



Dear Parents/Carers...

This week our Owls Reception class performed 'The Twinkly Nativity' to Robins class from Silverwood School and children from Kiddiwinks nursery. Owls class are excited to be performing for the rest of the school on Monday and for parents on Tuesday and Thursday. You are certainly in for a real festive treat!

As part of their history curriculum finding out about the Great Fire of London, on Monday, our Year 1/2 history detectives will be observing how the fire spread so quickly back in 1666. The children have built models of the houses and, under the close supervision of our site manager, Mr Beety (who is also a retained firefighter), we will set fire to the model houses. The children really amazed me this week with how much they had learned about this historical event.

The children have enjoyed watching the new outdoor classroom being installed over the past few days. Our Forest School area is now really beginning to take shape. New equipment for den building, outdoor cooking, gardening and woodwork should arrive early next term. One of our teaching assistants, Mrs Gunning, is completing her Forest School training to help lead sessions in this space in addition to our outdoor learning days supported by colleagues from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. If you or anyone you know is able to donate wooden pallets, logs, wooden sleepers, tarpaulins, tyres or crates to help us develop this area for the children, we would be extremely grateful.

Our Year 5/6 choir have been busy rehearsing for the Young Voices community singing event. On 10th January they will be travelling to Birmingham Arena to take part in a musical performance together with hundreds of children from schools across the country. We hope you can support their cake sale after school on Friday 15th December to help raise funds for Paxcroft choir t-shirts which they will wear at the concert. All donations gratefully received!

Over the past 2 weeks, Mr George and I have been conducting learning walks to support the continued development of teaching and learning across the school. We have met with individual teachers to review the current progress of children in their class and to review support in place to help address any gaps in learning. On Wednesday evening we met with a committee of governors to discuss curriculum development, teaching and learning across the school and to review analysis of pupil progress data.

Today we say goodbye and a big thank you to our ELSA, Mrs Claire Jessop, who is leaving Paxcroft after 2 years to spend more time with her young family. She has been a valued member of the Pastoral Support team and has had a positive impact supporting the emotional wellbeing of children across the school. A recruitment process is currently underway and, in the interim, our Pastoral Support Adviser, Jackie Evans will continue to provide support for children to ensure continuity. I will, of course, keep you informed as soon as we have made an appointment.

It's another busy week next week with Christmas lunches/performance/KS1 Christmas party so please do check the diary section of this newsletter.

Lou Rhodes
Headteacher

Our Learning this week..

Owls

This week in Owls we've been enjoying expressing ourselves with Christmas music and creating Santa collages in our 'make and do' area. The children have really enjoyed our Christmas-themed classroom and dressing up in Christmas hats in our role play area.

Whilst we're on the subject of dressing up, the children have tried on their nativity costumes as we've been continuing with our nativity practise this week and all we can say is...prepare to be dazzled!

In literacy we've been continuing with real-life heroes and the important jobs they do and in maths the children have been exploring shape.

Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

We have had a very busy week in Year 1/2 – so have our class elves! In English, we have been understanding co-ordinating and sub-ordinating conjunctions and practising writing sentences using these. We have been Historians, sharing our knowledge of The Great Fire of London by writing a fact file for Owls class to learn from and creating 3D models of the houses. In Science, we have been classifying animals by identifying their key features. Finally, in PSHE we have been discussing what is fair and who are our special people.

Skylark, Housemartin & Swift

The naughty elves are causing some mischief – drawing on tables and hanging from our working walls! In Maths, we have continued multiplication and division using grouping and sharing methods. We have learnt techniques for calculating our 4 and 8 times tables and are moving on to our 3 times tables. Please remember TT Rock Stars is a great online resource for children to practise their times tables <https://ttrockstars.com/>. In English, we have been learning about the structure of a letter and trying to convince the animals of Narnia to join with us to defeat the White Witch – using all of our known persuasive techniques, of course. In Science, we have been finding out about skeletons and investigating if people with longer femurs can jump further!

Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

It has been another busy week in Year 5/6. In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions where the denominator is the same before adding and subtracting fractions where one of the denominators is a multiple of the other. In English, we have explored the features of newspapers, analysed the model text and written orientations. In Guided Reading, we have examined how J K Rowling builds up scenes through details and shows how characters are feeling through her language choices. We have also explored the differences between direct and reported speech. In Science, we have been exploring simple circuits and drawing circuit diagrams before investigating the differences between series and parallel circuits.



PAXCROFT School Association

AGM

Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved.

Come along and find out what plans we have for 2023/2024

Wednesday 13th December 2023
6.30pm at
Paxcroft Primary School

Parentkind
Member Association



PAXCROFT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CHRISTMAS DISCO

TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

EARLY YEARS & KS1	KS2
5.30PM-6.15PM	6.30PM-7.15PM

TICKETS COST £3 - INCLUDING DRINK AND GIFT

Payment can be made by cash in a labelled envelope via Reception or via PayPal using QR code below. Please note if paying via PayPal there is an optional charge of 40p to cover PayPal transaction fees. Please include child's name in notes section on PayPal and complete consent form.



GREEN LANE WOODS

wildlife watch

If you are aged between 3 and 12 bring your grown-ups along to discover the wildness just outside your door.

Saturday 16th December

Festive Nature Crafts, Campfire and Carols

10am—12pm
(and the third Saturday of every month)

For more information and to book, email:
GLWwildlifewatch@gmail.com

£2.10 per child
Adults go free & all proceeds go to group activities.

The Wildlife Trusts

Please be aware that all tickets and reserve tickets have now been issued. If you still need to make payment please can this be done by Monday 11th December



Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner can now be paid for on Scopay or by cash at the school office (£2.40)



Please pay any outstanding money for Christmas Dinner as soon as possible, so we can ensure your child doesn't miss out. Thankyou

Paxcroft 'Top Table' to celebrate respect and positive behaviour at lunchtime...



Congratulations to Luna B, Charlie L, Isla L and Ezra B who have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values.



Diary dates for Autumn Term 2023

Wednesday 13 th December	Owls Class Nativity 1.45pm
Wednesday 13 th December	KS2 Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 13 th December	PSA AGM 6.30 PM
Thursday 14 th December	Owls Class Nativity 6pm
Thursday 14 th December	Bikeability Course 2 Day 1
Friday 15 th December	Bikeability Course 2 Day 2
Friday 15 th December	KS1 Christmas Dinner

Friday 15th December	Owls Class Nativity
Tuesday 19th December	Superhero Day - Reception
Tuesday 19th December	School Disco KS1 5.30-6.15 KS2 6.30-7.15
Wednesday 20th December	Last Day of Term 2
Thursday 4th January	TD Day 3
Friday 5th January	TD Day 4
Monday 8th January	First Day of Term 3
Wednesday 10th January	Young Voices Birmingham

Letters & Communications issued this week

Item	To	For
January Dinner Menu	Whole School	Information & Action
PSA Christmas Disco	Whole School	Information & Action
Young Voices Parent Tickets	Selected	Information & Action
Winter FUEL Programme	Selected	Information
Head lice	Selected	Information & Action
Final Flu Vaccination Reminder	Whole School	Information & Action
Christmas Jumpers	Whole School	Information & Action
Online Safety Poster – Keeping Children Safe At Christmas	Whole School	Information
Bikeability Tomorrow	Selected	Information
Bikeability Spaces Still Available	Selected	Information & Action
Paxcroft Choir Cake Sale	Whole School	Information & Action
PH Sports Christmas Fuel Camps	Selected	Information
Pick up and Play With Wiltshire Young Musicians	Whole School	Information
Important – Friday Afterschool Club	Whole School	Information & Action
Y5/6 Film Viewing and Dress up	Y5/6	Information