



## Dear Parents/Carers,

The whole school came together this week to commemorate VE Day, with a school street party and a commemorative assembly in which children from each year group shared their learning with the rest of the school. We heard moving letters and diary entries and saw some wonderful artwork. Thank you to Ezra and Elijah BM who shared an informative presentation in assembly to help us understand what happened just before and during VE Day.

The children received a letter from a veteran, John Eskdale, aged 100 and living in Gloucestershire. He shared some of his experiences whilst serving as a Royal Marine which really helped to bring this to life for the children. Each class has written a reply which we will be sending to him.

A big thank you to Mrs Sager, Miss Beaven and our school cooks, Mrs Collett and Mrs Lockwood, for making this such a special event. Thank you also to Mr Beety and Miss Court for all their help with bunting and displays.

A quick update on the school's academisation process. I met with the CEO of Equa Mead Learning Trust this week to discuss our school priorities. I will be meeting with colleagues from the DfE before the end of this term. The conversion process is well underway and on track for us to join Equa Mead on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

With this in mind, I am sharing the Trust agreed Teacher Development Days for the next academic year:

Monday 1st September  
Tuesday 2nd September  
Monday 3rd November

Monday 5th January  
Monday 23rd February  
Monday 15th June

Next week our Year 6 children have their KS2 SATs assessment tests. They have worked really hard and this is an opportunity for them to show off all their learning. We wish them lots of luck.

I hope you and the children have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Mrs Lou Rhodes*  
Headteacher

## Staffing Update...

Next week will be Miss Stephens' last week at school before starting her period of maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the very best!

Miss Granger will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We will be very sorry to say goodbye but know that she has some exciting travel plans which she had to postpone due to the pandemic.

A warm welcome to Mrs Shore and Miss Clark who have both joined our Pastoral Support team.



## Youth Parliament Update...

We were lucky enough to be joined at our latest meeting by three town and county councillors and the Mayor of Trowbridge. We were invited to each ask our questions to the councillors. We discussed all things ranging from what inspired them to become councillors to their current working plans for our town centre. After a refreshment break (Kit-Kats and Wagon Wheels), we broke off in to four separate groups to discuss certain issues in more detail. Our group spoke with Town Councillor Stuart about how to improve vibrancy in our town centre. We questioned Stuart about why there aren't as many clothes shops, what businesses might be moving in to empty shop spaces and how more restaurants and bars could improve the nightlife in the town. We came out of the session with 3 main focuses for Stuart to takeaway – improved communication from the council about events happening in the town (especially communication with young people via schools etc), and how to get more shops and more restaurants. The councillors answered all of the questions posed to them by youth parliament and they were very impressed by the quality of the students' questions and their conduct overall. They understand the importance of raising political awareness amongst our young people and welcomed all of the feedback. Ruby and Jacob.



## VE DAY Celebrations.....



Paxcroft Primary School  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 7EB  
8th May 2025

Dear John  
Thankyou for your letter I am  
writing to you because of all  
your hard work and being so  
brave as we celebrate the 80th  
Anniversary.

From this letter I have learnt that  
you are a true hero because  
you saved our country with  
your life on the line.

In school we are having so  
much fun celebrating VE day we  
made posters with Stitzie  
Mates in the middle we also  
made great Britain flags we  
even had a street party here  
with all our friends.

Finally I am just going to ask  
a question how sure was it  
winning the war at only 17.

Yours sincerely Corey



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



Congratulations to Hashir G, Adam C, Oliver K and Jake C who have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values.



## Outside Achievements...

Huge congratulations to Araminta who won best young handler with Meadow, and then reserve best in show at Bradford-on-Avon charity dog show. She made the Wiltshire Times front page. Amazing, Araminta!



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 we have started a new book in Literacy. We have started by looking at the end papers and picking out key vocabulary. We then went on a nature hunt and made our own end papers, just like in the book. In Maths, we have been learning about equal distribution and sharing and how if things are equal, they have to be the same. We also enjoyed a fantastic day on Thursday celebrating VE day where we made flags and bunting as well as helping Mrs Pepler write a class reply back to the letter that the children at Paxcroft received from a veteran. Oh and of course we had a yummy street style lunch!



### Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

What an exciting week KS1 have had! On Thursday, we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. The children received a letter from a veteran, and they all wrote back expressing their thanks for their service. The children also created lovely pieces of artwork which were displayed in the classroom windows. Finally, the children decorated their own union flags ready to wave during our street party lunch on the playground. In English, the children have been learning to use different sentence types and have explored characters' thoughts and feelings through hot seating. In Maths, the children have been delving into the world of measurement. KS1 have compared lengths and heights, measured things using objects and explored measuring in centimetres and metres. In Science this week, the children continued to learn all about living things and their habitats. Each class went on a scavenger hunt around the school to discover what living things they could find in our local habitat!

