



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another very productive week of learning, with most children settling in well to their new classes and working really hard. Year 5/6 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the STEAM Museum in Swindon (see below for further details). This trip was linked to the history curriculum and their WWII topic-some great costumes, so thank you for your support with this!

Across the school there has certainly been plenty of evidence of our Paxcroft Learners' Values. We are looking forward to sharing further details with you at our parents' evenings on Tuesday and Thursday next week. These are important opportunities to discuss early progress over this first term, any areas of concern and how these are being addressed. If you have not yet made an appointment, please contact your child's class teacher or the school office on Monday.

This week, we have been working closely with the Ramsbury Primary English Hub to help develop our teaching of phonics and early reading. Ensuring that every child develops secure phonics knowledge is absolutely key if children are to make good progress in reading and writing and, importantly, to help promote their love of reading. We introduced our new phonics programme, Sounds Write, last year. Pleasingly, we are already beginning to see some early positive impact. Thursday this week was National Poetry Day. Look out for the letter from our English leader, Miss Dale, sent earlier this week, with details of a poetry challenge that your child may wish to get involved in.

With this week's newsletter, I am sharing our Paxcroft school vision and values for your information. These were developed with input from children, staff, governors and in light of comments and feedback from parents, including via the parent questionnaire. I am also sharing a summary of the key school development priorities that we are working hard on this academic year. We continue to be committed to helping every child to be successful and to realising their true potential.

Lou Rhodes
Headteacher

Hello Yellow ...Mental Health Awareness

On **Monday 10th October** we will be taking part in Hello Yellow Day in aid of the Young Minds Charity. Please can all children wear something yellow to school. Please see the Parentmail letter for the justgiving link or donations can be brought into school.

#HelloYellow

November Dinner Menus ...

Dinner menus for November will go live on Scopay on Monday 10th October at 9am. The deadline for submitting menus is 3.30pm on Friday 14th October. Paper copies of the menus and allergen charts can be found on the website, in the foyer and will be sent out via ParentMail.



Harvest Festival ...Donations for Trowbridge Food Bank

On Monday 17th October we will be having our Harvest Festival. Any contributions of packet or canned goods to donate to the Trowbridge Food Bank will be gratefully received.



Our learning this week...

Wren & Robin

The Robins and Wrens have had a great week in school. We have started talking about the signs of Autumn and looking closely at some Autumn objects. We went out on a welly walk looking for signs of Autumn. In our PE sessions we learnt a new game called 'Colours'. We had to listen out for a colour and run to it. As we played this game we developed our understanding of personal space. This week we got given a new Sounds Write book to take home. We were all very excited to have our very own book with words! In Maths we have been learning with the Number Blocks and developing our understanding of numbers and counting. Some of us discovered a little grasshopper in our outside area, we named him 'Grassy' and helped him find a safe spot!



Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

This week in Year 1 / 2 we started our Art Topic by learning about a Japanese artist called Yayoi Kusama. We learnt that she was known as the Princess of Polka Dots. We have had great fun creating our own piece of polka dot art inspired by her work. In English, we have been pretending we are going on a holiday and need to write a list of all the things we need to pack. Some children extended themselves by learning how to use commas in a list. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning to count backwards from 10 and finding one less than a number. Year 2 have been learning how to write the numerals as words and how to flexibly partition numbers up to 100.



