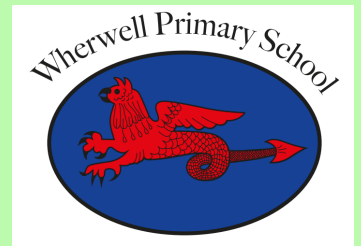


31st January 2025

Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



**Whole School
Attendance as at
31.1.25**

95.3%

Target: 97%

Dear parents,

As we approach the midpoint of the year, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some important reminders and information regarding attendance. Specifically, there has been an increase in the number of requests for term-time holidays, and I would like to remind you that I am unable to authorise any holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

In the event that a term-time holiday is taken without prior authorisation, I **may** be required to issue a penalty notice. This is in line with the school's attendance policy and the guidelines set by the local authority. More information can be found on page 3 and on our school website.

At Wherwell Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children receive an education that maximises opportunities for each pupil to reach their full potential. In order to achieve this, we work hard to provide a welcoming and caring learning environment where every member of the school community feels valued.

Every School Day Counts!

In order for our pupils to achieve their very best it is important that their attendance is good. Every lesson really does count for your child and catching up on lost time from school can be really difficult. Good attendance is linked to increased achievement, positive relationships with other children, and improved learning behaviours.

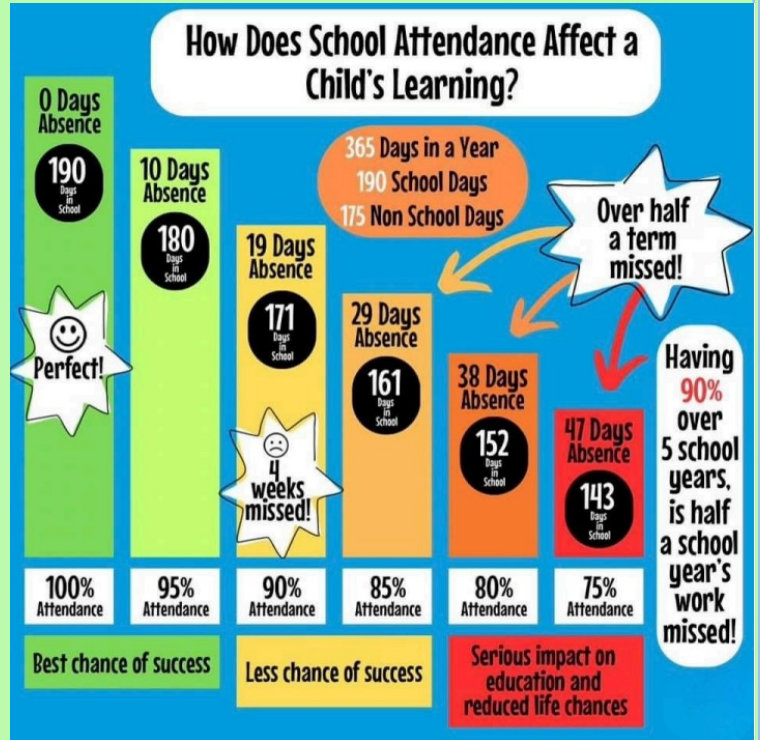
If your child is unwell

We recognise and understand that children do become ill and this may result in them being unable to attend school for a period of time. We ask that parents make the school office aware of any absences by 9:00am for **every** day that your child is absent. You can if you wish leave a message on the answerphone stating your child's name, class and the reason for their absence.

If your child has a sickness/diarrhoea bug, we ask that parents keep them off school for 48 hours after their last episode of sickness.

If your child has an illness that may be contagious, we ask that parents follow the doctors' instructions regarding absence from school. Please keep the school informed about this, as detailed above. There are also some links to useful information pages, below.

The school can administer **prescribed medication** if parents have completed the correct permissions form. The form can be found at the main school office.



Punctuality

It is important that the children arrive at school on time, ready and willing to learn. The gates open at 8:30am and the whistle is blown at 8:40am. All children are expected to be in their classrooms by 8:45am for registration, with the gates being closed at 8:50am. Any child who arrives after the gates are locked, needs to be signed in at the main school reception.

Being late for school reduces learning time and can be highly disruptive and detrimental to a child's self-esteem. Children can often feel embarrassed and/or upset at entering a busy classroom after everyone else; missing the initial morning instructions can mean that individuals are playing 'catch-up' for the rest of the morning or perhaps they have missed an intervention specifically planned to close a learning gap.

Holiday in term time

In order to ensure that the pupils at Wherwell Primary School receive a high-quality education, holidays during term time will not be authorised. Any exceptional circumstances should be put into writing and an individual decision will be made. Unauthorised absences can result in the parents being fined (further information can be found in the Attendance policy on the website). The Local Authority may also decide to take parents to court if they take their child out of school without authorisation.

Other useful information

Our Attendance policy can be found in the policies section on our school website.

