

**Whole School
Attendance as at
14.2.25**

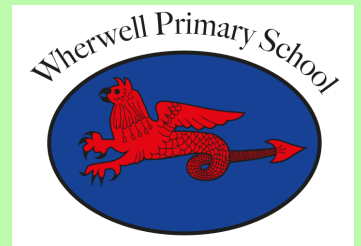
96.3%

Target: 97%

14th February 2025

Wherwell Primary School Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Dear Parents,

This half term has flown by, and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children embrace their learning with enthusiasm. I have been particularly impressed by the effort put into the learning unit homework, and I'd like to thank you for your support in helping them complete these projects.

It was wonderful to see the Puffins proudly wearing their crowns and the Sparrowhawks' cakes and muffins, which were truly fit for royalty! Hopefully, the Kingfishers' boats will stay afloat—unlike the Titanic! I was also amazed by the House Martins' eco-friendly cafés, which showcased incredible creativity and knowledge.

We appreciate that these projects can come around quickly, and moving forward, we will be mindful of the types of projects we set to ensure that they require fewer resources while still being engaging and meaningful.

Relationships, Sex, and Health Education

I wanted to take this opportunity to share more about PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education), which plays a vital role in supporting our children to feel happy and safe. At Wherwell Primary School, we believe in providing an education that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life.

A key aspect of this is relationships and health education, which is a required part of the curriculum for all primary-aged pupils. Our focus is on teaching the fundamental building blocks of positive relationships, including friendships, family relationships, and interactions with both peers and adults.

Sex Education at Wherwell Primary School

Primary schools have the option to teach sex education, and at Wherwell, we include this as part of our Year 6 curriculum. Parents will be informed before these lessons begin in the summer term and will have access to the resources we use. As this content extends beyond the science curriculum, parents have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons by completing the form found at the end of our RSE policy.

Our Approach to RSE and Health Education

Relationships education helps equip pupils with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health, and relationships, while also building their confidence and resilience. Health education further supports pupils in making positive choices regarding their physical and mental health.

At Wherwell, we use the **HeartSmart programme** as a key resource in delivering these important lessons. If you would like to review the resources or discuss our RSE curriculum in more detail, please let me know—I'd be happy to arrange a time for you to come in.

We are committed to delivering a high-quality, age-appropriate, and evidence-based relationships and health curriculum. Our recently reviewed **RSE policy** provides a clear framework for how this curriculum is informed, organised, and delivered, and it is available on the policy section of our website. If there is anything you would like to discuss further, my team and I would be more than happy to meet with you.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 25th February (INSET day on Monday).

Best wishes,

Mandy Ovenden

Headteacher

Punctuality and Absence



You will recall from our last newsletter that Mrs Ovenden talked about absence from school. Also important to our children's education is punctuality. Arriving late in class can mean that a child misses an opportunity to consolidate or improve upon learning from previous days.

If a child is 5 minutes late every day of the school year, that is the equivalent of 3 days lost learning.

A reminder of our timings:

Please note that under Department for Education guidance **a child arriving 15 minutes after registration, 8.55am, must be marked as having an Unauthorised Absence (absent for the whole morning)**

8.30am	<i>Gates are opened and children can be left on the playground</i>
8.40am	<i>Registration of children in class</i>
8.45am	<i>Children arriving in class after 8.45am will be marked late.</i>
8.55am	<i>Children arriving at, or after, 8.55am are marked as having an Unauthorised Absence for the whole morning (1 session)</i>

Perfect Punctuality Pointers

- Remember school opens at 8:30 AM and all children should be IN CLASS by 8:40 AM.
- In school, but not in class, doesn't count!
- Get your child their own alarm clock.
- Set that alarm clock five minutes fast.
- Get everything ready the night before - uniform, packed lunch, PE kit, musical instruments etc
- Come even earlier and join us for breakfast at Early Birds open 8:00 - 8:30 AM every week day in the library
- Don't allow TV or computer games before everyone is ready

Too Sick For School?

