

Whole School

Attendance as at:

12.9.25: 98.4%

Target: 97%

12th September 2025

Wherwell Primary School

Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Welcome back to a new school year at Wherwell! A very special welcome to all our new families and children who have joined our school community—we are delighted to have you with us. I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you for the thoughtful gifts and kind words I received at the end of last term. It is truly a privilege to do this job and to play a part in shaping the future of our children. Your generosity and support mean so much. Mrs Elmslie has also asked me to pass on her sincere thanks for her lovely gift.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the *Meet the Teacher* presentations this week. I hope you found them helpful. The presentation slides are available in the *Class Pages* section of our website.

Please remember that my door is always open—whether you have a question, need advice, or would like to offer constructive feedback. I am always keen to find ways to make our school experience the very best it can be. Likewise, teachers can be contacted via email at reporting@wherwell.hants.sch.uk (can be seen by all staff) or through the school office at adminoffice@wherwell.hants.sch.uk (only seen by admin staff and will be passed on).

We have been so pleased to see how well the children have settled back into school life after the summer break. They are already showing great enthusiasm for their learning and are quickly re-establishing routines.

A special mention goes to our new Year R children, who have made a fantastic start to their school journey. They are rapidly learning daily routines, making new friends, and embracing the Wherwell way of life with confidence and smiles. Well done also to our Year 6 buddies, who have risen to the challenge of supporting their Year R partners, particularly at lunchtimes.

As you may know, we have recently developed a new outdoor learning area for Puffins class. Learning outside brings so many benefits, helping to increase both engagement and attainment. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring everything it has to offer, and we are excited about the purposeful learning opportunities it will provide. Do take a look at the photos on the next page to see it in action.

This week in our assemblies we have been focusing on one of our learning behaviours – independence, represented by *Orla the Owl*. We have been discussing what independent learners can do and encouraging children to develop this important lifelong skill. Hopefully you will see these independent skills in action at home too.

Work by yourself.

Be organised with getting the resources you need for a task.

Solve problems.

ORLA THE OWL INDEPENDENCE

Make your own decisions.

Know when to ask for help.

Avoid and manage distractions.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,

Mandy (Headteacher)

Puffins new outdoor area



Catering

Some of you may already be aware that Hampshire Catering have ceased to operate and we, in common with many other schools in the area, have been seeking alternative caterers to provide midday meals for the children. We are very excited to have CleverChefs on board. As we are a small school, we are sharing our contract with Stockbridge Primary School to help keep the meal costs at a reasonable level. Our current catering provision will continue until October Half Term and thereafter will move to CleverChefs. More information will follow over the coming weeks, including handling of allergens, booking and payments.





ROBINS



The Robins have had a fantastic start to the school year! They have adapted well to the full days and are learning all the routines of the class brilliantly, with a little help along the way from their very kind Year 6 buddies.

There is a lot to discover both inside and outside the classroom, and it has been lovely to see the children exploring and investigating all of the equipment and activities available to them.

They have got off to a flying start in phonics this week and have already learned the first four sounds!



PUFFINS

Puffins have made a great start to the new school year! Last week we spent time getting to know each other and developing our 'Puffin Promises' together. We also developed our teamwork by working together in small groups to see which group could make the tallest tower using only cocktail sticks and Blu Tac. All of the children rose to the challenge but the winning group made a tower of 22cm!



In Art the children have started finding out about what a portrait is and having a look at some portraits by famous artists. The children had a go at creating their own this week using both pencils and pencil crayons and also chucks. Watch this space for some more amazing portraits coming soon!



KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have had a wonderful start to the new school year and both Miss Upton and Mrs Robinson have been really impressed at how they have dealt with the new routines and, of course, the challenges of a new year group.



Kingfishers have started their new English unit of work on the book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. We are really enjoying this story and are looking forward to writing our own set of instructions. At the beginning of this unit of work, we



had to instruct Miss Upton because she didn't know how to make a jam sandwich. We were very surprised to find the tub of butter on top of the slice of bread when we told her to 'put the butter on the bread'! We learnt that instructions should always be specific and we saw what happens if they are not. After that, we had to instruct our partners to build an identical tower to ours, using just our words!



SPARROWHAWKS

In Sparrowhawks, we have hit the ground running with our History topic, creating a timeline to find out when the Vikings were around.



In Maths, we have been using counters to flexibly partition numbers up to 10,000 and some children have even been up to 1,000,000.

Finally, in English we have been exploring the book 'Leon and the Place Between'. The children created their own freeze frames to represent the scenery, such as luminous lamps and majestic sailboats, from the place between.





HOUSE MARTINS

House Martins have already thrown themselves enthusiastically into our World War II learning unit this week. It's evident we have some WW2 machinery experts in residence who have made fantastic contributions to our lessons! Highlights so far have included using our classroom Anderson shelter, examining some brilliant artefacts kindly brought in by Mrs Hill, and a fascinating Q&A session with Amelie's great grandfather about life in WW2 London.



Introducing our new staff

New to the Learning Support team for September are Mrs Christopher and Miss Brown who have already settled in very well and seem to be enjoying their work here at Wherwell.



