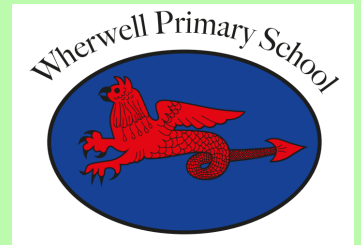


29th November, 2024



Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Dear parents,

It certainly feels as though winter is on the way this week with the drop in temperature and a few snow flurries (well one or two flakes!). Please do make sure that your children are wearing warm clothes to school as they will be outside during break and lunchtimes. We are also taking our learning outside as much as we can and making use of our wonderful woodland too so a coat is essential.



In our assembly on Monday, Miss Upton, who is our mental health lead, launched a new programme called **My Happy Mind** which is backed by the NHS. The activities are grounded in the latest science and research about what it takes to create positive wellbeing and will be taught across the school from Year R to Year 6. It teaches preventative habits that support mental health, resilience and self-esteem. There are not only age appropriate lessons for our children but there is also a staff wellbeing programme and a parent app so that the whole school community is supported. There will be more details over the coming weeks.



This week, the school has been filled with the joyful sounds of children from Robins, Puffins and Kingfishers classes rehearsing their songs for the upcoming nativity performances. I am sure that we will be in for a treat! Well done to the children who have already learnt their lines. Information about tickets will be coming soon.



In the meantime, we are keen to re-home any unwanted Christmas decorations that you may have and welcome any donations to help us decorate the school for December.

Finally, don't forget that if you have a child due to start school in September 2025, that applications should be submitted now (see poster on page 5 of this newsletter).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, my door is always open.

Best wishes,

Mandy Ovenden
Headteacher

**Whole School Attendance
as at 22.11.2024**

97%



ROBINS

Robins Class had a wonderful, sunny afternoon on our school field on Monday. We began by sitting and listening to a story, *The Leaf Thief*, in the sunshine. We then had fun making homes for a squirrel, creating our own trees and woodlands using sticks and leaves that we had collected and charging around the field in our wellies! From now on, Robins Class outside afternoon will be a Monday, rather than a Friday.



PUFFINS

Puffins had an amazing experience with 'Drama Hut' last week as they fully embraced life in the time of the Great Fire of London. They sang songs, created freeze frames and acted out the events which they thoroughly enjoyed.

In Maths, we have been looking at partitioning 2 digit numbers into tens and ones. We have used the resources in the classroom to help us create the numbers.





KINGFISHERS



Kingfishers have had an incredibly busy couple of weeks. We have been learning all about stop-motion animation and how to create these using the iPads. We have also been studying the story 'Pugs of the Frozen North' and have learnt all about paired reading together.

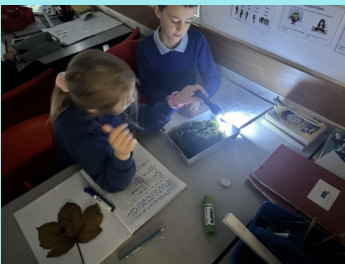


On Wednesday this week, we went to Bury Hill in Clatford to plant trees with Andover Trees United. The team there were extremely welcoming and supportive. We learnt how to plant a tree and then in pairs we planted several trees each. We had a ribbon in our buckets so we could find out which trees we were planting. It was absolutely freezing and we were very grateful for a drink, a biscuit, and a warm bus journey back to school afterwards.



SPARROWHAWKS

Sparrowhawks have had a fun week investigating which materials would block out light best. We even took to the woodland to see if we could find materials in there. We then got to carry out part of the experiment in class shining a torch at the objects to see if a shadow was made.



On Thursday this week, Sparrowhawks undertook a live "code-along" session to create a code for the micro: bits to program our own snow globes that move and play a Christmassy tune. We had lots of fun and are excited to see what other things we can do with them.





HOUSE MARTINS

This half term, House Martins have been working on invasion games in PE, with a focus on basketball. This week, we focused on improving our communication between players. As a warm up, we enjoyed learning a new game, in which the children had to work together to get their team safely into their 'safe zone'. The game required team work, effective communication and problem solving skills, particularly when we tried playing it without speaking!



Parents and Wherwell School

A huge thank you to Adam Faye this week for his dedicated effort in clearing the fallen leaves from our outdoor areas. The leaf blower gave out half way through so he ended up sweeping with a yard brush, which must have been back-breaking and incredibly time-consuming. His hard work is greatly appreciated! Thank you, Adam.



It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parent's evenings this week. Thank you for taking the time to come and talk to us. Please also check the diary dates at the end of this newsletter for your chance to come and share in your child's class Learning Outcomes. The children love sharing their work with you, it gives them a great sense of pride. Sparrowhawks parents are also warmly invited to see their children perform Listen2Me on 9th December and of course Robins, Puffins and Kingfishers are getting excited to bring you their nativities. Finally, don't forget our annual Carol service on 19th December.

Building Connections with our Local Community

We are very proud to say that we raised £250.20 for the Poppy Appeal this year. Thank you for helping to raise £727.19 which is the total across the village.



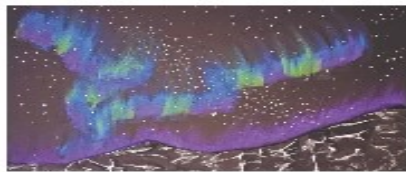
We are very excited to have been asked to sing Christmas songs at two village events this year. Our choir will be providing festive entertainment for an event at Wherwell Village Hall and then later, at the Chilbolton Community Christmas Lunch. This is a wonderful chance to engage with the community whilst also building the children's confidence.





A huge shout out and heartfelt thank you to the incredible Gilbert-Ashur family for their generous donation of beautiful Christmas decorations to our school! Thanks to their kindness, every classroom will be decked out with its very own Christmas tree, sparkling lights, and festive baubles. Their thoughtful gesture is truly spreading holiday cheer throughout our school, making this season even more special for everyone. We're so grateful for their support and festive spirit!

It's not too late to enter this competition. Entry sheets can be found at the front office.



Winter Wonder Art Competition



Create some art work celebrating your favourite wintery things for a chance to win some wonderful prizes including a £25 Waterstones voucher, some super artists colouring, sketch and paint sets and some arty activity books.

To enter:

- Pick up an entry sheet at the Halloween Cake Sale (24th October) or from the school office and pay your £1 entry fee.
- Create a wonderful wintery A4 picture using pencils, pens, paint, pastels or collage or a combination of all these.
- Bring your finished art work (with your name, class and age completed) into school and give to your class teacher by the 10th December.
- Our panel of judges will award first, second and third prize for each class and then an overall school winner. Prizes will be announced and awarded by the end of term.

Diary Dates

Activity	Date
Pantomime visit, whole school - Jack & the Beanstalk	Thursday 5th December, 10am
Festive Dress Down Day in exchange for donations to the Christmas Hampers	Friday 6th December, All day
Pupils of Rookwood School visit to present a short Christmas Show	Friday 6th December
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
Sparrowhawks Trip to Southampton Art Museum	Wednesday 11th December
Robins & Housemartins—Learning Outcome share with parents	Wednesday, 11th December. 2.50pm
Kingfishers—Learning Outcome share with parents	Tuesday 17th December, 2.50pm
Robins Nativity	Wednesday 18th December 2pm
Puffins—Learning Outcome share with parents	Thursday 19th December, 2.45pm
Whole School Carol Service, Wherwell Church	Thursday 19th December, 6pm WOODPECKERS CLOSSES AT 5pm
Whole School Christmas Lunch Wear festive (or similar) jumper/top	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
World Book Day	Thursday 6th 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