### Skylark, Housemartin & Swift

This week in 3/4 we have continued working on our poetry observations in English and have been writing more poems in our secret notebook about what we can see outside. They have written some fabulous poems! In Maths, we have started our new topic of 'time', the children are enjoying reading both analog and digital clocks! On Thursday we had a whole day of History focusing on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. We created commemorative stamps and wrote a diary entry to put themselves in the shoes of children who would've been alive during this time! With our Multiplication check looming, we ask that all children in Year 4 are practicing their times tables on Times Table Rockstars! In Science this week, we have continued our light topic and have been using mirrors to send and decode messages using light.

### Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

It has been a very busy, if shorter week in Year 5/6. In English, we have finished reading Curiosity and have written a book review, recommending the book. We have also written diary entries, in the role as Scientists back at the Space Centre watching the nail-biting final approach of the Mars Rover. In Maths, we have continued to revise key concepts in readiness for the SATs next week. To commemorate VE Day 80 years on, we have been using primary and secondary sources to learn about this incredible milestone in our history. We are looking forward to seeing as many of

the Year 6 children as possible at the SATs breakfast club in the hall next week. Whilst orders are now closed for cooked options, cereal and toast will still be available (and we're sure there will be some spare sausages somewhere!) All Y6 are welcome whether they have booked or not.

### Diary dates from January 2025

<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Y6 SATs week
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Nightingale ICT Day
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Woodpecker ICT Day
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Kingfisher ICT Day
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	PSA Meeting, 6pm <b>**New date**</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Reception – Trip to Bath Farm
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Last day of Term 5
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	Teacher Development Day – school closed to pupils
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	First Day of Term 6
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 6 Residential Trip to Mill on the Brue
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 3/4 Ancient Egyptians Workshop
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Reception 2025 Parent meeting, 9am and 6pm
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 6 Junior Good Citizen trip
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 5 swimming – more information to follow
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Non-Uniform Day for Chocolate Donation (Summer Fayre)
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Reception 2025 1 <sup>st</sup> transition session, 9.30 – 11am
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>	PSA Meeting, 6pm
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Y6 swimming begins – more information to follow
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Reception 2025 2 <sup>nd</sup> transition session, 1.30 – 3pm

<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Y5 Taster Day to John of Gaunt – more information to follow
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Reserve Sports Day
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Non-Uniform Day for Bottle Donation (Summer Fayre)
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Move up day – more information to follow
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Y6 Transition Day to Clarendon and John of Gaunt
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Reception 2025 3 <sup>rd</sup> transition session, 9.15 – 10.45am
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	PSA Summer Fayre, 11am – 3pm
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	PSA Meeting, 6pm
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 5/6 End of Year Production, 6pm - more information to follow
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 5/6 End of Year Production, 1.45pm
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 5/6 End of Year Production, 6pm
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Y6 swimming – last session
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	KS1 Trip to Steam Museum
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Y6 Leavers Assembly, 9am - 10am
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Y6 Leavers BBQ, 5.30pm – 7.30pm

### *Letters & Communications issued this week*

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>For</b>
Class Photo Proofs	Whole School	Information & Action
Art Club	Selected Pupils	Information
Breakfast Club	Whole School	Information
A Message from Clarendon	Year 6 Pupils	Information & Action
SATS Revision	Year 6	Information
Drop-In sessions with the Local School Nurse Service	Whole School	Information & Action

We know children love spending time outdoors, whether in the garden, park or beach, however, their skin is more delicate than an adult's and can easily be damaged by the sun, even when it doesn't seem strong.

# SUN SAFETY

- Use a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 50 and at least 4 stars for UVA protection.
- Wear sunglasses, ideally with wrap around lenses or wide arms, which carry CE and British Standard marks.
- Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or sweating.
- No sunscreen offers 100% protection so cover up with loose close weave clothing (such as cotton) and a wide brimmed hat to protect the neck, ears and face.
- Seek shade between 11am - 3pm when the sun is at its strongest. Always keep babies and toddlers in the shade if you can.
- Generously apply sunscreen (5 teaspoons to cover the whole body) 15 to 20 minutes before going out.

By following these simple tips your child will be able to stay safe and enjoy the sun. Remember parents, set your child a good example by also following this advice, and the whole family can have a happy sun safe summer.

For more information about the British Skin Foundation see [www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk)

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BookTrust  
**Pyjama Pama**

Family Hub  
Wiltshire Council

Join us for lots of fun crafts and activities around our favourite stories!

Come along in your pyjamas or bring your favourite bedtime story to share!

**FREE**  
Drop In - No booking required!

**County Hall**  
Bythesea Rd, Trowbridge, BA14 4YT

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025  
11:00am - 2:00pm

For Families with children 0-11years old. Child/ren to be accompanied by parent/carer at all times.

In partnership with **Spurgeons** Wiltshire Council  
0800 970 4669

Scan me

**WIGHTY GIRLS**

## Self Defence half day workshop

**WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY**  
TROWBRIDGE  
1.30PM - 4.30PM. AGE 11-18  
COST £25

Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk) or QR Code to book

The club is offered at a discounted rate for all & free to some thanks to the support from: **Wiltshire Council**

## ULTIMATE Slip n Slide

**BOOK NOW**

**OPENING IN MAY**

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