

Whole School

Attendance as at:

14.11.25: 96.9%

Target: 97%

14th November 2025

Wherwell Primary School

Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely but busy fortnight here at Wherwell!

Over the past two weeks, we have been carrying out assessments in Maths, Reading and Writing to ensure all children are on track with our expectations and to identify any gaps in learning where interventions may be needed. Teachers will share the outcomes of these assessments during Parents' Evenings. A letter regarding Parents' Evening has been sent home in children's bags today.

I was incredibly proud of our children, who marked Armistice Day so beautifully alongside our Wherwell community. Our House Martins class did an outstanding job during the remembrance service - placing crosses for soldiers from Wherwell and delivering thoughtful readings alongside Reverend Kevin. A special thank you goes to Rev Kev for leading a wonderful assembly before the service at school, and to Christopher Sharp from the Andover Town Band for playing *The Last Post*, *The Reveille*, and the *National Anthem*. We are also very grateful to the parents who kindly helped us with the walk to and from the service. I'm sure you will agree that it was a truly fitting occasion, and the children did themselves, and our school, proud.



As you know, this term we have started working with our new catering providers, and it's fair to say there have been a few teething problems. Thank you for bearing with us as we work with Cleverchefs to iron out any issues. The meals have been a real hit! The salad bar and pudding station with sliced fresh fruit have been especially popular! There are a couple of things for you to be aware of:

Paying for dinners

- For children in year R, 1 or 2, no payment will be required, as all children are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals.
- For children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are entitled to Free School Meals, no payment will be required.
- For all other children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6, you will need to make a payment to be able to order a dinner.
- All dinners need to be ordered by 8:30 am and cannot be ordered in class or amended after this time.
- If your child is ill, don't forget to cancel their dinner by 8:30am.



Open Morning for next year's Year R

This week, we were delighted to host two open mornings for prospective parents of next year's Year R intake. It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors into our school and share just some of the many things that make Wherwell such a special place to teach and learn.

Our Year 6 prefects did a fantastic job leading tours of the school and grounds. I was once again so proud to hear the wonderful feedback about how articulate and enthusiastic our prefects were. Many visitors also commented on how happy and welcoming the whole school community feels.

If you haven't done so already, don't forget to apply for a Year R place.

Applications for Year R places for September 2026 can be made via the [Hampshire County Council website](#).

The main application round is now open, with the deadline for submissions being **15 January 2026**.

Marathon Spelling Week!

What a wonderful week it has been for our Marathon Spelling Week! There has been a real buzz around the school this week surrounding spellings. Children have been working really hard practising their spellings over the last couple of weeks and they were tested over the course of the last few days. Every class I have walked into has been eager to share their latest score with me as I have been collecting them each day.

The children's aim for each class was to reach 1000 words spelt correctly or 500 words for Robins Class and I am delighted to say that each and every class has met this incredibly aspirational target. They are all looking forward to a class treat to celebrate.

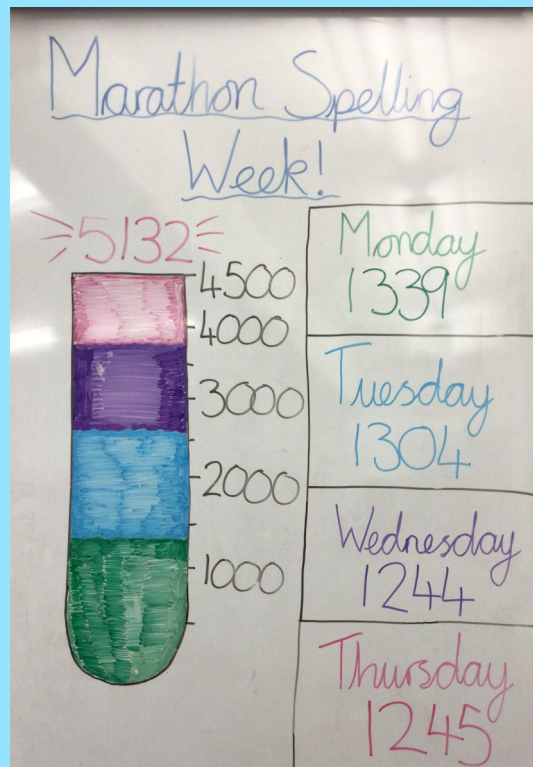
As a school, we were also aiming for 4500 words spelt correctly and Mrs Ovenden promised us that if we achieved this, we would earn ourselves some extra playtime! We have achieved an astounding 5132 words and I am beyond proud of each and every child for taking part in this huge challenge.

