

Whole School

Attendance as at:

16.01.26: 96.3%

Target: 97%

16th January 2026

Wherwell Primary School

Newsletter

Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together



Dear Parents and carers,

I hope it is not too late to say Happy New Year! What a way to start the term with a small covering of snow, not heavy enough to build snowmen but certainly enough to get excited and make learning inside impossible! We jumped at the chance of an early break to enjoy the snow fall; I think Miss Ball was the most excited!

The children have settled back into the school routine extremely well and it has been a real pleasure to see classrooms buzzing with learning once again and the playgrounds full of laughter and energy. The school feels very much alive again after the holiday break.

This week, our Governors visited for a learning walk, with a focus on Maths. The children were, as always, focused on their learning and were making good progress. What is clear is that the children are enjoying their learning which is so important. I was encouraged to see from the parents questionnaire completed at parent's evening, that 98% responded either agree or strongly agree to the statement *My child likes school* (the remaining 2% said they didn't know). On the next page are some more results from the questionnaire. Details of all the results can be found on our website.



I would like to introduce you to Lisa Marsden who has joined the team this year as our Finance Officer. Lisa will be working the equivalent of one day a week and has a wealth of experience of school finance.

I am looking forward to working with you all again in 2026 to ensure our school continues to grow from strength to strength. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any support or assistance.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mandy

Headteacher



A reminder about PE kit

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you about PE kit. Currently we have a number of children who have either forgotten their kit or who do not have the correct uniform for PE. Children do PE twice a week which usually consists of an indoor and an outdoor session. Branded items are optional and can be ordered from: www.stitchdesign.co.uk

- **White t-shirt (logo shirts available to buy on-line)**
- **Blue, navy or black shorts**
- **Plimsolls or trainers**

Thank you for your support with this.

Top ten results from the parent questionnaire

Total of strongly agree and agree combined	
100%	I am happy with the teaching and learning at the school.
100%	Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.
100%	The school is led and managed well.
100%	Staff treat my child fairly.
100%	My child finds learning activities and experiences in class enjoyable and interesting.
100%	My child's emotional needs are recognised and developed.
98%	My child likes school.
98%	My child is making good progress.
98%	The school provides appropriate homework.
98%	Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent.

A guide to managing children's digital world



Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



ROBINS

Robins Class have had a focus on penguins recently; our first two Drawing Club stories this term were the wonderful book Blue Penguin and an episode of Pingu, which we all thought was very funny. To link in with these two stories, we have looked at photos of different species of penguin's. Some, like the Macaroni Penguin, have very strange names! After looking at the photos Robins Class painted their own penguins. We then moved onto looking at our world map and thinking about where penguins live. Robins Class also used coloured card, scissors and glue to make their own fantastic penguins.



PUFFINS

Puffins finally got to use the saws last week so that they could cut dowelling rod to make axles for their buses. The children worked hard to create their designs and were very impressed with how well they moved!



Some of the Puffins braved the cold last week to do some estimating on a number line. We wrote numbers on the whiteboards and talked about where on the number line they would go.





KINGFISHERS

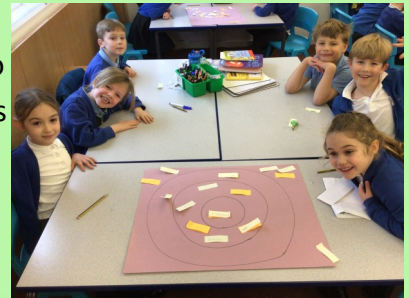


Kingfishers have been really enjoying multiplication in maths. We have used lots of different methods to help us solve problems but we have particularly enjoyed using the number-link boards you can see in our pictures. These are a really helpful way to help us see our times tables! Please don't forget about TT Rockstars and if you do not have your login details, please let Miss Upton know.



In English, we have been really enthusiastic about our new book - 'How to Catch a Star'. We came up with some really imaginative ways that we might catch our own star, such as throwing a boomerang around the star to make it dizzy and then catching it when it falls - well done, Connie!

We enjoyed generating our best vocabulary using post-it notes to sort them and thinking about how the boy might be feeling across different stages of the book!



SPARROWHAWKS

Sparrowhawks have been having lots of fun exploring micro bits in computing. So far, we have learned to code our micro bits to display our names. We have also been able to make our own animations by programming the LED lights. The children had lots of fun exploring and being creative with their animations.



Sparrowhawks have been out doing PE come rain or shine. We have been exploring Egyptian Hieroglyphics and moving our bodies to create representations of the different letters and even spell a word.





HOUSE MARTINS

This half term in History, House Martins are studying the Ancient Greeks. This week, our year 5s made a human timeline, acting out different key events from Ancient Greece. Meanwhile, year 6 showed fantastic motivation and resilience by getting their teeth into a challenging problem solving task, during which they had to work out in which order events took place using different clues.



Parking Reminder

To help keep our school community safe and to be considerate to our neighbours, please park thoughtfully around neighbouring properties and do not block or use private driveways for turning.

During school drop-off and pick-up times, the school bus bay and staff car park must not be used. Please also ensure the entrance to the playing field car park is kept clear at all times so the school bus can turn safely.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.



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Programme.
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We CARE through:



Compassion



Accountability



Respect



Excellence

Diary Dates

Activity	Date
Sparrowhawks Bake Sale	Thursday 29th January, after school
Kingfishers Trip to Winchester Science Centre	Tuesday 3rd February
SH and HM drama workshop (Ancient Greeks and Ancient Egyptians)	Tuesday 3rd February
House Martins Parent Share	Tuesday 10th February, 2:50pm
Robins Parent Share	Wednesday 11th February, 2:50pm
Sparrowhawks Parent Share	Wednesday 11th February, 2:50pm
Puffins Parent Share - in school hall	Thursday 12th February, 9:00am
Kingfishers Parent Share	Thursday 12th February, 2:50pm
Half Term Holiday	Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February
INSET DAY	Monday 23rd February
World Book Day - details to follow	Thursday 5th March
Whole School Science Activities	Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March
School Disco - details to follow	Thursday 19th March
School Reports sent home	Friday 20th March
Optional Parents Evening: regarding reports	Thursday 26th March
Last day of term	Friday 27th March
First Day of Summer term	13th April
Years 4 & 5 Residential Trip to Tile Barn	Tuesday 21st - Friday 24th April
Harewood Forest Run	Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
Year 6 SATS	Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May
INSET DAY	Friday 22nd May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May
Class photographs	Tuesday 2nd June
Year 6 Residential Trip to Runways End	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 -	Monday 29th June
INSET DAY	Monday 6th July
House Martins and Sparrowhawks Performance	Tuesday 14th July 6pm
House Martins and Sparrowhawks Performance	Wednesday 15th July 6pm