

**Whole School**

**Attendance as at:**

**6.3.26: 96.14%**

**Target: 97%**

**6th March 2026**

**Wherwell Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**Let's Love To Learn And Thrive Together**



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a difference a little sunshine makes! The recent improvement in the weather has certainly lifted spirits around school, and it feels as though spring has arrived (I do hope I haven't spoken too soon!). The children have been making the most of brighter playtimes and enjoying being outdoors. It was great to see gardening club busy in the school grounds weeding and planting - long may it continue!

Last half term, we welcomed our annual monitoring visit from the local authority. During the day, our adviser spent the majority of her time in classrooms, speaking with pupils and observing learning, as well as meeting with Governors and school leaders. It was a valuable opportunity to showcase the impact of the key priorities we have been focusing on this year.

Since September, we have introduced a research-informed approach to developing secure foundational number sense from Early Years through to Year 2. The adviser noted that these short, consistent sessions are well structured and positively received by pupils, highlighting the clear benefits of this work in classrooms.

We have also placed a strong emphasis on improving letter formation to ensure handwriting is clear and well presented. Earlier this week, our Governors observed this in action during one of their scheduled learning walks. They saw the clear progression in the teaching of handwriting across year groups and were particularly impressed by the children's focus and concentration.



Children in Puffins using their Rekenreks during a Mastering number class.

As always, I am incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, resilience and positive attitudes to learning. As I write this I can hear the buzz of excitement around me as children take part in activities linked to World Book Day. Thank you for your continued support, it makes a real difference and helps us to build such a strong partnership between home and school. We look forward to all that the coming weeks will bring and to sharing more of the children's successes with you. Wishing you all a lovely and hopefully sunny weekend.

Best wishes,  
Mandy (Headteacher)



# Denise



We are all still coming to terms with the loss of Denise Hall—a much-loved colleague and friend. As a staff we've been thinking and talking a lot about her—sharing memories and anecdotes, and we'll continue to do so.

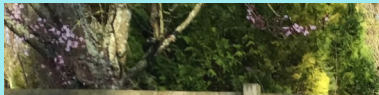
We've also been sharing some favourite photos, so we have Denise dressed as Little Miss Busy, when we said 'Goodbye' to Andy King (a former Headteacher) with a secret Mr Man day; Denise trying out the garden furniture which was a gift to Mrs Collins—another former Headteacher; and as a parent helper (bottom right) on a trip to 'Steam' for a WWII special.

Denise was a friend to the school long before she became the Admin Officer, and we all have such happy, happy memories of her.

Snowdrops have become a symbol of her passing, and amongst the tributes, we intend to plant some snowdrops and we will think of her every year when they bloom.



# World Book Day





## ROBINS



The Robins have been coming into school full of energy and ready to learn after the holidays. We have been so impressed with how they engage with their morning tasks and they have been very proud of what they have achieved too!



World Book Day was great fun and the Robins looked wonderful in their costumes! We listened to lots of stories throughout the day, and even had a visit from the Year 6 buddies who enjoyed reading to the Robins in the sunshine!



## PUFFINS

Puffins have started to find out about the history of the local area. This week we looked at photos of the school from the past, we then went outside to look at the school today to look for similarities and differences. The children were excited to learn that the school is nearly 100 years old!



This week we started a new text in English called 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We spent the beginning of the week looking at, touching and smelling the different vegetables that Oliver tries throughout the story.





## KINGFISHERS



Kingfishers have had a wonderful World Book Day. We started the day with a book scavenger hunt in the library. We had to follow clues to lead us to a book which had a letter in it. When we found all the letters, it spelt out 'Reading is fun!' One child was even heard saying 'This is the best day of my life!'



Later on, we went back to the library and buddied up with some House Martins and shared some lovely stories together. We really enjoyed being able



## SPARROWHAWKS

Sparrowhawks have been exploring Stig of the Dump in English. We made talking tunnel to try and help each other decide if the dump is an exciting or a dangerous place.



In PE, we have been looking at tennis and have started passing the tennis ball to each other thinking about the different way we hold the racket and where the ball will end up.





## HOUSE MARTINS



Although it feels a long time ago (!), just before half term, Housemartins thoroughly enjoyed making Ancient Greek-style lyres in their music lessons with the wonderful Mrs Elmslie! It was brilliant to perform our own compositions on our home-made instruments.

