

18th July 2025

# Wherwell Primary School Newsletter



**Whole School Attendance as at:**  
**18.7.25:**  
**Target: 97%**  
**Actual: 96.6%**

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another incredible school year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, adventures, and memories we've shared together as a school community. It has been a fantastic year, full of hard work and excellent results, particularly in our Year One Phonics testing where we achieved an incredible pass rate 90%. Our children have shown enthusiasm, curiosity, and resilience in their learning, rising to every challenge and making the most of every opportunity. From exciting topics in the classroom to engaging activities beyond the school gates, there's been no shortage of memorable moments.

We've been lucky to enjoy some fantastic trips this year, including a visit to Windsor Castle, Alice Holt Forest, The Watercress Line, and Hillier Gardens, to name just a few. These experiences have enriched our curriculum and created lasting memories for the children.

A particularly exciting addition to our school this year has been the allotment—and what a success it's been! The children have loved getting hands-on with growing their own food. We've harvested huge courgettes, tasty sugar snap peas, peppery radishes, and even have carrots just starting to come through. It's been a brilliant opportunity to learn about nature, responsibility, and healthy eating.

Our pupil leaders have stepped up brilliantly, demonstrating responsibility and teamwork through their roles as School Council representatives, House Captains, Prefects, Eco Champions and librarians. Their contributions have made a real difference in shaping our school community.

A highlight of the year has been our wonderful whole-school events, many of which were attended by our supportive families. We shared special moments together at our Harvest celebration at the Church, our festive Christmas performance, uplifting musical showcases, and the fantastic production of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* by Sparrowhawks and Housemartins—a show to remember!

We are so proud of our dedicated staff, who go above and beyond every day to ensure that every child thrives, learns, and feels valued. Their commitment is the heartbeat of our school.

To our amazing children: thank you for your enthusiasm, energy, and love of learning. You make our school a joyful and inspiring place every single day.

We wish you all a restful and happy summer, and we look forward to another brilliant year ahead!

Our Year 6 children have exceeded expectations and achieved brilliantly in their assessments— we are so proud of them and they must be congratulated for their incredible hard work and resilience. We can see huge progress at an individual level for each and

KEY STAGE 2	Reading	English SPAG *	Maths	Writing TA **
KS2 Expected standard plus <b>Wherwell</b>	100%	93%	93%	93%
KS2 Expected standard Plus <b>National</b>	75%	73%	74%	72%
KS2 Greater Depth <b>Wherwell</b>	63%	56%	28%	21%
KS2 Greater Depth <b>National</b>	38%	40%	26%	13%

every child and if you were able to come and see their performance of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*, you would have seen such amazing personal progress for every one of them.

I am so proud of our Year 6 pupils, who have consistently set a great example across the school. They have been helpful and kind, offering support to both their peers and younger children. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch them grow into confident, capable learners. As they take the big step into secondary school, I wish them all the very best. They are more than ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Goodbye and good luck, Martha, Miya, Solomon, Arien, Abigail, Julia, Anastasia, Savannah, Hannah, Millie, Jessica, William, Jacob and Charlie. You will all be missed!

Mandy Ovenden,  
Headteacher



## Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

Last week saw Sparrowhawks and House Martins raise the curtain and bring the house down with their spectacular performance of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'!

Catchy songs, dastardly villains, gold plated bonkers, this show had it all and was brought to life by amazing performances from every single child. They sang, they danced, they wore smashing tights (well long socks as a compromise!).

Retelling the classic tale of Robin Hood, Sparrowhawks and House Martins invited us to Sherwood where England's finest troupe of wandering entertainers (The Merry Men) took on the villainous Sherriff of Nottingham, his Frenchmen (sorry, Henchmen!) and 'King' John. We were blown away by their costumes, songs and how they brought their characters to life, they really were amazing!

We would like to thank everyone involved for the part they played in bringing this wonderful play to stage, especially the teachers Miss Ball, Miss Cammack and Mrs Elmslie, whose dedication and vision were the driving force behind such an incredible show.



## Dates for Next Year

Below are some important dates for your diary. We start back on Wednesday 3rd September (Robins finish at 12). On the second full week back, there will be an opportunity to come along to a short presentation from the teacher who will share an overview of the year ahead (curriculum topics and trips) and other useful information such as homework and expectations. These will take place in the hall after drop off (see the dates below). We hope that you can make it but if you can't you will be able to view the Power Point on the website after the meeting date.

### INSET DAYS

Friday 24th October  
Monday 23rd February  
Friday 22nd May  
Monday 15th June  
Monday 6th July

### MEET THE TEACHER PRESENTATIONS

Monday 8th September 8:45- 9 - House Martins  
Tuesday 9th September 8:45- 9 Sparrowhawks  
Wednesday 10th September 8:45-9 Robins  
Thursday 11th September 8:45-9 Kingfishers  
Friday 12th September 8:45-9 Puffins

### OPEN MORNINGS FOR YEAR R INTAKE 2026

Wednesday 15th October 10:45-12  
Wednesday 12th November 10:45-12



## ROBINS

Robins Class used paint and pebbles to make some fantastic minibeasts a few weeks ago. We then spent a wonderful afternoon on the field with Mrs Hill using objects that we had found to make homes for our minibeasts as well as some natural art too.



