



Dear Parents/Carers

Progress Update

It was good to see so many of you at our two parents' evenings this week. I hope that you found the meeting with your child's class teacher informative. Re-scheduled dates for Osprey class will be confirmed next week.

These parent meetings are part of a three stage process designed to ensure you are kept informed of your child's progress and attainment at school. There will be a second parents' evening in February/March and then a written report sent home in the summer term explaining whether your child has met age-related expectations at the end of the academic year. These are formal updates but, at Paxcroft, we want to promote an open door policy, so if you have any questions or concerns about your child at any time, I would strongly encourage you to talk to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Outdoor Learning

We are lucky enough to have a large school site with lots of green space for the children to explore and use to support and develop their learning. We already work closely with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and run Forest School sessions for groups of children. We see the positive impact learning outdoors can have, both in terms of the children's learning, their physical health but also in helping to support their emotional wellbeing too. With this in mind, I am very keen to develop our outdoor curriculum and to increase opportunities for all the children to learn outdoors. Next term, working with our colleagues from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Forest Schools, we will be launching our first outdoor learning days for Years 1-6 (see newsletter diary dates below). I am planning another day for the Spring term. These days will include activities linked to curriculum topics or may focus on activities including shelter building, bug hunting, wild art/crafts, problem solving games and challenges and outdoor cooking/fire lighting. On outdoor days, children will need to come to school dressed in old, warm clothes, waterproof coats, wellies or old trainers. The children may get muddy so need to be dressed appropriately please. Paxcroft hoodies can be worn on outdoor days.

Volunteers-Can you help?

I would like to offer all our children at Paxcroft the very best opportunities and a rich and wide curriculum. I really need some volunteers to help us with this. It's a great opportunity to get involved in the life of the school and to support the children's learning and personal development. If you, grandparents or someone you know is interested in any of the opportunities below, and can spare an hour or two of their time, please contact me via the school office:

- **Paxcroft PSA**-working with staff to organise and run events like school fayres, discos, cake sales to help raise funds for the school
- **Green team**-to help maintain the school grounds, set up some small gardening projects (even run a gardening club) and build raised beds for the children to grow (and cook) their own vegetables or flowers
- **Reading support team**-come into school to hear and support individual readers
- **Cooking club**-help the children to develop basic cooking skills

A reminder that the children should be at school on Monday and Tuesday next week. Wednesday is our Teacher Development training day so the children should not come to school. On Wednesday, Teachers will be working with our School Improvement Adviser to continue developing our curriculum and subject leadership skills. Other staff will be completing Prevent/Health & Safety training. I hope you enjoy the half term break when it arrives. Term 2 begins on Monday 31st October.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Lou Rhodes

Headteacher

Paxcroft Food Bank

With the current cost of living challenges faced by families, we are looking for donations of dried and tinned food to help provide support for any families in our Paxcroft school community who need some extra support. More details to follow after half term.

**REMINDER – WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER IS A TD DAY!*

Bikeability...

We have been offered a third Bikeability course for children in Y6. If anyone else is interested, please contact the School Office about a place.

World Mental Health Day

Hello Yellow...raising awareness of children's mental health

On Monday, the children and staff at Paxcroft dressed in yellow to celebrate 'World Mental Health Day'. We started the day with an assembly where we talked about mental health and what it means to us. The children then carried out a variety of activities in their classes throughout the day to raise awareness of mental health and how we can help ourselves and each other.



Here are some of the things the children said when asked about their day and what it was all about:

"To show people they are not alone"

"I liked listening to Mrs Rhodes talk about feelings"

"I think mental health is when you are uncomfortable or upset but you don't want to show it"

"I can talk to people if they are sad and If I'm sad, I can talk to someone as well"

As a school, we have raised a fantastic **£231.16** for the charity Young Minds.

Well done and thank you all for your support.

Mrs Aland, Pupil Wellbeing Lead



Our learning this week...