- Teach your child good hygiene - regular hand washing and using a tissue will help prevent them picking up or passing on bugs that lead to absence due to illness.
- Children get colds and headaches often but don't always need to miss a full day of school. Try getting them to eat something, drink plenty of water or if necessary give a suitable medication, according to packet or GP instructions.
- If they feel better later on, bring them to school, even if they have missed the morning.
- It is better to send your child to school in all circumstances. If we feel they are too unwell to stay we will send them home.
- You may be asked to provide medical evidence for ill-health absences. We know that it is not easy to get a note from the GP. Evidence can be in the form of; an appointment card, attendance note, prescription or prescribed medication (named, labelled and dated).
- If your child is likely to be absent due to a long term illness, please come and speak to us so that we can put a plan of support in place.





ROBINS

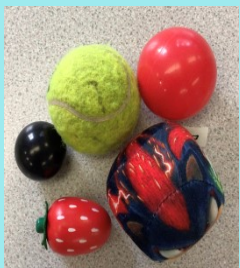
Robins Class have created some wonderful artwork this half term! Recently, linking to our focus on the story Jonty Gentoo and our learning about the Arctic, Robins class created some beautiful northern lights artwork. Robins Class used crayons and a polar bear shape to create these wonderful pictures.



Linking with our focus on another brilliant book, Robins Class watched a video clip of the author and illustrator of Puffin Peter creating a picture of Puffin Peter. We gathered the same resources that he had used and had a go ourselves!



PUFFINS



In Science we have conducted an experiment about which material makes the bounciest ball. We have looked at balls made from different materials, talked about their properties and then made a prediction. We then carried out a fair test and recorded our findings.

Material	Number of bounce
Rubber	5
Wooden	2
Soft plastic	3
Hard plastic	16
fabric	2



In Art we have been printing our portraits of Queen's using black paint and polystyrene tiles onto coloured paper. We have then added the portrait to our Pop Art themed collages.



KINGFISHERS



Kingfishers had a wonderful morning on Tuesday, when Andrew Kent (Hamish's granddad) came to visit. As a previous Port Director for Southampton Docks, Mr Kent had lots of interesting information to share with us all about the Titanic—you could hear a pin drop in Kingfishers Classroom!

The most exciting part was when Mr Kent shared his telescope with us that had been gifted to him by a previous Harbour Master which dates back to the time of the Titanic. Mr Kent told us that this telescope could have been the last thing to see the Titanic sail away from Southampton which we found very exciting. We all had a look through the telescope and decided it looked a little blurry because it was designed to see ships really far away at sea!

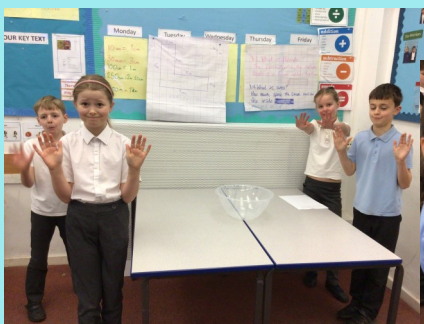


SPARROWHAWKS

Sparrowhawks hosted a special banquet for their parent sharing session, treating their families to a delicious, homemade meal. The day was filled with excitement as the children worked hard to prepare each course, ready to impress their guests.

On the menu: freshly baked bread rolls to start, followed by a choice of cucumber and cream cheese or cheese, tomato, and lettuce sandwiches for the main course. To finish, a delightful homemade jam tart for dessert! The beautifully presented dishes were a joy to share, and the children thoroughly enjoyed dining alongside their parents.

Adding an extra touch of sweetness, Sparrowhawks even brought in some royal cakes from home to share, making the occasion even more special. It was a wonderful experience for all, celebrating the joy of food !



