



13th December, 2024
**Wherwell Primary
School Newsletter**



Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together

Dear Parents,

What an incredibly busy term it has been. We have achieved so much in all year groups this term and children have approached everything with high levels of enthusiasm, determination and produced some great work. Trips, visits into and out of school, plus the many events which have taken place, have all been highly successful and I am grateful to the pupils, staff and to you, for your support and cooperation in making these happen. Well done to our children in Puffins and Kingfishers class for their superb Christmas performances. All the children performed with such confidence, positive attitudes and enjoyment. Thank you to all of you who attended and supported the children. We are looking forward to seeing Robins Nativity next week.



Our choir have sung at two events in the villages this Christmas. The first was for a support group for people with a rare brain condition called PSP. We were delighted to receive the following message from them:

"What a wonderful example the children from your school set when they came along to the group yesterday. They sang beautifully and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their performance. They were immaculately behaved and very respectful of the situation. Many thanks indeed for organising this with such speed and ease - we really are very grateful. "

Yesterday, the choir was at Chilbolton Village Hall for a community Christmas Lunch and again, made us very proud. Thank you to Mrs Blackmoor and Mrs Zhang who assisted with the transport for this event.

I cannot end the year without saying a huge thank you to the many volunteers who work hard to support the school in so many ways: The Friends of Wherwell, our classroom/reading/handyperson volunteers and our Governors who do such a great job of overseeing all that we do as well as lending support when needed. Finally, I would like to thank you, our parents, for supporting school activities, the staff and of course the academic progress of your children.

I hope to see many of you (and the children's extended family, grandparents etc) at Wherwell Church for our annual Carol Concert on Thursday 19th, 6pm. The children have been practising hard to provide what promises to be a great evening's entertainment! The Friends of Wherwell will be providing refreshments, in case you needed further encouragement to attend!

I would like to wish you all a safe, happy, and peaceful Christmas, as well as a very happy 2025. Thank you for your support, which has been truly appreciated, especially this half term, along with your feedback and willingness to work with us. Your contributions make a significant and valued difference in what we do and in the lives of your children.

Best wishes,

Mandy

Headteacher

**Whole School Attendance
as at 13.12.2024**

96.8%



ROBINS

Robins Class enjoyed reading Percy the Park Keeper After the Storm. They then spent a happy Friday building new homes for Percy's animal friends both in the classroom and on the school field. The children worked well together and worked on some wonderful, incredibly creative homes for the animals, using a huge variety of resources from the classroom. By the end of the morning, we could barely see the classroom floor!

As well as focusing our learning on After the Storm, Robins Class have been working very hard on their Nativity singing and rehearsals, we are so looking forward to sharing our Nativity with you next Wednesday!



PUFFINS



Puffins have been exceptionally busy over the last two weeks by learning songs and lines, rehearsing and then performing the production of 'Michaelmas Mouse'. We were very proud of all the children for the amount of effort that they put into their performances at what is a very busy and tiring time for all!

In-between rehearsals the children were able to watch and enjoy the pantomime. The children got really involved with the story and there were lots of happy faces to be seen that day.





KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have worked extremely hard to put on several performances of the nativity 'Michaelmas Mouse'. We were very dedicated and motivated in learning our lines and the songs which we delivered brilliantly and many adults have commented on how much they enjoyed the show. We loved working together to produce something so fantastic and feel sad now it's over!

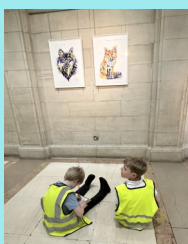


SPARROWHAWKS

It has been a very busy week in Sparrowhawks. We have had our Listen2Me concert with our African drums. The children really enjoyed showing their parents what they had learnt, explaining how to make different sounds and even performing some traditional African songs.



