



## *Dear Parents/Carers,*

We are excited to see our new Forest School area start to take shape this week. This is part of a shared project with Silverwood School and Wiltshire Council.

At Paxcroft we are lucky to have substantial school grounds. We are keen to develop these to provide more opportunities for the children to learn outdoors. Research shows that a strong outdoor curriculum can have a hugely positive impact for children's physical health and mental wellbeing, as well as the development of problem-solving and team building skills.

Alongside Forest School provision for small groups of children, this year we have three outdoor learning days planned for KS1 and KS2, led by colleagues from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. We introduced these outdoor learning days last year and had really positive feedback from the children. One of our teaching assistants, Mrs Gunning, has also now completed Forest School training.

Currently, children attending Silverwood School, our neighbouring school for children with special educational needs and disabilities, have no access to green space to play and learn. At Paxcroft we are committed to an inclusive approach to education, working collaboratively in the best interests of all children in our local community. With this in mind, we have offered Silverwood School the opportunity to share our new Forest School area and I know their children and staff are looking forward to this. We are also delighted that we have been able to help Robins class, a class of Year 1 children from Silverwood, by providing a spare classroom to continue their learning while they await completion of the building works at the Rowde site.

Over the coming weeks, look out for developments to our new Forest School area. We will be installing a seating area and a covered outdoor classroom space that can be used in wet/cold weather, planters for growing vegetables, a sensory garden and a wildlife area. A section of the daily mile running track is being incorporated in this new area to aid accessibility for wheel chair users. A new section will be re-laid to ensure that the children have a complete track to run/walk around.

*Lou Rhodes*

*Headteacher*

## *Job Vacancy..*

Paxcroft Primary School is looking to appoint a School Cook to join our happy and flourishing school on a full-time basis. Supported by our Assistant Cook, you will be responsible for planning menus and preparing, cooking and serving meals that meet the mandatory Nutritional Standards. On an average day, you will be serving between 100 and 150 meals.

If you are interested in the above position, you can apply via either Wiltshire Council website or the School Office.

## *Little Princess Trust.*

In an amazing display of a number of our school values, Starla in Year 5 has decided to donate her hair to the Princess Trust with the hopes of providing enough hair to make a wig. Starla is aiming high, and hopes to raise enough money to also have this wig made, which is around £550.

There is a collection in the School Office for anyone that would like to donate to this worthy cause. Alternatively, a Go Fund Me page has been set up for online donations.

<https://gofund.me/ebec80a7>

We are incredibly proud of you Starla!



## *Paxcroft Playground Pals...*

Once again, the children in Y5 and 6 have been given the opportunity to apply to be a 'Paxcroft Playground Pal'. These Playground Pals will be responsible for helping to organise games and will be around to support any children who need a helping hand during the lunch break. There was a large number of applications for the eight positions, we will change the children carrying out this role termly. The first group of **Playground Pals** will be Theo, Holly, Shannon, Anjika, Wyatt, Maddison, Noah and Lottie. I am sure they will all do a sterling job



## *Teacher Development Days for the next academic year...*

**Thursday 4th January 2024**

**Friday 5th January 2024**

**Monday 10th June 2024**

## *Date for your diaries – October 10<sup>th</sup> – Hello Yellow...*

We will be taking part in the Hello Yellow initiative again this year. This will be on October 10th which is World Mental Health Day.

The number of young people in need of mental health support is growing faster than ever – with a record number of young people being treated for mental health problems every month. Many young people aren't getting the help they need, and we want to help to change this. That's why Hello Yellow is more important than ever. We need to make sure young people know that how they feel matters and they deserve to feel supported. We couldn't not get involved.

We'll be joining thousands of other schools by wearing yellow to show young people that how they feel matters, as well as raising money for Young Minds. To take part, students can wear yellow to school on 10 October, and we ask parents and carers to consider making a donation to Young Minds. More details on how to do this will follow at a later date.