## PUFFINS

Puffins have been busy harvesting courgettes from their allotment and using them to help practise their cutting skills. We used a variety of vegetables and cut them using techniques such as fork secure, the claw and the bridge. We also used a grater for the carrots, the children had great fun polishing off all of the vegetables afterwards! We are learning these techniques ready for next week when we get to make a tasty Chinese stir fry.

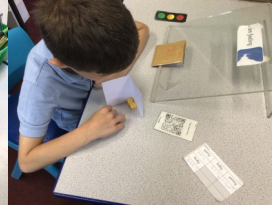
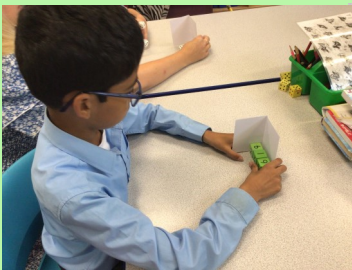




## KINGFISHERS

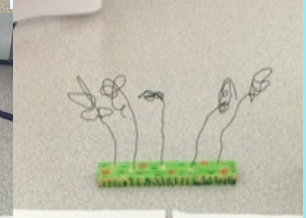
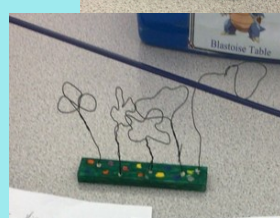
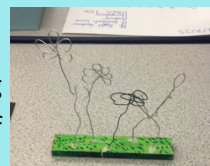
Kingfishers were really excited to have finally finished their wonderful artwork. Last term, we made picture frames which can stand up on their own. We used clear plastic film to give them a really professional look. This term, we created a beautiful painting inspired by Hokusai's famous work 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'. We have put these paintings in our frames and are very proud of the outcome!

This week in maths, Kingfishers have been looking at problem solving. We particularly enjoyed the problem called 'Dice in a corner'. We had 2 or 3 dice and the faces that we could see had to add up to 18. It got more challenging as we worked our way up through the levels!



## SPARROWHAWKS

Our Sparrowhawks have been mastering wire art, carefully twisting and shaping wire to create their own charming little bunches of flowers. They paid close attention to detail, making sure each bloom was unique in its shape and size.



We're also thrilled to announce that our sugar snap peas have grown beautifully! Everyone had a great time picking and tasting them. While the majority enjoyed the fresh, sweet flavour, we saw some hilariously disgusted reactions from a few brave tasters!



## HOUSE MARTINS

This week the Year 6s in House Martins wowed everyone with their incredible SATs results. I (Miss Cammack) want to add my huge congratulations to the children— they worked so incredibly hard and deserved the fantastic success they achieved. With assessments behind us, we've thrown ourselves whole-heartedly into something just as exciting — our end-of-year production! After a fantastic dress rehearsal last week, we've been busy adding the finishing touches to props, lines, programmes and staging. Every pupil has played their part, onstage and off, to bring the show to life. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed putting it together!



## Leaving us, but always one of us!



We will be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Shahinian at the end of this term. She has been part of the Wherwell School family since 2014, when her eldest daughter first joined us, and we were thrilled to welcome her onto the staff four years later.

Since then, she has somehow juggled work, home life and studying and completed her teaching qualifications while keeping everything else afloat! This September, she takes the next exciting step in her journey as she begins her first teaching post at West Tytherley School. We have no doubt she will be a wonderful teacher, and we wish her every happiness and success in her new role. They are very lucky to have her!

## Welcome to our new staff

In September, we welcome Mrs Christopher and Mrs Brown to our fabulous team of Learning Support Assistants. Mrs Christopher comes to us from a nursery setting, whilst Mrs Brown will be known to you from Breakfast Club and as Emma's Mum! We are excited to welcome them both and look forward to working with them.

## Off to pastures new

At the end of this year we also say farewell to some of our children. In addition to the Year 6s who are leaving us, we also say goodbye to Arnaud and Florent who are returning Canada, as is Ben from Housemartins, Margot in Robins who is off to Kent and Hamish and Mia who are both off to new schools. We wish them, and their families, all the very best for the future.

## Thank you!

All the staff would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported Wherwell Primary over the last year, in so many wonderful ways.

To the Friends of Wherwell, our dedicated Governors, the volunteer drivers, marvellous cake bakers, tireless working party troops, ever generous volunteer readers, and enthusiastic competition organisers, we truly couldn't do it without you. Whether you've been wielding a spade, a spatula, or a spreadsheet, your contributions have made a real difference to the life of the school.

Thank you all for being part of such a caring, generous and lively school community. You are appreciated more than you know!

In her turn, Mrs Ovenden would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our amazing teaching and support staff, who dedicate their time, energy (and sometimes their wellies) to enriching the children's lives in so many ways.