Skylark, Housemartin, Swift

We have had another busy and hardworking week in Year 3 and 4. In English, the children finished their story writing and have now started a unit of work based on instructions. They have learned about adverbials of time and imperative verbs and have talked about the need for instructions to be clear and accurate. Maybe they could create a set of verbal instructions for you to follow at home? We have completed our Science work for this term and have now started a Geography unit on Volcanoes and Earthquakes. Please could you try to read with your child at home as much as possible – there are house points to earn! Also, regular times tables practise would benefit your child. Remember we have TT Rockstars to help them. If they do not know their log in details, please get them to ask their teacher. <https://ttrockstars.com/>

| Key Vocabulary | |
|-----------------|--|
| core | The core is at the centre of the Earth. There is a solid inner core and outer liquid core of molten metal. |
| crater | The mouth of a volcano. |
| crust | The surface layer covering our planet. |
| earthquake | A violent movement of parts of the Earth's surface. |
| epicentre | The point on the Earth's surface at the centre of an earthquake. |
| erupt | To suddenly burst out causing lava to explode out of the earth's surface. |
| lava | Molten, hot rock flowing from a volcano. |
| molten | Hot, melted rocks. |
| magma | Extremely hot, liquid rock. |
| mantle | Under the crust is the mantle, forming about half of the Earth. |
| seismic waves | An elastic wave in the earth produced by an earthquake or other means. |
| tectonic plates | The earth's crust is made up of large areas called tectonic plates that join together. |
| volcano | An opening or rupture in the Earth's crust through which lava, ash and gases escape. |

Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

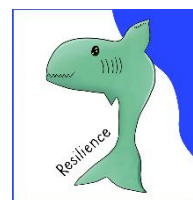
This week in Year 5 and 6, we had a brilliant end to our World War Two unit by taking part in a 'We'll Meet Again' day at STEAM Museum in Swindon. The children spent the day partaking in a range of activities to enhance their learning in history. Upon hearing the air raid siren, they took to the air raid shelter and spent some time exploring what it was like spending the night in a public shelter. They boarded a train carriage to the countryside and found out how it felt to be an evacuee. We took on the various roles of a family during the war and found out how the war affected different people. The children were brilliant representatives of the school and threw themselves into the activities. We have since started our new unit on Forces. The children have explored the effect of gravity and investigated how weight and mass are linked.



Celebrations



| Class | Citizen Values | Learners' Values |
|-------------|--|--|
| Woodpecker | Buddie D - Kindness | Jack E - Positivity |
| Kingfisher | Ella-May H - Kindness | George B-M - Resilience |
| Nightingale | | Emily A - Positivity Ollie R - Resilience |
| Skylark | | Jake M - Resilience Aubree C – Independence |
| Housemartin | Juniper A - Respect | Elijah C - Resilience |
| Swift | Sofia H- Kindness | Sofia H - Positivity Olivia M- Positivity |
| Osprey | Hazel A - Respect Dylan R - Respect | |
| Falcon | | Gino B - Resilience Kayden G - Independence |
| Kestrel | Lila D - Kindness | Nikola W - Positivity |



Citizen Cup



Seren A – All Values

Polly D – All Values



Diary dates for Autumn Term 2022

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday 11th October | Parents' evening |
| Thursday 13th October | Parents' evening Governors meeting-Finance and Premises Committee |
| Thursday 13th & Friday 14th October | Year 6 Bikeability Course 1 |
| Saturday 15th October | 10–12pm - Open Day (September 2023 entry) |
| Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th October | Year 6 Bikeability Course 2 |
| Tuesday 18th October | All years - Flu vaccinations – more information to follow |
| Wednesday 19th October | Teacher Development Day 3 – School closed to pupils-subject leadership focus |

**Thursday 20th October –
Friday 28th October**

October Half term

Monday 31st October

First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 8th November

Steam Fair Y5/6

Thursday 10th November

Reception Parent Workshop

Letters & Communications issued this week

| <i>Item</i> | <i>To</i> | <i>For</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Parents' Evening Change | Osprey Class Only | Information |
| Hello Yellow Day | Whole School | Information |
| National Poetry Day | Y1-6 | Information |
| Parents' Evening Booking | Whole School | Information and Action |
| Bikeability | Bikeability Children Only | Information |
| Flu Immunisations | Whole School | Information |
| Hello Yellow Reminder | Whole School | Information |
| P H sports | Club Children Only | Information |
| | | |