



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I want to say how proud we are of all the children for their hard work, progress and achievements, both inside and outside the classroom. During the course of the year, there have been numerous examples of our school values being demonstrated across the school, every day and in every class.

We wish all our Year 6 children the very best of luck as they move on to secondary school. We will miss you all but know that each one of you will go on to be the best version of yourselves that you can be. Remember to aim high; be kind, be curious, be resilient, laugh a lot and always try to do your best. That's the Paxcroft way.

A huge thank you to the Paxcroft School Association for all their hard work organising and running the Summer Fayre. It was good to see this event happening again after the disruption caused by the pandemic. Thank you to Mrs Brown and Mrs Brooks for all their help with this event and to you all for turning out to support us, despite the miserable weather! Thanks to you, we managed to raise an amazing £1200. We hope to use this to purchase some new library books in September.

Thank you to the staff - you always go the extra mile for the children and I am very lucky to work alongside such a fantastic team. Thank you to the governors who give so much of their time and energy - all on a voluntary basis - to support the school and help ensure that every child at Paxcroft receives an excellent all round education. Finally thank you to you, parents and carers, for your ongoing support for your child's learning and for the school.

I hope that you can all enjoy a relaxing break with your families at some point over the summer and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 5th September as the first two days of term (1st and 4th) are teacher training days.

An enormous thank you to all those parents, carers and children who have given such thoughtful cards and gifts to the Paxcroft staff.

Lou Rhodes, Headteacher

STAFF FAREWELLS

Miss Heathcote, Mrs Brooks and Mrs Hughes

Mrs Brooks and Mrs Hughes arrived at the school in 2007, with Miss Heathcote joining Reception in 2013. They have formed the backbone of our Early Years team, giving children the best possible start to their school journey. All have contributed to the wider life of the school - numerous Nativity plays and Country Dancing displays over the years and each one very special. Mrs Brooks has also helped lead teams of children participating at West Wilts Dance Festival and worked with the PSA to organise school fundraising events.

'I have so many fond memories of my time at Paxcroft. It is so difficult to choose just one. Although there have been some events that have made me smile, including making a band with Mr Farrell, Mrs Rigby, Mrs Young and Mrs Brooks during lunchtime, Paxfactor and all of the dressing up days. My happiest moments have been the little things - giggles with the staff, sharing the children's WOW moments where they understand something, and funny comments from the children.' **Miss Heathcote**

'I love being in Reception at Christmas time - Nativities at Paxcroft have always been very special to me. I have so many memories from Whoops-A-Daisy angel falling off the stage (she was ok!) to a snowflake singing about potatoes instead of baby Jesus! Every year, each class put on an amazing performance and made us all so proud!'

Mrs Brooks

'My favourite memories have to be Paxfactor with the teachers dressing up as the host and the judges - especially when we had a live show from the Spice Girls (aka Miss Bonfield, Mrs Randall, Mrs Cook, Mrs D and Mrs Boswell!)

Mrs Hughes

Mrs Shaw

Mrs Shaw has dedicated her teaching career to the children at Paxcroft, working at the school for an amazing 27 years! Over this time, she has taught and nurtured many children in Year 3/4 and Year 1/2. She has led lots of wonderful Key Stage 1 productions, and, as Music Leader, has taken children to London and Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices singing event, and to perform a special concert for the Mayor of Trowbridge. As Early Reading Leader, she has also overseen the introduction of the school's phonics programme, supporting and coaching colleagues to develop children's early reading and writing skills.

'My happiest moments have been Young Voices, the Music Festivals and drama productions because I love seeing the joy on the children's faces and how proud they are of themselves and their performances. These events always made me feel emotional and I felt honoured that I taught such amazing children at Paxcroft and that I could share those parts of their primary school journey.'

Mrs Rigby and Mrs Dennett

Mrs Rigby joined the school in 2009. She has taught and nurtured the children in Year 5/6 over many years, preparing them for successful transition to secondary school. She has led many residential trips to Mill on the Brue Activity centre, providing the children with wonderful experiences and memories that they will carry with them. She has always set a high marker for the end of year drama production, most recently the wonderful performance of Aladdin. As English Leader, she has developed the school's reading, writing and spelling curriculum, introducing a 'reading spine' of high quality, wide-ranging books to help engage and inspire the children. She recently trained as a Key Stage 2 writing moderator and has been a long-term staff governor.

'I vividly remember a trip Mrs Young and I went on to Warwick Castle during our medieval topic. Possibly the wettest day of the year – we got absolutely soaked but it was a great day. Everybody in wellies and waterproofs and one little girl arrives at school in her little pumps and carrying a handbag! I also remember when all the teachers dressed as Where's Wally for World Book Day and, along with Mrs Brooks and Mrs Young, sneaking up to Mr Caldwell's Cross Country club and hiding in various places so the children could play Where's Wally. Another memory would be dressing up as Will-I-Am to be a judge for Paxfactor alongside Mrs Dennett as Darcy Bussell and Miss Heathcote. Of course there are also many memories of valuable learning experiences too!!' **Mrs Rigby**

Joining the Paxcroft teaching team in 2016, Mrs Dennett has taught and supported classes of children across Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. She has enthusiastically promoted sport and outdoor learning opportunities, leading various sports activities for the children, including our teams of performers at West Wilts Dance Festival. She has led the Year 4 residential trip to Braeside, always encouraging children to embrace a new challenge and develop a growth mindset. More recently, as Maths Leader, she has developed the curriculum to support our youngest children gaining a secure understanding of number and place value, including the use of manipulatives.