From the TLC dished out after tumbles in the playground to the patient, untangling of friendship dramas that make a soap opera look simple, our staff are always there with a listening ear, a kind word, and usually a tissue or two. Meanwhile, every trip, visit and themed day might look effortless from the outside, but behind the scenes there's a flurry of planning, permission slips, risk assessments and clipboard-wielding brilliance. And of course when it comes to residential, our staff and volunteers don't just go the extra mile, they go the extra week!

From late-night suitcase zips to early-morning headcounts, you give your all. Thank you for everything you do (especially the bits that involve glitter, glue and lost lunchboxes).

## A letter from Friends of Wherwell Primary School (PTA)

It was great to welcome and see so many people at our Summer fete on the 6th July. The day was a great success. The Test Valley Brass Band and the DUO band kept us entertained, the dancers showed off their skills in the arena, whilst guests enjoyed a drink and tasty burger. Our stalls, from Lego to face painting, the bouncy castle to 'guess the name of the Jelly Cat', were constantly busy and the raffle was very popular. Even the rain couldn't dampen our spirits. Through the generosity of our guests, parents, grandparents and broader Wherwell community, **the event raised over £6,600 and a 'profit' of nearly £4,900 for school funds**. This has been the most successful fete in recent years at Wherwell School and sets the community up for an even better fete for 2026. Thank you to all the volunteers that made the event so special. Whether you donated your pounds, your pennies, your presence or time. It all came together and created a lovely community event we can all be proud of. The event could not have happened without you. The funds raised through the PTA and community are used to enrich the curriculum at Wherwell School and provide the extracurricular activities, and educational essentials, which sadly, the school budget does not cover. This includes subsidising school trips and organised events such as the STEM day, improving the outdoor classroom and allotment area, and providing resources for the classrooms to enhance learning.

Having joined the Wherwell School community when our children started school, it is time for myself as Treasurer and Caroline as Chair to stand down from the PTA at the end of this school year. It is time to pass the baton on to the next group of enthusiastic parents of Wherwell School. We also say goodbye to Susannah Whittle who's been a vital and active member of the PTA. Caroline and I will cease to be Chair and Treasurer from Sept 2025. This means that we need members of our community to step forward and drive the next stage of the PTA at Wherwell School. Without people volunteering, the PTA will not function and will not raise the funds the school needs to enrich the education of our community of learners. The PTA group is active and welcoming to anyone who can assist, in any way. There will be a formal meeting in October 2025 where the new members will be elected. If you're interested, please drop an email to wherwellprimarypta@gmail.com and we can have a chat.

Andy Revell, Outgoing Treasurer and Caroline Sharp, Outgoing Chair

**Have a wonderful summer break - enjoy your time in the sunshine with your children, and we look forward to welcoming most of you back to school on Wednesday 3 September, full of fresh air, relaxed and ready to begin another chapter!**

# Brilliant Bugs

We were *buzzing* with excitement over the wonderfully creative entries to the Brilliant Bug Competition! A huge thank you to Sam Robbins for organising this competition and prizes and also to our eagle-eyed judges – Susannah, Karen, Leticia, Sophie, Kerensa, Kate, and Nese – who had the tricky task of choosing winners from such a *swarm* of talent. We're very grateful for the time and care they gave to this *bug-tastic* challenge!

Overall KS1 winner



Nellie W  
Age 5  
Butterfly

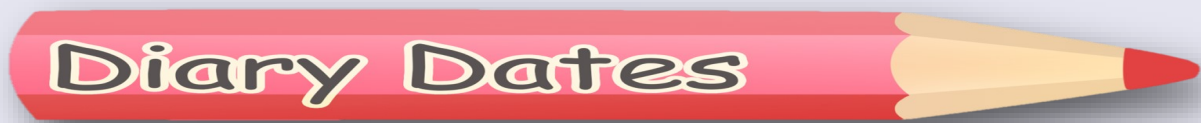
Overall KS2 winner



Bertie  
Age 10  
Stag Beetle

We can't do justice to the rest of the bugs in this limited space, so please have a look at the document attached to the newsletter email to see the rest of the entries.

Award	Prize	Name of Child
Robins 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (Joint)	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Nellie
Robins 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (Joint)	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Isaac
Robins 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Jessica
Robins 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Daisy
Puffins 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Henley
Puffins 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	George
Puffins 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Elestren
Kingfishers 1 <sup>st</sup> Place	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Matilda
Kingfishers 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Hamish
Sparrowhawks 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (Joint)	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Rex
Sparrowhawks 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (Joint)	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Noah
Sparrowhawks 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Thomas
Sparrowhawks 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Fergus
Housemartins 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (Joint)	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Lucas
Housemartins 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (Joint)	£10 waterstones voucher and rosette	Bertie
Housemartins 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Daisy
Housemartins 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Watercolour paint, book & rosette	Arien



# Diary Dates

Activity	Date
Talent Show for Finalists (school only)	Monday 21 July
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 22nd July
Housemartins overview of coming year in school hall	Monday 8th September, 08:45
Sparrowhawks overview of coming year in school hall	Tuesday 9th September, 08:45
Robins overview of coming year in school hall	Wednesday 10th September, 08:45
Kingfishers overview of coming year in school hall	Thursday 11th September, 08.45
Puffins overview of coming year in school hall	Friday 12th September, 08:45
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