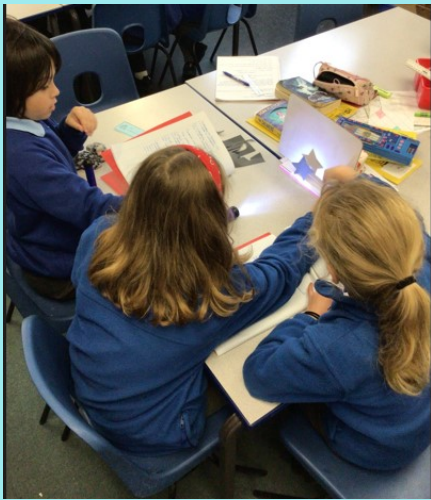
On Wednesday, Sparrowhawks went on a class trip to Southampton art gallery. We had a guided tour and found out about art from different eras. We then had the opportunity to make our own etchings which we printed on to paper. We were all amazed at the variety of art we saw and the different ways art can be produced. There was even a painting with elephant poo! A big thank you to Mrs Zanon – Rodrigues for helping out on this trip.





HOUSE MARTINS

This week, in Science, House Martins have been investigating how moving a light source closer and further away from an object affects the size of the object's shadow. In line with the festive season, we made festive shadow puppets to use during our experiment. To extend our investigation, we tried changing the angle of the light source, to see how this affected the shadow made.



A huge thank you to Amelie in Housemartins and Joseph in Robins (and of course, Mum and Dad!) for the wonderful surprise of these lovely books, which arrived in the post this week. They're such thoughtful gifts and will make excellent additions to our library.

Just as we were putting the finishing touches to the newsletter, we were delighted to receive another book donation, this time from Zofia in Puffins. Zofia will sadly be leaving us for Poland at the end of term, and her gift is a beautiful way to remember her and her lovely family.



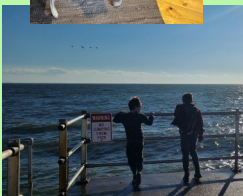
If you or your child would like to donate a book to our library—perhaps instead of birthday sweets—our wish list is available on the website under **Children > Library**.

You can also copy and paste the following details into your browser:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/WPB74ABM7TN9?ref_=wl_share



We love to hear from our alumni, especially when they have moved far away! Here are Leo and Rory who have settled well into their new home in Chile and Noah and Orin who are finding their feet in the USA.



Just look at those lovely blue skies! We suspect Christmas will feel a little different for these families this year and we wish them all the very best in this new and exciting chapter of their lives.





See the Andover Advertiser for the Nativity photo special.

Andover Advertiser
on Friday 20th December




ENJOY
Christmas
INANDOVER

CHRISTMAS TRAIL

JOIN IN THE FUN TRAIL
THROUGHOUT
DECEMBER 2024
TO JANUARY 5TH

INANDOVER
from Andover BID


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Scan QR code



We have received information from Hampshire Police about the report/remove facility where inappropriate images of a child have been posted on-line. More information can be found here:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

Safeguarding

A reminder that if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at the school, you should raise this to one, or all, of the following:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mandy Ovenden, Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Pip Gilbody, Deputy Headteacher

Safeguarding Governor: Karen Bleazard

Children's Services Tel: 0300 555 1384



Diary Dates

Activity	Date
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 Children to arrive at 5.45pm please WOODPECKERS CLOSSES AT 5pm
Whole School Christmas Lunch Wear festive (or similar) jumper/top	Friday 20th December, 12pm-1pm
Last day of term	Friday 20th December
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 (come dressed as a book character but don't spend lots!)	Thursday 6th March
Kingfishers trip to Windsor Castle (further details to follow)	Thursday 20th March
School Disco (important fundraiser for the school)	Thursday 20th 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 (important fundraiser for the school)	Monday 5th May
Year 6 SATS week	Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May
Half Term	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May
Inset Day	Monday 2nd June
Class Photographs	Wednesday 4th June
Year 6 to Runways End (further details to follow)	Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June
Summer Fete (important fundraiser for the school)	Sunday 6th July
Inset Day	Monday 14th July
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 22nd July
First Day of Term	Wednesday 3rd September