*Sarah Aland*

## *Outside achievements...*

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

## *Our learning this week...*

### *Owls*

This week in Owls Class a dinosaur visited and left a terrible mess in the classroom! The children were very excited to find footprints and upturned tables in the classroom and the area sectioned off. The children were even more excited to watch a video from a 'security camera' that had caught the dinosaur in action making the mess. The children have also been learning to recognise and write their own names and creating their own dinosaur stories which they have illustrated.



### *Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale*

On Tuesday this week Y1/2 had RE day, the children learnt about 'what it means to belong'. In Maths, Y1 have been learning to count objects and how to count on from numbers. Y2 have been practicing to how to write numbers to 100 and how to count objects to 100 by making 10s. In English this week we have been looking at fact files of different planets and learning how to orally rehearse texts through the use of story maps. In Geography, the children have been learning about the capital city, London, and why it's important.

### *Skylark, Housemartin & Swift*

At the start of the week we had our meet the teacher meeting, which we hope helped parents start to get a good feel for year 3 and 4. Thank you to those who came, it was lovely to see so many of you! During our learning this week, we started our 'writing to entertain' unit in English and looked at the features of a setting description. As well as this, we have been revisiting and improving our writing basics. In Maths, we began learning about place value and have developed our understanding of 100s and 1000s. We also had our RE day on Wednesday, which saw us learning about Christianity and how Christians follow Jesus. We also explored what it means to have faith and the influence of inspirational leaders. Well done Year 3/4, a great second week back at school! Just a little reminder, our first batch of spellings will be sent out on Monday.

### *Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel*

This has been a busy week in 5/6 with lots of important elections about to take place. The children will be voting for their House Captains on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and for the Year 5 Youth Parliamentarian next week. It is great that we have had so many children stepping up, wanting to hold important roles in the school and wider community. In our topic lessons this week we have been learning about British Values – Democracy, Rule of Law, Mutual respect and Tolerance and Individual Liberty. We have also discussed the concept of Culture. We had our first RE day on Wednesday and investigated the question Who has made a difference because of their faith or beliefs? During the course of the day we learned about many inspirational people including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gandhi, Malala Yusufzai as well as Sir David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg amongst others.

In English, we explored how the main character in *The Arrival* felt at significant points his journey before writing a cold task – a letter to his cherished family. In Guided Reading, we are reading *The Arrival* and beginning to make inferences from the illustrations. In Maths, we are all working on place value and extending our knowledge of numbers and the number system.

Again, we have been impressed by the children's enthusiasm and engagement.

## Celebrations



Class	Citizen Values	Learners' Values
Woodpecker	Evie- Lyn P - Kindness Arabella J - Kindness	
Kingfisher		Lincoln C - Positivity Elliot R - Independence
Nightingale		Sophie B - Independence Charlie H - Positivity
Skylark		Joshua M - Positivity Seth I - Independence
Housemartin		Jai M - Positivity & Resilience Polly D - Positivity & Resilience
Swift		Oliver K - Positivity & Resilience Darcie C - Positivity
Osprey	Anjika S – Respect.	Euan L- Resilience & Positivity
Falcon	Sofia H - All Values	Ollie G-C - All Values
Kestrel	Maddison H - All Values	Charlie E - All Values



## Paxcroft Citizen Cups



**Kason McM – All Values**

**Bobby M – All Values**



## Diary dates for Autumn Term 2023

<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	Reception & KS1 Sounds Write Workshop (3.40pm)
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Trowbridge Youth Parliament
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Open Day Reception 2024 Intake (9.30am)
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Y1/2 Woodland Walk – More information to follow
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Awareness Day
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parents Evening – Details To Follow

<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parents Evening – Details To Follow
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Last Day Of Term 1

## *Letters & Communications issued this week*

<b>Item</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>For</b>
Reception baseline Assessments	Reception	Information
Forest School	Selected	Information & Action
Sounds-Write Phonics Workshop	Year 1&2	Information
Clarendon Open Days	Year 5&6	Information
Active Trowbridge Clubs	Whole School	Information
John Of Gaunt Open Days	Year 5&6	Information
Melksham Oak Open Days	Year 5&6	Information
Are You Entitled To Free School Meals	Whole school	Information
Sounds Write Workshop	Reception Year 1 and 2	Information