Since half term, in art, we have been designing a theatre poster for William Shakespeare's Macbeth, our English text this half term. Mrs Hill challenged us to use a range of techniques—including not removing our pencil from the page—to create a collection of mini posters, before transferring these skills into our final design.



We're delighted to report that our school came first in the Tesco green token scheme and we are therefore awarded the full sum applied for—£1500. Thank you all for your votes—every little helps!

### Could you be a School Governor?

Following the resignations of Matt Bucknall and Ruth Tsui we have 2 vacancies for parent governors. If you want to know more about what the role entails one of our current parent governors—Tom Lawlor, Rachel Randles and Bryony Winfield would be happy to have an informal chat with you. (We would be happy to put you in touch with Tom, Rachel or Bryony if you e.mailed the school office: [adminoffice@wherwell.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@wherwell.hants.sch.uk)).

Alternatively, HCC has an excellent page on their website on volunteering to be a School Governor: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors/volunteer#step-1>. This includes a link to the Governor Application form which should be completed and returned to school by Monday 23 March.

Meanwhile, we thank Matt and Ruth for their work on the Governing Body.



Thank you all for the 192 Kg of unwanted clothing and fabrics that you donated. As a result we earned £57.60 from Bags 2 School, and, hopefully, you have tidier cupboards!

# KIMPTON HOLIDAY CAMP



**Kimpton, Thruxton & Fyfield School, Kimpton SP11 BNT**

**Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April**

**Breakfast Club: 08:00 - 09:00**  
**Camp Day: 09:00 - 15:00**  
**Extended Club: 15:00 - 16:00**  
**Extended Club: 15:00 - 17:30**

**Childcare vouchers & Tax-Free Childcare payments are accepted.**



**BOOKINGS FROM £28.50**

**WWW.PHCAMPS.CO.UK**  
**01225 701830**  
**BOOKING@PHCAMPS.CO.UK**

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# 360° Holiday Camps



If your child receives benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM), they can join us for **FREE** this Easter  
**30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

AGES: 5 - 12

**GET YOUR HAF CODE**



**WHAT'S ON?**

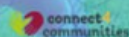
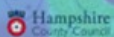
**GAMES HOT LUNCH CRAFT SPORTS**



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# OUR VENUES

**ROMSEY RAPIDS**

SO22 8AF

**HARESTOCK PRIMARY**

SO22 8UJ

**CRESCENT PRIMARY**

SO22 9SW

**BLACKFIELD PRIMARY**

SO42 9XA

**SYCAMORE HALLS**

SO22 8AB

**ANDOVER LC**

SP9 6GF

**KNIGHTWOOD LC**

SO22 8WJ

**ST PETERS PRIMARY**

SO22 4UB

**PAVILION ON THE PARK**

SO22 9LX

**NEW FOREST ACADEMY**

SO42 2PA

**CRANBOURNE SCHOOL**

SO21 2MP

**GOSPORT LC**

PO12 8EX

**PAID SPACES FROM £23.50 PER DAY**

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# Diary Dates

Activity	Date
Whole School Science Activities	Monday 9th March - Friday 13th March
<b>Tile Barn Residential meeting for parents and children, Y4 and Y5</b>	<b>Monday 16th March at 2:40</b>
<del>School Disco</del> The School disco has been postponed	<del>Thursday 19th March</del>
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
<b>Year 4 Swimming - details to follow</b>	<b>Wednesdays - 20th May, 3rd June, 10th June, 17th June &amp; 1st July</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Friday 22nd May</b>
Half Term Holiday	Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May
<b>Times Table Check - Year 4</b>	<b>During week commencing 1st June</b>
Class photographs	Tuesday 2nd June
Year 6 Residential Trip to Runways End	Monday 8th - Friday 12th June
<b>Year 1 Phonics Screening</b>	<b>Monday 8th - Friday 12th June</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Monday 15th June</b>
Sports Day	Thursday 25th June, pm
Summer Fete	Sunday 28th June
Kingfishers Trip to The Sustainability Centre Petersfield	Monday 29th June
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>Monday 6th July</b>
House Martins and Sparrowhawks Performance	Tuesday 14th July 6pm
House Martins and Sparrowhawks Performance	Wednesday 15th July 6pm