteacher.



ROBINS

We were very proud of how sensible Robins Class were during our walk to the memorial and service for Remembrance Day. When we got back to school, Robins Class made some beautiful poppy artwork.

Robins Class had loads of fun during our Perform for Schools storytelling session this week! The session was focused on 'The Gruffalo' and 'Room on the Broom'. Following on from our wonderful storytelling session, Robins Class have made some fantastic Gruffalo faces!



PUFFINS

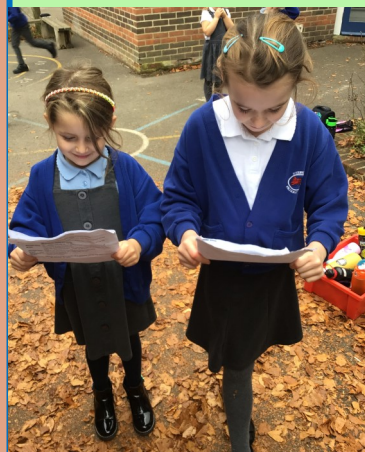
Puffins had a great time during Outdoor Explorers last week as they collected fallen leaves and sticks to create their owls. Lots of fun was had in the leaves, some people managed to completely hide themselves in the big piles!

In PE we are currently putting a dance together to tell the story of The Gunpowder Plot. The children have been putting movements to music and then evaluating how they can improve upon their dance.





KINGFISHERS



Kingfishers have been incredibly excited by the arrival of their nativity parts. This year, our traditional nativity is called Michaelmas Mouse, celebrating the story of a mouse who hitches a lift with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to visit his city cousins. It is full of delightful songs which we have been excitedly learning. Miss Upton has been very impressed to hear that some children have even learnt several of their lines off by heart (we also discussed the meaning of the phrase 'off by heart'!).



SPOTTED: Several Kingfishers in the playground practising their lines and even sharing them with other children!



SPARROWHAWKS



Sparrowhawks have been completing their stunning Anglo-Saxon brooches, carefully crafted from clay. The children designed these unique pieces and brought them to life with vibrant bronze, silver, and gold paints, creating an eye-catching display!



In PE, the focus has been on teamwork, especially in games that involve attacking and defending.

Miss Ball set an exciting challenge to see how many people could work together to create a tennis racquet and ball chain—an exercise that sparked plenty of fun and collaboration!

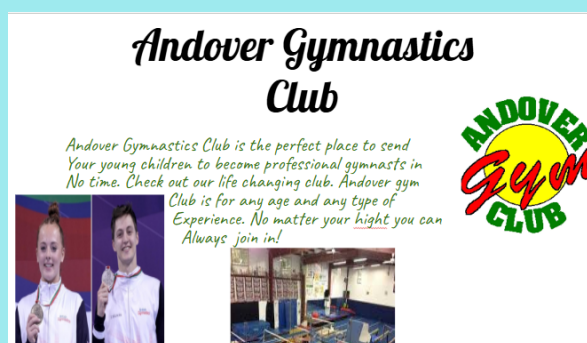
The class has also been honing their dribbling skills, using a variety of balls, bats, and sticks to improve their co-ordination and agility. A great mix of creativity, teamwork, and skill-building all round!





HOUSE MARTINS

This week in Computing, House Martins have begun using Google Slides in order to design a website, advertising and informing potential clients about a club of their choice. They are not only aiming to make their websites aesthetically pleasing, but also user-friendly and appropriate for their target user.



We have been learning about Search Engine Optimisation, so they will be incorporating key search terms into their websites in order to make their website easy to find.

We would like to say BIG thank you to Andy Smith, Andy Revell and Simon Pattison for their hard work in clearing the gutters around the school. We are so grateful to you all for giving up your time to help us with this important job (but hope that Mrs Smith, Mrs Revell and Mrs Pattison aren't still waiting for the gutters a home to be cleared!).

Our Friends of Wherwell are always working hard to come up with new fundraising ideas and then work hard to deliver on these ideas. The Christmas Raffle is always hugely successful so don't forget to sell those tickets to as many friends, families, neighbours and Great Auntie Mabels as possible. There are spare books of tickets available from the office for anyone that needs extra!

It's not too late to order your Christmas tree or your Wherwell Gingerbread (see flyers on next page). The trees are always beautiful and how scrummy do the gingerbread look? What lovely gifts they will make too.

