



## Whaddon C of E School newsletter number 7

15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### **Remembrance service**

Thank you to those parents attending our remembrance service, at St. Mary's church. A member of the village attended and commented on how wonderful our children are! It is lovely to receive such lovely feedback.

### **Super stars and golden tickets**

Congratulations to those children who shone brightly, last week and were awarded star certificates and golden tickets. By living our values and upholding our vision, your hard work has made our school a better place.

### **Walking for Willen Hospice**

Former Whaddon School pupil and Whaddon Villager, Phoebe Dietsch has taken on board the amazing challenge of walking around Iceland, to raise funds for Willen Hospice. Phoebe, who is currently a pupil at St. Paul's School, in Milton Keynes, will be completing the 14KM a day tour with her dad, Ben. To sponsor Phoebe the link for the just giving sponsorship page can be found with this link

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/phoebeandben4willen?utm\\_medium=fundraising&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1HQaS36q6ihH3DfJZvx7E2pdj7fWvpZ\\_J2L7449T6-S02upK59o2iw9YU\\_aem\\_0gtAjsUookREsplwCoa\\_IQ](https://www.justgiving.com/page/phoebeandben4willen?utm_medium=fundraising&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1HQaS36q6ihH3DfJZvx7E2pdj7fWvpZ_J2L7449T6-S02upK59o2iw9YU_aem_0gtAjsUookREsplwCoa_IQ)

### **Whaddon School Podcast book review and author interview**

Last academic year, Arrany was selected, to participate in an online interview with author Antonia Maxwell and conduct a book review on Antonia's novel Terra Electrica. This interview was recorded and is now available as a podcast. To listen to the interview and book review use this link.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5GPPuND7Ib8PXMLzGAljoi?si=N7OdarjtSJO7QRCEodEVhA&t=300>

Arrany was excited to take part, but was quite nervous at the start. Arrany suggests that this book is best suited to children aged 9-11, as it is quite dark in places, but is a great book!

### **Noro-virus**

There has been an increase in reported Noro-virus cases, nationally, which is typical for this time of the year. Please can you remind your child about the importance of handwashing after using the toilet and before eating. This message is reinforced, at school and will help keep everyone safe and well. If your child vomits or has diarrhoea they must remain off until their symptoms have ceased for at least two days after the last incident of illness. More details about illness and children being off sick, can be found on our school website.

### **Collecting children for appointments**

If you have the need to collect your child early, for appointments, please can you let the office know, so there is no delay in preparing your child to go to the appointment with you.

Also, should you only be able to attend an appointment, during school hours, please ensure that your child is brought back to attend school for the remainder of the school day. Any appointments that are taken in the morning and the child does not attend in the afternoon, without good reason, will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

### **Nativity**

We are prepped and ready to rehearse our nativity for the Hedgehogs and Squirrels children. Parts have been allocated and costume requests will follow shortly. Please let the office know, if your child will not be taking part in the evening performance on **12<sup>th</sup> December**, so another person can fill in, if required. If your child has been sent home with lines, please help them practice them.

The nativity will be performed in our Jubilee Hall and parents will be admitted at **4.40pm**. Please bring your child to the Jubilee Hall for this time, so that costumes can be organised in time for the performance. Please park safely and conscientiously.

If you would like to attend the nativity, please let Mrs Ellis, in the office, know how many seats you will require, so that we can ensure enough seats are available.

There will be no charge for attending this performance, however, we are grateful for and appreciate donations- to help us cover the cost of holding the nativity in the Jubilee Hall. We chose this venue to enable as many people to attend, that wish to. A donations box will be at the back of the hall on the night.

### **Children in Need 2024**

This year, we helped raise funds for charities across the UK, who support children and families. We saw lots of spots and Pudsey ears! The total raised, this year was a huge £70.00. We would like to say a huge Thank you, to everyone who donated. We will share photo's of the day on our school website, so you can have a taste of the activities the children participated in.

### **Christingle**

In a change to our original plans, the school Christingle will take place in our school hall. This is a school collective worship event.

### **Panto forms and packed lunches**

Please ensure Mrs Ellis has the completed and signed consent and health forms for the panto trip. Without these, we cannot take your child with us. All children need to have a packed lunch for that day, as we will be eating earlier than usual to get to the theatre on time. Please do not pack items which contain nuts.

