

**Whole School
Attendance as at
10 October is 97.17%.
Target: 97%**

10 October 2025

Wherwell Primary School

Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Dear Parents,

It's been another busy fortnight of learning, and the sound of Harvest songs has been coming from every classroom! The children have been working hard not only on their lessons but also preparing for our upcoming Harvest celebrations. It's always such a joy to see their enthusiasm and hear their beautiful singing echoing through the corridors. We hope you will be able to join us on Thursday (16th).

Trips and visitors

It's been an exciting week for House Martins, Sparrowhawks, and Kingfishers, who have all taken part in enrichment activities designed to bring their History learning to life.

House Martins enjoyed a trip to STEAM in Swindon, where they experienced hands-on, role-play discovery sessions focused on World War II. This immersive visit gave the children a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of the war in a fun and engaging way. Well done to all the children who dressed in period costume.

Kingfishers welcomed a representative from The Salisbury Museum into their classroom. They took part in interactive workshops where they identified historical objects and explored Stone Age artefacts in a hands-on, engaging session.

Sparrowhawks had an unforgettable day at Ufton Court in Reading, delving into the Viking Age. The day focused on Viking culture, skills, and their historical impact, and was an immersive memorable learning experience.

There's nothing better than a trip, the chance to handle real artefacts, and learning from an expert to make history truly memorable.

Sports



As part of the Test Valley group of seven schools, we regularly take part in a variety of sporting events throughout the year.

Last week, Miss Ball proudly supported a group of our pupils at a cross country event hosted by Wallop Primary School. The children demonstrated fantastic determination and resilience, and we were incredibly proud of their efforts.

Looking ahead we're excited to be taking part in both girls' and boys' football competitions, and we aim to give as many children as possible the chance to get involved and represent the school.

A big thank you to all the parents who supported, and to Miss Ball for organising and encouraging our runners. Thanks also to Mrs Orvis who is supporting our new school 'Running Club' which has encouraged some budding runners.

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award last year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Enjoy looking at your class page. Have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes, Mandy (Headteacher)



Important Safeguarding Alert

We have been alerted by HCC of a serious issue involving some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the 'Spy Dogs', 'Spy Cats' and 'Spy Pups' series. Some editions of these books include a web link at the front or inside the back cover. This used to link to the author's website. Sadly this is no longer the case; it now links to a website with highly explicit adult content.

At school we have removed the books from the library and classrooms, and we advise all parents to check their children's bookshelves and remove any copies of these books. There is no problem with the books themselves, so, after removing the link they can be returned, however, we advise a conversation with children about not following links in books, or elsewhere, without asking permission.

Flu Immunisation

Next Tuesday, 14 October, in the afternoon, we will be visited by the School Nursing service to carry out flu immunisation for the whole school (via nasal spray). All parents were sent a letter with a link to 'Cinnamon' the nursing team's online consent form. I understand that the take-up has been 75.2%. The link to 'Cinnamon' has now been closed. Parents can contact the school nursing team on 02382 318318, if they haven't yet consented and would like their child immunised. Alternatively, for the 24.8%, the 'Cinnamon' link will reopen on Wednesday 15 October, when parents will be invited to take their child to a local community clinic for their immunisation.

Christmas card orders

Christmas card proofs came home with the children on Thursday. If you haven't already done so please retrieve them from your child's bag. Early ordering is encouraged. Ideally they would like all orders in by 16th October. Please spend some time over this weekend ordering your Christmas Cards.

Cleverchefs

All parents should now be aware that the school will move to Cleverchefs for their catering with effect from 3 November, immediately after half term. All parents were sent an e.mail on 1 October with a link to follow to inform Cleverchefs of any allergies the children may have. Please contact the school if you didn't receive that e.mail—it's important that Cleverchefs have all the information they need. Meanwhile, look out for information, either from the school, or from Cleverchefs, with details of how to order your child's meals for after half-term.



Our Harvest Festival assembly is on **Thursday 16th October at 10:45** at the church. All families and friends are welcome to attend. We will walk the whole school down to the church leaving at 10:15 and will be doing the return journey at 11:30. We would be very grateful if you are able to volunteer some time to walk with us, one way or both. Please let the office know if you can so we can make sure we have enough supervision to be safe. The children have been busy learning some songs which I am sure you will enjoy.



Harvest appeal



Help support Andover Foodbank this Harvest

So far this year the Foodbank has supported 4000 people in our community with over 40 tonnes of essential items

Donate food



Donate 1 or 2 items so we can provide food for people in your community who cannot afford the essentials

Donate money



Help to cover our operating costs, including a Citizens Advice caseworker to provide financial support

Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned/instant potatoes
- Tinned soup
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Rice pudding/custard
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- Milk (long life)

DONATE FOOD

Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Please bring in all donations for the food bank from Monday to Wednesday. There will be a table set up in the hall for your offerings.