I would also like to thank our wonderful parents for the support you've given your children in learning their spellings - none of this would have been possible without you.

Your children will bring their scores home over the coming days. Please be sure to look out for them so you can celebrate their success! Any outstanding sponsorships to be collected can be delivered to the school office by Monday 24th November.

Well done and thank you again to our amazing children for their endless enthusiasm and resilience this week!

Miss Upton





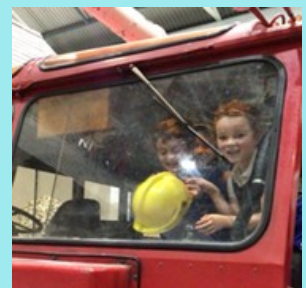
ROBINS

Robins Class have focused on a wonderful, autumnal story this week, 'It was a cold dark night'. The story tells the tale of a hedgehog looking for his cosy home. Robins Class had loads of fun making their own hedgehog homes on the field (on a very soggy afternoon)! The children have also created some beautiful hedgehog artwork with the help of Mrs Hill.



PUFFINS

Puffins had a fantastic day at Milestones Living History Museum this week! They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take part in games such as hopscotch, dominoes and pick up sticks. Time flew as we worked our way through the different activities of sorting toys from across the decades and completing a teddy bear I-Spy game.



We were enjoying some late autumn sunshine during Outdoor Explorers on Thursday as the children worked together to build a bug hotel for worms using the fallen leaves from the horse chestnut tree!





KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have been incredibly excited about their Marathon Spelling Challenge this week. There has been a real buzz around the classroom each time we did a new test and saw our scores! We loved the feeling of watching our scores accumulate to the magic number of 1000 and we were also excited to watch how our score combined with other classes to make our fantastic whole school total. Thank you to our parents for helping us practise.

In other news, Kingfishers really enjoyed a science investigation this week where we were learning all about gravity. We used basketballs and tennis balls outside to watch the effect that gravity had on them from a particular height we chose. We also noticed that when the ball bounced up again, it would always come down afterwards thanks to gravity.

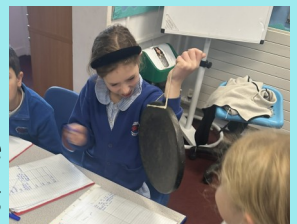


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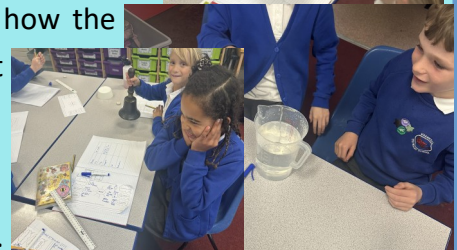
SPARROWHAWKS

This week, Sparrowhawks didn't just hear music - they felt it and saw the invisible science behind it! We delved into an exciting investigation using musical instruments to uncover how sound travels and explore how the way we interact with them causes them to vibrate at different levels. It was a very noisy classroom!



In PE, we concentrated on developing excellent dribbling skills.

This will be put into practice when playing lots of different invasion games and trying to keep the ball under control and away from our opponents.





HOUSE MARTINS

This week in Science, House Martins have been looking at magnetic and non-magnetic materials, and beginning to use the different properties of materials to separate them from a mixture. This week, we had a great time using magnets to separate paperclips from leaf piles!



BULB AND SEED DONATIONS WANTED

For gardening club

Our children would love to beautify the school! If you have any bulbs or seeds you're happy to donate, a box will be available to drop them in in the playground from Nov 3rd



Tesco Blue Token

Don't forget!

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

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated bulbs and seeds to our Gardening Club. The children have absolutely loved planting them and are excited to see what grows!

