



Whaddon Wheatsheaf Newsletter

(Number 4.)

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Whaddon Wheatsheaf.

January 2024

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a peaceful Christmas.

We warmly welcome Mrs. Allison Highton, our new office manager and Teacher Read, Badgers interim class teacher, to the school team.

We were all so grateful for the generous gifts and the kind words in our cards, at the end of the term and we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all those who gave us such thoughtful gifts. They were much appreciated.

Panto visit

We started the New Year and new term with our pantomime visit to Milton Keynes theatre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the children were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Cinderella, was a fantastic way to start our new term and provided an inspirational start to our whole school writing focus.

This week, the children have all used a variety of versions of this traditional tale to compose their own sequencing of key plot lines, diary entries and letters from the view point of a character and balanced arguments around them. The children have really enjoyed hearing the different versions of this story and the quality of writing has been remarkable. We will be posting pictures of the work, on the class pages, as soon as the writing is published for you to enjoy.

Reading records

Reading records have been issued to the children and we would like to encourage comments to be entered about what was read, any areas discussed and any areas that may need support. We have seen a really positive impact on engagement with reading for pleasure and are pleased with the variety of texts read by the children. Remember, it doesn't have to be a chapter book: non-fiction texts, letters, emails, leaflets, poems, jokes, instructions and comics all count towards "texts."

Weather

We have recently experienced very cold weather and are likely to experience some level of snow, by the middle of next week. Although highly unlikely, teachers have prepared for the eventuality of any potential school closure. The school will only be closed as a result of unsafe conditions, for staff and pupils, or insufficient staff being able to get to school. We will notify you of any closures via the Buckinghamshire council website of school closures and via Parentmail by the latest of 8am, so please keep checking your parent mail messages.

By having activities on standby, on the class pages of our website we aim to reduce the impact on the children. Some of our youngest children won't have had a memorable experience of snow, yet and much as we want to minimise any break in learning, we also suggest having as much fun in the snow as is comfortable, discussing the snow, describing it and being creative with it. We would love to see any pictures of the children and any snow creations!

Forest school

Hedgehogs and Squirrels were all very excited about joining Mr. Mud for the forest school adventures, which started today! In order for all of the children to be able to fully participate, next session, we ask that their forest school waterproof clothing be kept in school. This will also enable full and spontaneous outdoor learning all week round.

According to the children today: "This is the best forest school ever!"

Census data

As part of our January school census, we are required to ensure that all information we hold for parents and children is accurate. We sent out data collection forms on Thursday and would appreciate your support by you reading and amending the sheet, as required, for each child and returning them to the school by Monday 14th January 2024. If all of the details we hold remain accurate, please return the forms with a note to reflect that no changes necessary.

On the 18th we are encouraging as many parents who have children eligible for free school meals to book a school meal, for this date, as all numbers are taken into consideration for future funding for these meals. The uptake for school meals are taken as an average over all of the census periods of the school year. Please use Wisepay to book a school dinner. St. Paul's have made the booking available again, so you can amend any previous orders to book a school lunch for this day.

The Riverbank

Our wellbeing space is coming along beautifully and we will be a position to share this wonderful space with you all, soon. We are grateful to all of the contractors who have worked tirelessly, over the Christmas break and who have gone over and above throughout the whole project.

Learning this half term

We have many exciting units planned across the curriculum, this half term. For more detailed information about what your child will be learning, in each subject, please visit the school website and click on the relevant class page, here you will find the class overviews. If there are any areas that you have expertise or skills in, please let us know, so we can share your talents with the children.



Homework

Homework can be found on the class pages and more information can be found there for specific activities. We do ask that reading is completed at least 5 times per week, doodle, TTRS and SPag.com platforms are engaged with as frequently as possible.

Distinctive Christian Vision



As a school that has been through many changes over recent years, we have reflected on the relevance of our existing vision, our current context and the communities we serve: school, village and church. As a school, it is important to us, that our Distinctive Christian Vision supports our aspirations and enables us to shape and guide all areas of our decision making and policies, accurately reflecting the lived experiences of our stakeholders. As such, we will soon be sharing the biblical reference, we feel, best suits the school we are and the school we wish to become; enabling all of our all of our stakeholders to shine and flourish. In order to ensure accurate representation and contributions, from all areas of our communities, please contact the school office via the usual email address, if you feel that you would like to contribute to the shaping of our new vision as a vision team member.

Reception class places September 2024

Should you know of anyone who has a child who is of school age, this September, please let them know that the deadline for placing their preferences with their local authority is the 15th January. We have recently liaised with Buckinghamshire Local Authority to expand our Reception class size from 10 to 12 places, so we will hopefully be able to give more parents a place in their first choice of school.