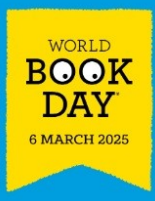


HOUSE MARTINS

This week, House Martins thoroughly enjoyed a visit from the Hampshire Constabulary who came to teach us more about online safety. The children found the visit really interesting and had lots of questions about how they can better stay safe online as well as her life as a police officer. The police officer showed us a really powerful video which demonstrated just how easily our information can be gathered from us in everyday circumstances.



Furthermore, this half term, we've been learning to programme micro-bits for different purposes. This week, we coded our micro bits to count forwards and backwards in different amounts. We've really enjoyed this unit and have learned to create code for a whole range of purposes.



World Book Day – Thursday 6th March 2025

This year for World Book Day we are inviting the children to come dressed as a word rather than a book character. This could be any word, adjective, noun, verb. We will hopefully have fun guessing the chosen word! Here are some ideas to inspire creative and budget-friendly costumes for World Book Day:

Adjectives

- Bright** – Wear neon or shiny clothing.
- Sleepy** – Come in pyjamas with a teddy bear.
- Sparkly** – Wear glittery or shiny accessories.
- Messy** – Mismatched clothes, messy hair.

Nouns

- Rainbow** – Wear colourful clothing.
- Sunshine** – Yellow outfit with a sun cut-out.
- Cloud** – Wear white with cotton wool attached.

Verbs

- Jump** – Decorate clothes with springs or action words.
- Run** – Sportswear with a race number.
- Dance** – Wear a tutu or dance outfit.
- Fly** – Wings or a cape to represent movement.



Children have been given their book tokens so if you haven't found yours, check the book bags! They are valid between 13 February and 23 March 2025.

Friends of Wherwell School



We are delighted to report that the Asda Cashpot for Schools raised £176.00. Huge thanks to everyone who participated to make this a success.



Don't forget the new Cockatrice Book Club being held at The Abbot's Mitre at 7.30pm on Monday 24th February. Join us for nibbles, friendship and conversation. February's book is *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods.



Cockatrice Book Club

Supporting Friends of Wherwell Primary School

Join us on the last Monday of the Month in the Abbots Mitre for some nibbles, friendship and insightful conversation.

£5 per person

(includes nibbles and our donation to friends of Wherwell)

February's book

Monday 24th Feb
7.30pm
Abbot's Mitre



Books £1 or free on
Amazon Kindle

'The thing about books,' she said 'is that they help you to imagine a life bigger and better than you could ever dream of.'

On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found...

For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives.

But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems.



Keep an eye out for upcoming class cake sale dates! These sales are always a treat—both delicious and a fantastic way to support Friends of Wherwell Primary School. Their fundraising efforts are absolutely vital to the school, helping us provide valuable extras that enrich the children's learning experience. We truly depend on these funds to make a difference!



The Friends of Wherwell Primary School are a friendly bunch who are always looking for new volunteers. If you think you might be able to offer a little of your time for our special events, please contact your class representative.



Welcome to Bubble Church

Bubble Church is a free, puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-food-fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure.

Here's the deal: you turn up at St Mary the Less Chilbolton 15 minutes early for a snack and a coffee, then you'll be guided to a 'bubble', and you and your little ones will share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets, and prayer.

Bubble Church at St Mary the Less Chilbolton will be at 4pm every Sunday, starting Sunday 23rd February.

Book if you can at www.bubblechurch.org



Book online at
www.bubblechurch.org



**St Mary the Less
Chilbolton**

Chilbolton Village Street,
Chilbolton, Hampshire, SO20 6BQ

www.downsbenefice.org

office@downsbenefice.org.uk



Diary Dates

Activity	Date
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 Yr R, 1 & 2 at 3.30-4.15pm Yr 3,4,5 & ^ at 4.30-5.45pm
Reports go home to parents	Friday 21st March
Optional Parents Evening (following reports)	Wednesday 26th March
Easter Holidays	Monday 7th to Monday 21st April
Return to School	Tuesday 22nd April
Avon Tyrell residential, Years 4 and 5	Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May
Harewood Run	Monday 5th May
Half Term holiday	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th June
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