Mrs Christopher

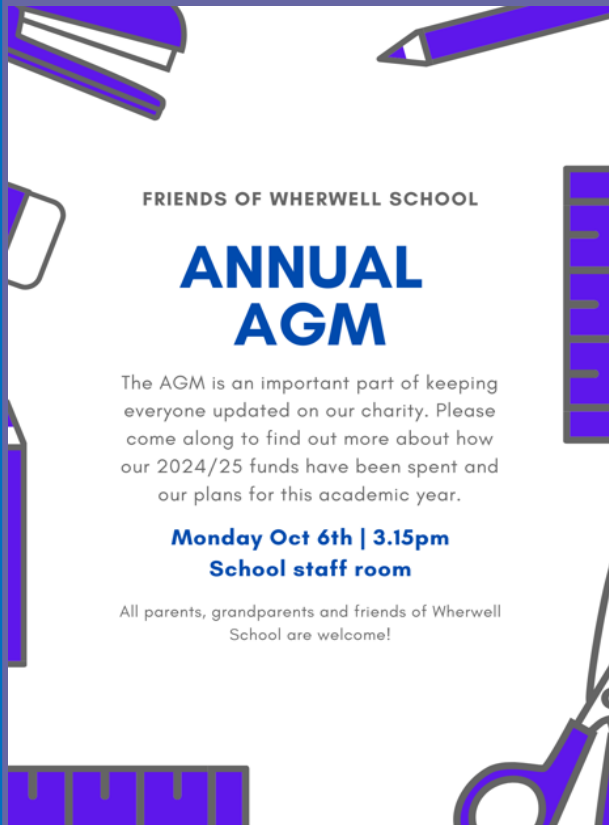


Miss Brown

Off to pastures new

Over the Summer, we said goodbye to siblings Melanie, Lucas and Chloe. We are sad to see them go but they are excited for the next chapter in their lives and we wish them all every success. Their departure leaves us with a couple of vacancies, so if you know anyone who is considering moving schools, we'd love to hear from them!

Could you be our next Friends of Wherwell (PTA) Chair or Treasurer?



As we said at the end of the last academic year, we're both stepping down as the Friends of Wherwell Chair and Treasurer after 5 years of support. We joined when all the previous members left when their children finished year 6. This effectively meant that Friends of Wherwell had to start over. To avoid this happening again, we wanted to ensure there's time to handover and support new members before our children leave school. We also feel that now's the time for some fresh input and ideas.

The PTA has grown over the last couple of years, and we now have lots of parents who help at events such as the fete and Harewood Run. We just need two volunteers to take on these roles as the charity cannot continue without named individuals in post.

If you can help, please let us know by emailing wherwellprimarypta@gmail.com.

We will be formally standing down at the PTA AGM on 6th October.

Thanks for your support

Caroline Sharp and Andy Revell

AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS



Join us for a public meeting to find out how the Chilbolton Community Land Trust is working to create affordable housing for local people. Help shape the types of homes we'll build and our approach

**Chilbolton Village Hall Thursday
25th September @ 7pm**

Have your say on affordable local homes – join as a member

Find out more at cclt.co.uk or our Facebook page 'Chilbolton Community Land Trust (CCLT)'



Diary Dates

| Activity | Date |
|---|---|
| House Martins trip to STEAM Museum Swindon - details to follow | Monday 6th October |
| Kingfishers Visit from Salisbury Museum Stone Age - details to follow | Wednesday 8th October |
| Sparrowhawks Trip to Ufton Court Vikings - details to follow | Thursday 9th October |
| Open Morning for September 2026 Year R Admissions - Book on Website | Wednesday 15th October |
| Robins Parent share | Wednesday 15th October, 2:50pm |
| Harvest Festival at Wherwell Church - details to follow | Thursday 16th October, 10:45am |
| Kingfishers Parent share | Thursday 16th October, 2:50pm |
| Sparrowhawks Parent share | Monday 20th October, 2:50pm |
| House Martins Parent share | Tuesday 21st October, 8:50am |
| Puffins Parent share | Wednesday 22nd October, 2:50pm |
| Last day of school | Thursday 23rd October |
| INSET DAY | Friday 24th October |
| Half Term Holiday | Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October |
| First day back to school | Monday 3rd November |
| Armistice Service, Walk to Wherwell War Memorial - details to follow | Tuesday 11th November, 11:00am |
| Puffins Trip to Milestones Museum Basingstoke - details to follow | Wednesday 12th November |
| Open Morning for September 2026 Year R Admissions - Book on Website | Wednesday 12th November |
| Fraser Portraits - Individual Photographs | Thursday 13th November |
| House Martins Tree Planting at Bury Hill - details to follow | Wednesday 26th November |
| Parents Evening | Wednesday 26th November, 3:30 - 5:30pm |
| Parents Evening | Thursday 27th November, 3:30 - 7pm |
| Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity | Tuesday 9th December, 6pm |
| Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity | Wednesday 10th December, 2pm |
| Robins Nativity | Wednesday 17th December, 2pm |
| Christmas carol Service at Wherwell Church | Thursday 18th December, 6pm |
| Last day of term | Friday 19th December |
| First day of Spring term | Monday 5th January |
| INSET DAY | Monday 23rd February |
| INSET DAY | Friday 22nd May |
| INSET DAY | Monday 15th June |
| INSET DAY | Monday 6th July |