Uniform

Should you require more uniform items, please head to our website and click on the uniform tab for our providers.

Friends of Whaddon School will notify parents of any pre-loved uniform sales that will be held across the school year.



We are going to continue with the process of children wearing their PE kit, to school, on PE days but request that dressing and undressing skills are practiced at home, as frequently and independently as possible.

We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that name stick ins are available to purchase, but if you choose not to use this form of labelling, we request that all elements of uniform likely to be removed in school are named with a permanent pen- this includes PE tops and forest school clothing. This will enable all items to be returned to the right person at the end of the day.

Please remember that our uniform **does not** include nail varnish or make up. Jewellery, other than sleeper earrings, is not permitted, for health and safety reasons. Sleeper earrings (studs not hoops) must be covered with tape, for PE lessons. Please ensure that any post- Christmas party nails are removed for the school week.

Recycling

Hedgehogs class have been hugely industrious in their upcycling of packaging, post-Christmas. We are asking for any boxes, toilet roll tubes, containers that could be used to be brought into school. We politely request that boxes that have contained ingredients such as nuts not be brought in e.g. crunchy nut cereal or cereal bar boxes.

If anyone has any dolls and dressing up clothes they no longer need, Hedgehogs would love to give them a new home in their role play area.

Timings...

Getting to school on time really matters. Did you know...

If in a school year, you are late every day by...	You would have lost approximately...	or you would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	18 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	35 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	50 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	73 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	110 Lessons

You should not take holidays during term time.
Please be punctual to maintain attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

We would like to remind parents that registration is at **08.30am** and parents and children should be on the playground ready for collection by the adult at **08.25am**.

We have had repeat late arrivals from families and would like to remind parents that late arrivals are not only detrimental to their children, but the children already settled in class completing their phonics sessions.

Celebration/class assemblies...

We warmly welcome parents and family members to attend our celebration/class sharing collective worships on Friday mornings. We aim to notify you, if your child is receiving an award, by the Thursday before. The children will not know if you are able to attend or not.

Should your child have been awarded a certificate or medal, outside of school, please let us know, so that we can share this, as a school. Please ensure that the school office is notified, in advance of the assembly, to manage the timings of the worship.

The rota for each classes sharing assembly is available on the school website. These sometimes have to be changed, due to other events that arise, throughout the school year. We endeavour to communicate these to you, via Parentmail.

Badgers class 02.02.24

Squirrels class 09.01.24

Hedgehogs class 23.01.24

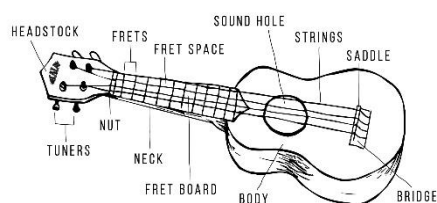
P.E days...

Sports4all are providing high quality P.E coaching to all of our children. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit, which should be suitable for the weather, when learning outdoors.

Hedgehogs	Tuesdays
Squirrels	Wednesday
Badgers	Friday
Foxes	Thursdays

Music lessons

PARTS OF THE UKULELE



Music lessons will continue with MK music co-operative guitar and ukulele, Wednesdays 11.30-12.30pm

Mr Dunham's music lessons Clarinet, flute and piano, will remain on Thursdays.

Information about payments will follow soon.

French club

French club is now being offered to children in Key Stage 1 and if parents are interested in their child attending, over Thursday lunch time, they should contact Madame Lepelletier via the usual email route. This can be requested from the school office. There are 3 spaces left.



Website / dates for your diary...

January

15th January closing date Buckinghamshire Council reception class places September 2024

12th January 2024 Celebration collective worship 09.00-09.30am

12th January 2024 Forest School Mr Mud Hedgehogs and Squirrels 09.45-11.45am



February

9th February pancakes at forest school

12th - 16th 2024 Half term

19th February back to school!

March

7th March 2024 World Book Day

8th March 2024 Mother's Day

26th March 2024 Easter celebration at St. Mary's Church Badgers and Foxes

27th March Easter egg hunt children hunting in houses- coloured T-shirts for their house needed

A message from the governors...

The full governing body met on 6th December 2023 and we will be actioning the points raised in the meeting, throughout this term. We are still looking for one more foundation governor! Please contact Amanda Hardman, if you or someone you know, are interested in the role. To be a foundation governor, you do not need a current link to the school, but you do need to have a link to Church (any church, not just St. Mary's).