They would love to continue planting and would be grateful for any further donations.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Managing Your Child's Anxiety

An online workshop for parents and carers at Andover primary and junior schools offering information around what anxiety is and tips for how to support your child.

Date: Monday 24th November, 2025

Time: 12pm (lasting 45 minutes – 1 hour)

Location: Online via Teams using the link below:

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 376 824 739 913
Passcode: SF3Zw9VA

Topics covered:

- What is anxiety?
- When & why does anxiety become a problem?
- Causes of anxiety
- Maintenance of anxiety
- How to help your child
- Strategies and resources

What To Expect:

This online workshop will be delivered by experienced mental health practitioners from your schools' Mental Health Support Team. They will talk through the topics listed and give strategies on how to support children who may be having difficulties with managing worry and anxiety. There will be opportunity for general questions.



Thank you!

Wherwell Primary School

Your donation of 62.74kg is fabulous and will enable us to help our local community.

Katie Vincent
Foodbank Manager

Registered charity number 8659911. Registered in England and Wales.



Guides

1st Clatford, for girls 10-14
Thursdays during term time

1st Clatford Guides is a small village unit, where all girls are welcome to enjoy our fun-filled space.

You'll make friends, learn to be yourself, explore what you love and do stuff you've never done before!

This year we have been to Legoland, learnt about photography and navigation, tried various craft and enjoyed playing a range games.

To join or sign up for a taster session visit girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Have more questions email 1stclatfordguides@girlguidingandover.org.uk



Looking for new adventures, fun and friends?

We are a Scout Group at Goodworth Clatford and welcome new members

4th Andover (the Clatfords)

Beavers

Tuesday Evening



Aged between 6 and 8?
From Craft and Animals to Hikes and Camping and most of all FUN.

Cubs

Wednesday Evening



Aged between 8 and 10½?
From Craft and Challenges to Hikes and Camping and most of all FUN

Scouts

Thursday Evening



Aged between 10 and 14?
From archery and abseiling, to Camping and Challenges and most of all FUN

Everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give young people FUN, important tools, the tricky challenges and the big dreams: the skills you need for life, no two weeks are the same.

For more information, please reach out to Carol Cane (AKA Chil) our Group Lead Volunteer at the following email: canecj@aol.com

Diary Dates

Activity	Date
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
Parents Evening for Kingfishers	Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th
Dress Down Day in exchange for Christmas Hamper item	Friday 5th December
Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity	Tuesday 9th December, 6pm
Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity	Wednesday 10th December, 2pm
Whole School Christmas Dinner	Tuesday 16th December
Robins Nativity	Wednesday 17th December, 2pm
Christmas carol Service at Wherwell Church	Thursday 18th December, 6pm
School Choir to sing at Chilbolton Village Hall - details to follow	Thursday 18th December
Last day of term	Friday 19th December
First day of Spring term	Monday 5th January
Year R and Year 6 Height, Weight and Vision Check (vision check Year R only) - details to follow	Thursday 15th January
Kingfishers Trip to Winchester Science Centre - details to follow	Tuesday 3rd February
INSET DAY	Monday 23rd February
School Disco - details to follow	Thursday 19th March
School Reports sent home	Friday 20th March
Years 4 & 5 Residential Trip to Tile Barn - details to follow	Tuesday 21st - Friday 24th April
Harewood Forest Run	Monday 4th May
Year 6 SATS	Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May
INSET DAY	Friday 22nd May
Class photographs	Wednesday 3rd June
Year 6 Residential Trip to Runways End - details to follow	Monday 8th - Friday 12th June
Year 1 Phonics Screening	Monday 8th - Friday 12th June
INSET DAY	Monday 15th June
Sports Day	Thursday 25th June, pm
Summer Fete	Sunday 28th June
Kingfishers Trip to The Sustainability Centre Petersfield - details to follow	Monday 29th June
INSET DAY	Monday 6th July
House Martins and Sparrowhawks Performance - details to follow	Tuesday 14th July 6pm
House Martins and Sparrowhawks Performance - details to follow	Wednesday 15th July 6pm