### **Lego Club**

We are implementing Lego Club, which is an intervention to promote speech and language and social interaction skill development. This excellent and evidence-based intervention relies on the children involved using Lego sets to complete the tasks. We are sending out this request for any Lego sets that are no longer required, or which come up on Whaddon Facebook page or any others for that matter. We appreciate any help you can offer and appreciate your donations.

### **Clothing**

For Hedgehogs and Squirrels classes, please can a complete change of named clothing be sent into school in a separate, named bag to ensure full access to outdoor learning and keep the children dry and warm in case of muddy puddles. In the same vein, please can forest school kit be kept in school all week.

For Badgers and Foxes, please can parents ensure that the children have wellies or a change of socks and shoes available to them. Please ensure all items brought into school are named in permanent marker; biro washes away making it hard for us to ensure all items get to the correct person.

### **Forest School club**

Spaces are available for forest school club with our wonderful forest school leader Jack. Please book your child in, using the link on the Green Planet Forest School link under our school name. This club is open to all pupil and runs from 3.00pm-4.00pm every Friday.

### **Sports festival participation**

Royal Latin School are offering **Squirrels** children the opportunity to participate in a multi- sports event on either **18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>** November. The event will take place at the RLS from **4pm- 5.30pm**. The team needs 8 pupils to participate as a team.

If you would like your child to participate, please let the office know which date suits you best and we can put a team forward. Parents will need to transport their children, but I will be present as a member of staff. Parents are encouraged to go off site for a coffee, as the hall can't contain that number of adults.

**4<sup>th</sup> December**, The Royal Latin School are hosting a mixed football tournament for Foxes class. **4.00pm-5.30pm** at the RLS. A team of 8 will be required.

More dates/events to come!

### **Forest School**

**Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school.** Without them, children **won't** be able to participate in outdoor activities, in wet weather. When the children choose to work outside, it is essential that they have a complete change of clothing to keep them comfortable, if they get wet or muddy. Please ensure all kit and spares are **named**, so we can reunite errant clothing with their owners, easily. Practicing dressing and undressing would be a great way for the children to gain independence and we appreciate the support from home in this area.

### **School lunches**

Please ensure that school meals are ordered, by the deadline, to ensure your child has the lunches you require in the coming weeks. There is a Wisepay link on our school website home page.

### **Communication**

Our website is a good source of information and gives you details about your child's learning, when you ask "What have you done today in school?" and they give the age old answer of "Nothing!"

There are also details of homework and vocabulary for the units they are learning- this is a work in progress. By sharing the key unit vocabulary in this way, parents can go through this with their children, so that they have a good understanding of the vocabulary meaning, ahead of their learning.

### **School open days**

We have a wide selection of open days available to parents with children who will be school aged, in September 2025. A copy of the open day poster can be found on our website and bookings can be made through the school office. There is also a F.A.Q sheet to help answer some of the questions parents may have about their child joining Whaddon School. Please spread the word among your friends and any toddler groups or pre-schools you know of.

## **Boxes and cardboard**

Mrs Ellis has requested any cardboard boxes that are not needed, to help her organise some resources. The boxes need to be able to hold files and paper.

Mrs Hall has also requested any large pieces of corrugated cardboard for our nativity props and backdrop designs.

## **Key dates for your diary** (additions have been made)

18<sup>th</sup> November Open morning 09.00-10.00am

19<sup>th</sup> November Open morning 13.30-14.30pm

22<sup>nd</sup> November Badgers Sharing Assembly 08.40am school hall

26<sup>th</sup> November Year 6 height and weight checks, NHS nurse team

6<sup>th</sup> December Children decorate the village Christmas tree with their decorations

7<sup>th</sup> December Village Christmas tree lights "switch on" Jubilee Hall

12<sup>th</sup> December instrumental concert with Mr. Dunham 08.40am school hall

12<sup>th</sup> December Nativity Jubilee Hall 5.00-6.00pm

13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Fayer School hall 1.45-2.45pm FOWS

17<sup>th</sup> December Whole School visit to the theatre Panto 11.45-16.00pm

18<sup>th</sup> December Christmas jumper day

18<sup>th</sup> December Christmas lunch FOWS

19<sup>th</sup> December Carols in the courtyard 2.15pm

20<sup>th</sup> December Christmas movie morning

20<sup>th</sup> December NO FOREST SCHOOL- alternative activities are planned.