Also, if you are (like me, Mrs Hall) an on-line Christmas shopper, you might like to set up EasyFundraising on your browser, selecting Wherwell Primary School as your chosen charity. It's easy to do, and once done, you can shop in the usual way with no additional effort, clicks or cost to you. The school receives a percentage of any purchases made helping to boost our funds. Follow the link below (or copy and paste into your browser) or alternatively scan the barcode on the banner at the front of the school. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/>

In the meantime, if you have any great fundraising ideas, access to match-funding etc., please do feed that into the office or your parent Class Representative. You don't need to be member of the Friends of Wherwell to have great ideas!

ANDOVER'S OFFICIAL TOWN LIGHTS SWITCH ON

ANDOVER Christmas FESTIVAL

GUILDHALL STAGE	TOWN MILLS STAGE	BRIDGE STREET STAGE	UPPER HIGH STREET	CHANTRY CENTRE CHILDREN'S SHOWS
5:00 Vigo Primary School Choir	8:00 Highroad	5:00 Andover College Singers	5:15 Snow Globe Show	5:00 Storytelling
5:25 Kilmington, Thruxton & Fyfield Primary School Choir	5:30 Hollow Afterthought	5:45 Ingenious Gentlemen	6:15 Snow Globe Show	5:30 Magic Show
5:40 Burdock Valley Players	6:10 Kev & Gary from Nokando	6:30 Test Valley Brass	7:15 Snow Globe Show	6:00 Storytelling
5:55 Andover Youth Dance Company	6:45 No Way Out	7:10 Andover Rock Choir		6:30 Magic Show
6:20 Andover Ladies Choir	7:35 Christmas Disco	7:35 Andover Town Band		7:00 Storytelling
6:45 Louise Vincent School of Dance				7:30 Magic Show
6:50 Christmas Disco				
7:00 Lights Switch on				
7:15 Stonepig				

Friends of Wherwell School

ORDER YOUR LOCALLY GROWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Pre-order online by 26th November for collection/local delivery on 30th November

4-14FT
NORDMANN FIR TREES

4-5FT - £32
5-6FT - £34
6-7FT - £42
7-8FT - £47
8-9FT - £70
10-12FT - £100
12-14FT - £140

www.wherwellschoolpta.uk/shop

Festive Wherwell Primary Gingerbread

£2.00 each

Pre order online by 26th November for collection 30th November 9:30-11am

www.wherwellschoolpta.uk/shop

Pop Up Ensemble **FREE**

Pop Up Ensemble
Winton Community Academy,
Andover

JMST Theatre, London Road, Andover,
Hampshire SP10 2PS
Sunday 15th December 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4

Back by Popular Demand!

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

Scan the QR code to register your place

www.hantsmusicclub.org.uk



Diary Dates

Activity	Date
Parents Evening	Tuesday 26th November 3:30 - 7pm
Kingfishers—Tree Planting with Andover Trees United	Wednesday 27th November
Parents Evening	Wednesday 27th November 3:30 - 5:30pm
Sparrowhawks cake sale	Thursday 28th November
Christmas Trees - order on PTA website by 26th November	Saturday 30th November (collect from school)
Pantomime visit, whole school - Jack & the Beanstalk	Thursday 5th December, 10am
Sparrowhawks—Listen2Me concert for parents	Monday 9th December, 10.40am
Sparrowhawks—Learning Outcome share with parents	Monday 9th December, 11am to 11.15am
Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity	Monday 9th December 6pm & Tuesday 10th December 2pm
Robins & Housemartins—Learning Outcome share with parents	Wednesday, 11th December. 2.50pm
Robins Nativity	Wednesday 18th December 2pm
Puffins & Housemartins—Drama Hut visit	Tuesday 19th December
Puffins—Learning Outcome share with parents	Thursday 19th December. 2.45pm
Kingfishers—Learning Outcome share with parents	Date TBC
Whole School Carol Service, Wherwell Church	Thursday 19th December, 6pm WOODPECKERS CLOSES AT 5pm
Whole School Christmas Lunch	Friday 20th December, 12pm-1pm
First day of term	Monday 6th January
Housemartins—Science Day with Dr Spice, Details to follow	Friday 24th January
Housemartins—Online safety talk delivered by Hampshire Constabulary	Tuesday 11th February
Half Term	Monday 17th to Friday 21st February
Inset Day	Monday 24th February
Bikeability, Year 6	Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th March
Easter Holidays	Monday 7th to Monday 21st April
Avon Tyrell residential, years 4 and 5	Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May
Harewood Run	Monday 5th May
Inset Day	Monday 2nd June
Summer Fete	Sunday 6th July
Inset Day	Monday 14th July