01264 362111

andover.foodbank.org.uk

Please vote for us with your blue tokens



We are thrilled to share some exciting news — Wherwell has been selected to take part in the Tesco Stronger Starts programme!

This means that from October to the 12 January 2025, you can vote for us in selected Tesco stores in (see list below). Your vote could help us receive funding to restore our Key Stage 2 play equipment.

What Is Tesco Stronger Starts?

Tesco Stronger Starts is a community grant scheme that helps schools and local charities access much-needed funding for projects that support children, families, and education. It's a way for Tesco customers to vote with their blue tokens and support good causes in their local area.

When you shop in a participating Tesco store, you'll be given a blue token to place in one of three voting boxes — and Wherwell is one of those boxes!

Where to Vote

You can cast your blue token vote in the following Tesco stores:

Andover Extra Extra SP10 1UZ

Andover Cricketers Express Express SP10 5DD

Whitchurch Andover Express Express RG28 7AL

Charlton Andover Express Express SP10 4AJ

Andover Weyhill Road Express Express SP10 3BG

How to Vote It's really simple to take part:

1. Shop in one of the participating Tesco stores (no minimum spend required).
2. At the checkout, you'll receive a blue token.
3. Head to the voting station near the exit and drop your token into Wherwell's Gift box.

That's it! Your vote will make our children very happy!



ROBINS

Robins Class have enjoyed our Drawing Club story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' this week. We have drawn the bear, the forest and a way for the family to get across the river without getting soggy! Robins Class also had fun retelling the story using actions out on the field and enjoyed looking at photos of different bears. The children then chose their favourite bear and painted it. We thought their bear paintings were so wonderful that we've put them all up on display.

In our maths lessons this week, Robins Class have been focusing on the skills that we need to count effectively. In our phonics lessons, Robins have progressed to writing cvc words, such as 'dog', as well as the focus sound.



PUFFINS

We have now started looking at addition in Puffins. Last week we all went outside to work on large scale part-whole models so that we could see the difference between the parts and the whole. We then moved back indoors and started working with counters instead and now we're working with numbers!



In English we have moved onto a new text. Although it is new to us it's still a very familiar story as it's the Three Little Pigs! We have listened to different versions so that we can compare and contrast and we have also created story hills and sequenced pictures from the book to help us to retell the traditional tale. Perhaps you have a different version at home that you can share?



KINGFISHERS

Last week, we made some shakers in music. We used bottles and filled them with rice to make music of our own! Thank you very much to the kind donors of the bottles!

Kingfishers have been enjoying learning all about the Stone Age through to the Iron age. This week, we had Clare from Salisbury Museum in to teach us all about life thousands of years ago. There was so much excitement in the Kingfishers classroom as we saw real life artefacts from the Stone Age, including a tooth from a woolly mammoth and learnt about how archaeologists discover clues about life in the past. We even tried dressing up like stone age people but we decided it was quite smelly!



SPARROWHAWKS

Last week in Science, Sparrowhawks carried out their own experiment into the gasses in fizzy drinks and seeing how much they weighed with and without the fizz. We had lots of fun doing the experiment even if it was tempting to drink some.



Sparrowhawks had lot of fun at Ufton Court on Thursday. Where we pretended to be a Viking for the day. This included exploring our Viking village to make thread and weave fences. We then split into two groups and “battled” each other. Finally we went on a Viking voyage raiding different countries as we sailed through. We all had lots of fun and enjoyed being Vicious Vikings.





HOUSE MARTINS

House Martins were fortunate enough to go to the STEAM museum in Swindon this week as part of their World War II learning unit. We attended four fantastic workshops, each covering different aspects of life in WW2.

In the picture below, you can see the children acting out the story of a family during WW2. We found out how their lives changed during and after the war and learned about how the Home Front contributed to the war effort. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Mrs Tully, Mrs Creese and Mrs Blackmoor for coming along on the trip.



Reading

The children have some new and exciting places to read in school.



Thank you to Mr Cammack (Katie's dad) who constructed this fabulous air raid shelter in Housemartins' classroom.



Kingfishers have a new reading corner.



This small corner has new seating, display and cushions to make a comfortable place to sit with a book.



Let's have some fun on

Dress Down Day

Thursday 23rd October

For the price of £1 (paid via school online system) please come along in home clothes or something a bit spooky on Thursday 23rd October. Nothing too scary please – we don't want to give anyone a fright! And please be mindful that children will need to be able to participate in usual school activities in whatever they decide to wear!

Halloween Costume Recycling

Do you have a stash of unwanted kids Halloween Costumes from previous years sitting in a cupboard at home? Please bring them in at drop off on Wednesday 22nd October and we will see if anyone would like them for a small donation to the PTA on the 23rd October alongside our Spooky cake sale!!

Diary Dates

Activity	Date
Whole school flu immunisation	Tuesday 14th 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