'Too many memories to count: performances with Mrs Rigby, Mrs Young and Miss Parkes, Paxfactor, evenings out with our lovely staff team, my Friday walks with Miss Parkes, Miss Stephens and Miss Beaven. One of my favourite memories was when all the staff were trying to put staff acts together for Paxfactor and Mrs Young and I tried to see how many Maltesers we could throw into each other's mouths in a minute. It turned out we were quite good at this!'

Mrs Dennett

Mr Delaney

Although Mr Delaney has only been with us for a year, he has brought a calm, caring approach to the children as well as an array of musical talents. We enjoyed listening to him perform a medley of Michael Buble classics at our school Christmas Fayre!

'My favourite and happiest memory would have to be making sculptures out of soap and the whole classroom smelling of soap for about a week afterwards! The children loved their soap sculptures and I learned a valuable lesson about how much mess a class of children can make with soap!'

Mrs Larcombe

Mrs Larcombe joined the school in 2010. She has supported many children in the classroom and at lunchtime, working across classes in Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. As she looks forward to retirement, it seems fitting that she should end the year in the same class (Falcon, with Mrs Sager) as she started back in 2010!

'My funniest memory was when I was at Braeside with year 4. We were using the rope-line blindfolded on a wet, muddy slippery slope and I slipped and fell on top of Mrs Ireland. Several children then fell on top of me. We all slid down the steep slope together resulting in very muddy bottoms! Having breakfast at Braeside with the children was another special moment. I have also greatly enjoyed working with the children doing some fantastic drama productions over the last 13 years.'

Staffing, September 2023

Headteacher	Deputy Headteacher	Consultant Leader – Inclusion (SENCO) 2 days pw to cover Mrs Lilley's absence
Mrs Lou Rhodes	Mr Alex George	Mr Paul Batchelor
Phase	Classes & Teachers	Teaching Assistant Team
Reception Owls	Miss Amy Stephens	- Mrs Louise Randall - Miss Gemma Bonfield
	Miss Kate Butterfield	
	Mrs Liz, Hoskins, intervention teacher (2 days per week)	
Year 1/2	Kingfisher – Miss Vanessa Beaven	- Mrs Linsey Williams - Miss Amanda Court - Mrs Rebecca Newbury
	Woodpecker – Miss Rosie Granger	
	Nightingale – Mr Malachi Benjamin	
Year 3/4	Swift – Mrs Sarah Aland	- Mrs Ali Frost - Mrs Leila Gunning - Miss Nik Shaw
	Housemartin – Miss Ella Parkes	
	Skylark – Miss Emma Wyatt	
Year 5/6	Falcon – Mrs Andrea Sager	- Mrs Laura Edwards (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) - Mrs June Cook - Mrs Emily Pepler (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
	Kestrel – Miss Lucy Spratt	
	Osprey – Miss Kara Westlake	

Pastoral Team	Mrs Jackie Evans (Pupil Pastoral Support Adviser) Mrs Maggie Williams (Parent Support Adviser) Mrs Claire Jessup (Emotional Literacy Support Adviser)
Office Team	Mr Jon Langlois (School Business Manager) Mrs Allie Brown (Office Manager) Mrs Lisa Flenley (Admin Assistant) Mrs Kayley Hillman (Finance Assistant) Mrs Carolyn Gabb (Cashier)

Celebrating Achievements ...

Congratulations to Elliot who passed his Martial Arts Grading which means, amazingly, he has achieved his 1st Degree Black Belt. His new belt will be presented to him this week. Well done Elliot!



Congratulations to Seren who has been selling handmade bracelets to raise money for a penguin charity. She has raised almost £100! Well done Seren!



If your child has achieved something special outside school, we would love to celebrate their achievements.

Please send details FAO Mrs Aland to admin@paxcroft.wilts.sch.uk and we will endeavour to add to the Paxcroft Post.

Teacher Development Days for the next academic year 2023/2024

Friday 1st September
Monday 4th September
Thursday 4th January 2024
Friday 5th January 2024
Monday 10th June 2024

Is your child due to start school in September 2024?

Please see below our Open Days for September 2024:

- Thurs 28th September, 9.30am
- Sat 14th October, 10am
- Tues 14th November, 9.30am

Please contact the School Office to book your place!

Diary dates for Term 1 2023/2024

Friday 1st September	*Teacher Development Day -vision and values
Monday 4th September	*Teacher Development Day -safeguarding, health and safety expectations
Tuesday 5th September	*First Day of Term 1 for children in Y1-6 Reception class-home visits
Wednesday 6th September	Reception class-home visits
Thursday 7th September	*First Day of Term 1 for children in Reception
Monday 11th September	Year 3/4 - Parent Information workshop/meet the teacher & curriculum expectations
Wednesday 13th September	Year 5/6 - Parent Information workshop/meet the teacher & curriculum expectations
Thursday 14th September	Year 1/2 - Parent Information workshop/meet the teacher & curriculum expectations
Thursday 21st September	Sounds Write (Phonics) workshop for parents - Reception and Year 1/2
Tuesday 26th September	Literacy workshop - Reception
Thursday 28th September	Open Morning for parents of children due to start school in September 2024
Tuesday 10th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 12th October	Parents' Evening
Saturday 14th October	Open Morning for parents of children due to start school in September 2024
Wednesday 18th October	*Final day of term 1

Letters & Communications issued this week

Item	To	For
Raffle winners	Selected children	Information & Action
Housemartin Class reward	Housemartin	Information
Uniform tomorrow	Y6	Information
Y6 USB's	Y6	Information
Basketball club – places still available	Y3-6	Information
Gymnastics Club	Y2-4 (from September)	Information & Action