NHS information about common childhood illnesses can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

| Students are required to attend school for 190 days each year | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Attendance during one school year | Equals how many days absent | Which is approximately | How many lessons missed | Absence over 5 years |
| 95% | 9 days | 2 weeks | 50 lessons | 1/4 year |
| 90% | 19 days | 4 weeks | 100 lessons | 1/2 year |
| 80% | 38 days | 8 weeks | 200 lessons | 1 year |
| 70% | 59 days | 12 weeks | 300 lessons | 1.5 years |
| 60% | 80 days | 16 weeks | 400 lessons | 2 years |
| 50% | 100 days | 20 weeks | 500 lessons | 2.5 years |

Let's work together to achieve consistently high attendance and punctuality. There are only 190 school days in a year and we want to see every child at school every day because every school day counts!

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the class pages,

Best wishes,

Mandy Ovenden

Headteacher

Taking an unauthorised term-time holiday **may** result in a penalty notice being issued. Below is an explanation of what a penalty notice is and how it works:

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday, the fine amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

**SECOND OFFENCE
(Within 3 years)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days

**THIRD AND FURTHER OFFENCE
(Within 3 years)**

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean cases being presented before a Magistrates Court. If convicted, sanctions can include a fine of up to £2,500 and a prison sentence of up to 3 months, and you will have a criminal record.

Who May be fined?

Penalty Notice fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

National Threshold

All schools in England must consider a Penalty Notice when a pupil has 10 consecutive unauthorised absences. This equates to 5 school days, as each school day is made up of 2 sessions for which absence is marked.

Happy Retirement Juliet!

Juliet Burnet has retired from her role as caretaker at Wherwell. Juliet has worked at the school since 2004 and we are sure that she will have many fond memories from her many years here. We would like to wish her a very happy retirement filled with joy and new adventures.

THANK YOU!



A huge thank you to the Whittle family for their generous donation of this lovely bench. Your kindness is truly appreciated, and we know it will be well used and enjoyed by many!



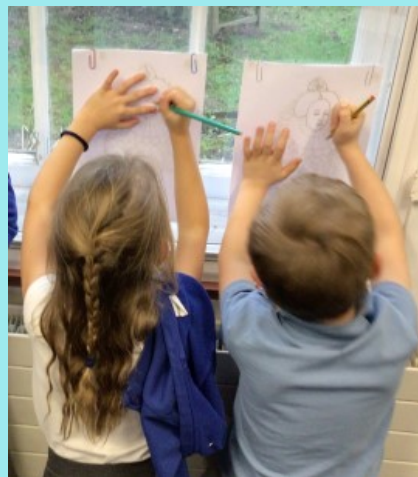
ROBINS

Robins Class put our wellies and waterproofs on and spent a wonderful afternoon using clay and natural objects found in the woodland to make faces for the trees!



PUFFINS

We have been looking at Pop Art portraits. As our current learning unit is 'Queens' we have created some Pop Art Queens. The first part of this process was to trace a stylised version of a Queen's face. There was a lot of concentration going on!

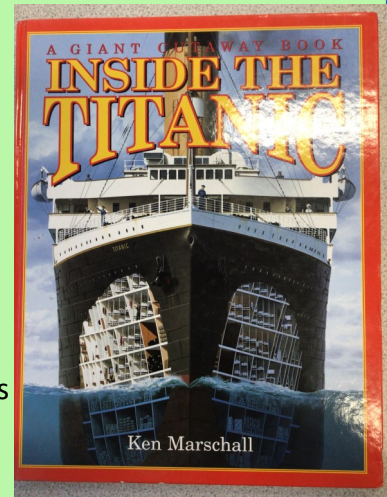


Mid-week, there was a surprising discovery in our classroom... Golden Pants!! There has been much speculation about who they may belong to... Next week the owner of the pants will be revealed along with our new text!

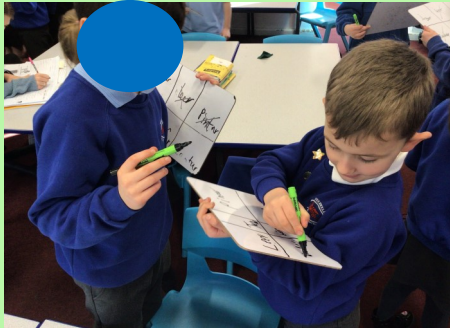


KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have had an exciting couple of weeks learning all about the Titanic and the tragic events that led to its sinking. This week we had an interesting debate about the most important events that led to it sinking. We discovered that the Titanic was going too fast and discussed what the impact of that might have been. We have also been very curious about a book which has been brought into our class which shows cutaway pictures of the Titanic.



In Spanish, we have been learning to discuss our likes, dislikes and our hobbies. This week we enjoyed playing a game of hobbies bingo with each other!



