



## Dear Parents/Carers...

The Christmas tree is now up in the school hall and looking very sparkly! As the festive season approaches-and some very chilly weather too-it has been a real joy to hear our Reception children rehearsing the songs for their forthcoming Nativity performances.

Next week they will be performing 'the Twinkly Nativity' to children from Silverwood School and Kiddiwinks nursery. Silverwood staff have taught the Makaton signs to Silverwood's Robins class and Paxcroft Owls class so that all the children will be able to join in with the Nativity songs. Performances for parents and families are on 12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December.

On Monday, some members of the School Council will be visiting St James' Church to help set up and decorate our Paxcroft Christmas tree. This tree will reflect our school values and will be on display as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. Please do visit the Church to see this display of community trees. Further details below.

A reminder that we have teacher development days on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January so the children will return to school after the Christmas break on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

*Low Rhodes*  
Headteacher

**St James' Church**  
**Christmas Tree Festival**  
**Tue 05 Dec to Sat 09 Dec 2023**  
**Open daily 1000 – 1700**  
**(16:00 on Saturday)**



**All welcome**  
**Free admission**  
**Refreshments available**

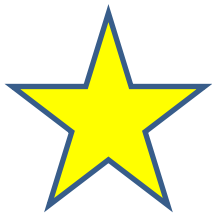
*Paxcroft 'Top Table' to celebrate respect and positive behaviour at lunchtime...*



Congratulations to Daniel R , Emily A , Faith P and Mia A who have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values.



*Celebrating Outside School Achievements.....*



A very well done to Elijah who gained a new belt in his martial arts. It is a 'Gold - Phoenix Tag'. Congratulations, Elijah!



We are proud of all the children at Paxcroft and want to celebrate their successes inside and outside the classroom. We mark their successes at school in a range of ways, including certificates to celebrate children who are demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen and Learning Values, the 'Book of Brilliance' for excellent individual pieces of work, our Citizen Value cups, house points and class rewards that are earned collectively over the term and rewarded with a class treat. If your child has achieved something special outside school, we would love to celebrate those achievements too.

Please send details FAO Mrs Aland to [admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to add to the Paxcroft Post.

*Twinkly Nativity Tickets ...*

A reminder that booked nativity tickets are now ready for collection with payment. Reserved tickets will be allocated from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

## January Dinner Menus ...

Dinner menus for January will go live on Scopay on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. The deadline for submitting menus is 3.30pm on Friday 8th December. Paper copies of the menus and allergen charts can be found on the website, in the foyer and will be sent out via ParentMail.

Please note that even if your child is entitled to free school meals you will still need to complete a menu.



## Our learning this week...

### Owls

It has been all about Christmas this week in Owls and we have really enjoyed practising our nativity. Most of all we are excited about our costumes. We also made the trek to the post box on Wednesday to send our letters off to Santa. The children did a fantastic job of following instructions and fabulous walking and we have to say a huge thank you to the parents that came to help us.

Outside children have enjoyed making a water slide out of drainpipes and our new stands (thank you, Mrs Rhodes!) Inside we have been hunting for our initial sounds in the rice and practising sounds.

It is not quite all about Christmas yet though as we have still been completing topic work on superheroes. In literacy the children have been focusing on the story 'Doctorsaurus' and have been writing a sentence about a chosen character from the book. Well done Owls, what a fantastic week!

### Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

In our English lessons this week, we have been learning about the key features of a story opening. We have focussed on using a range of different sentence starters to improve our narrative writing. In Maths, Year 1 have continued to learn how to subtract 1-digit numbers by finding parts and crossing out to take away, while Year 2 have been learning to subtract from and across a 10. We have used many resources to help us in our maths learning this week such as part-whole models, number lines, counters and tens frames. In History, we have continued to learn about the Great Fire of London. We discussed how and why the fire started and have compared present London to past London.

### Skylark, Housemartin & Swift

We can't believe it is December! With it officially being the start of winter, some naughty elves have arrived and we have started to get into the festive spirit. We started our new writing unit this week, writing persuasive letters based on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. We hope to hone our persuasive writing skills from last term. In Maths, we have started to get stuck into our multiplication and division unit. This unit relies highly on children knowing their times tables, so please ensure your child is practising these at home, as this will greatly support their learning. With the chillier weather, please make sure your child comes into school with a jumper and coat. We hope you all have a lovely weekend getting into the festive spirit!

### Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

This week in Year 5/6, it has been another busy week. In Maths, we have been exploring improper fractions and mixed numbers through models and images; learning how to convert between them. We have also learned to compare fractions with the same and different denominators. In English, we have just completed our 'Hot Task' – a description of a new shop in Diagon Alley. We have edited and published these – creating our 'polished versions, to showcase our best work. As we are starting a new unit of work on journalistic writing, we wrote a newspaper article based on the scene when the boa constrictor escapes from the zoo on Dudley's birthday. In Geography, the children have applied their learning of sustainable energy to advise the government of Moja Island what would be the most suitable renewable energy source for the different communities on the island, based on the island's topography and natural resources.

## Celebrations



Class	Citizen Values	Learners' Values
Woodpecker	Bonnie D - Kindness	Oliver F - Resilience
Kingfisher		Orlaith W - Positivity & Resilience Ava S - Resilience & Independence
Nightingale	Esme T - Kindness	Ezra A - Independence
Skylark	Darcey P - Kindness Kareem B - All the values	Kareem B - All the values
Housemartin	Harry D - Kindness	Lauren T - Resilience & positivity
Swift	Jack H - Kindness & Respect	Lettia R-K - Positivity
Osprey		Layla J - Resilience Codee C - Resilience
Falcon	Isaac H - All Values	Lottie W - Positivity Isaac H - All Values
Kestrel	Starla B - Respect	Kiera R - Positivity



## Paxcroft Citizen Cups



**Eli P – All Values**



## *Diary dates for Autumn Term 2023*

<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Flu immunisations – more information to follow
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Owls class nativity – more information to follow
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS2 Christmas Dinner
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Owls class nativity – more information to follow
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 Christmas Dinner
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Superhero Day – Reception
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School Disco - more information to follow
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Last day of term 2

## *Letters & Communications issued this week*

<b>Item</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>For</b>
Photograph Order Deadline	Whole School	Information & Action
Free Training Course – Induction To Spreadsheets	Whole School	Information
Outdoor Owls	Selected	Information & Action
Pastoral Support Team Coffee Morning	Whole School	Information
Young Voices Payment Overdue	Selected	Information & Action
Christmas Jumper and Nearly New Uniform Sale	Whole School	Information
Wiltshire Children's Centres Amazon Wish list	Whole School	Information
Forest School Cancelled Tomorrow	Selected	Information & Action
Bikeability	Y6	Information
Clubs Terms 3 and 4	Whole School	Information