SPARROWHAWKS

The Sparrowhawks have been on a wild adventure, classifying all kinds of animals! We took our investigation outside to the orchard, hunting for invertebrates—and wow, did we find a whole bunch of creepy crawlies! But don't worry, none of them were allowed back into the classroom!



In PE, we've been diving into the fast-paced world of tag rugby—dodging, sprinting, and defending our tags like pros! Even Miss Ball tried to keep up, but the children were just too quick for her!





HOUSE MARTINS

On Friday, House Martins thoroughly enjoyed an all-day STEM workshop in which they learned more about renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The children carried out a whole array of different STEM-based tasks throughout the day. They particularly enjoyed competing to make H₂O with Hydrogen and Oxygen, constructing a water mill and making a human turbine in the playground! Thank you to Dr Spice for what was a truly memorable and brilliant day.



Please Park and Drive with Care

We kindly urge everyone to take extra care when parking. There are many potential hazards, especially with children, who can be unpredictable. Please drive in and out of the carpark at a slow and cautious speed, allowing yourself time to react to any situation.

No one wants the unthinkable to happen just because we are in a hurry. Let's all do our part to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your attention and care.



Save the Date

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

FOR

WHERWELL'S SPRING DISCO

THURSDAY **20** MARCH

YEARS R, 1 & 2

3:30PM - 4:15PM

YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6

4:30PM - 5:45PM

WHERWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS

4-14
years

17TH FEBRUARY - 21ST FEBRUARY

WHERE?

Kimpton, Thruxton &
Fyfield Primary,
Kimpton (SP11 8NT)

PH CAMPS PRICES 2025

| | DAY | WEEK |
|--|--------|---------|
| Breakfast Club (08:00 - 09:00) | £5.00 | £20.00 |
| Day Booking (09:00-15:00) | £27.00 | £121.50 |
| Extended Club (15:00 - 16:00) | £5.00 | £20.00 |
| Extended Club (15:00 - 17:30) | £10.50 | £42.00 |

Early Bird rate £27.00
Ends Sunday 2nd February

BOOK NOW

www.phcamps.co.uk

01225 701830

bookings@phcamps.co.uk



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Ofsted
Registered



PRESENT...

THE BRICK EVENT!

AN EVENT FEATURING LEGO® BRICKS

- Build with **thousands of bricks!**
- **Mosaic building** using LEGO® Dots
- A selection of **amazing models** on display
- **Speedbuild challenges** and leaderboards
- LEGO® Duplo® area for younger builders!
- **Anagram trail** and **full museum access**
- **LEGO Built Robot Battle** show by the Block Party Robot League in each session

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Feb 2025
0930-1130, 1200-1400, 1430-1630

Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop, Hampshire, SO20 8FB

Book online or scan the QR code

www.thebrickpeople.co.uk/events



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Half term fun ~ 17th - 21 Feb

Join us in the Museum over the February half term for
fun code cracking and secret agent themed crafts

from 10.00 to 12.30 each week day

Coded themed trail available from the 10th Feb

18th Feb
Jigsaw
Journey

19th Feb
Wessex
Archaeology
VR Headsets

20th Feb
Hands on
Historic Object
Exploration

15th
and 20th Feb
Model
Making



Price included in admission fee

armyflying.com 01264 781086



Diary Dates

| Activity | Date |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Housemartins—Online safety talk delivered by Hampshire Constabulary | Tuesday 11th February |
| Sparrowhawks—Learning Outcome with parents | Tuesday 11th February, 2:45pm in hall |
| Kingfishers—Learning Outcome with parents | Tuesday 11th February, 2:50pm |
| House Martins—Learning Outcome with parents | Wednesday 12th February 2:50pm |
| Puffins—Learning Outcome with parents | Thursday 13th February, 2:45pm |
| Robins—Parent sharing session | Thursday 13th February, 2:50pm |
| Kingfishers Trip to SeaCity Museum Southampton (Titanic) - details to follow | Friday 14th 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 |
| Kingfishers Trip to Windsor Castle - details to follow | Thursday 20th March |
| School Disco | Thursday 20th March |
| Reports go home to parents | Friday 21st March |
| Optional Parents Evening (following reports) | Wednesday 26th 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 |
| School Photographer—Class photographs | Wednesday 4th June |
| Runways End residential Year 6 - details to follow | Monday 9th June—Friday 13th June |
| Sports Day | Friday 27th June |
| Speak out and stay safe NSPCC (Year 2) - details to follow | Tuesday 1st July, 1:15-1:45pm |
| Speak out and stay safe NSPCC (Years 5 & 6) - details to follow | Tuesday 1st July, 2-3pm |
| Parents' Evening | Wednesday 2nd July 3:30 - 7pm |
| Parents' Evening | Thursday 3rd July 3:30 - 5:30 |
| Summer Fete | Sunday 6th July |
| Inset Day | Monday 14th July |
| Last Day of Term | Tuesday 22nd July |