Wren & Robin



On Monday, the children enjoyed coming to school dressed in yellow for our Hello Yellow Day and we spent time talking about our feelings. We focused on what makes us happy and drew pictures of these. We also went to our first whole school assembly. We did really well at sitting still and listening to Mrs Rhodes talk about looking after ourselves when we feel sad, or angry or frustrated. In Maths, we have been continuing to develop our subitising (recognition of amounts without counting).



We enjoyed playing subitise Bingo and going on our welly walk and finding sets to subitise. In Sounds Write we are all trying hard to listen to the sounds we hear in words and match them to the letters and then say the sounds to read the word. We have new sounds to bring home this week, I wonder if the children can tell you what they are?

Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale



What a busy week we have had in Year 1/2 this week. In English, we have been looking at features of instructions and have been writing sentences using imperative verbs and time conjunctions. In Maths, the Year 2 objectives have been to focus on numbers to 100 in expanded form and to place 10's to 100 on a numberline. The Year 1 objectives have been to compare groups by matching and to use the language more, fewer and the same when talking about amounts of objects. It has also been a creative week and in the afternoons we have produced our own pictures based on the work of Yayoi Kusama.



Skylark, Housemartin, Swift



The week was kicked off with our 'Hello Yellow' themed day, which gave us the opportunity to consider the importance of mental health. We completed plenty of exciting activities and the children had time to slow down and reflect. We have started to conclude our instructional text learning in English and begun an addition and subtraction unit in Maths. We have continued our exciting volcano learning throughout the week and the children have really enjoyed finding out about tectonic plates and different features of a volcano.

The children's creations for space week were truly out of this world! Everyone went above and beyond and hit the brief with exceptional effort and creativity. The children should be extremely proud of their work and we thank you for helping them achieve excellence! Well done year 3 and 4 - a great demonstration of what we can do!



Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

On Monday, the whole school community took part in 'Hello Yellow Day', which promotes International Mental Health and Wellbeing and its importance. Throughout the week, we have considered ways in which we can look after our mental and emotional well-being. We have discussed how exercise and looking after our physical health contributes to our mental wellbeing. Also, we have talked about the importance of getting enough sleep, being able to relax before bed and limiting screen time. In Maths, Year 6 have started work on a range of methods for calculations and Year 5 have been revising formal methods for addition and subtraction as well as strategies to check the answers are reasonable such as estimation and rounding. In English, we have started to write events from different points of view, ensuring we are consistently using the same grammatical person and tense. In Science, we have been planning investigations into water and air resistance.

Celebrations



Class	Citizen Values	Learners' Values
Woodpecker		Eadie K-T - Positivity Felix P - Independence
Kingfisher	Sofia V - Kindness & Respect	Kason Mc - Positivity
Nightingale	Maisie B - Kindness	Ava S- Independence
Skylark	Maddison - Respect	Jake C - Independence
Housemartin		Zahary D - Positivity Wyatt B - Positivity
Swift		Shai A – Positivity Holly C - Positivity
Osprey		
Falcon	Teddy G – All Values Lucy T – All Values	Teddy G – All Values Lucy T – All Values
Kestrel		Charlie M – Resilience Nadya S - Independence



Citizen Cup



Boril D – All Values
Patrycja O – All Values



Diary dates for Autumn Term 2022

Saturday 15th October	10–12pm - Open Day (September 2023 entry)
Monday 17th October	3.30pm Braeside Parent Meeting (Housemartin Classroom)
Mon 17th & Tues 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 –focus=subject leadership. *School closed to pupils
Thursday 20th October – Friday 28th October	October Half term
Monday 31st October	*First Day of Term 2*

Monday 7 th November	Y5/6 Outdoor Learning Day – more information to follow
Tuesday 8 th November	Y1/2 Outdoor Learning Day – more information to follow
Tuesday 8 th November	Steam Fair Y5/6 – more information to follow
Thursday 10 th November	Reception Parent Workshop – Communication and Language
Thursday 10 th November	Y3/4 Outdoor Learning Day – more information to follow
Monday 14 th November	Individual Photographs
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th November	<i>*Anti-Bullying Week</i>
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th November	<i>*UK Parliament Week</i>
Tuesday 15 th November	9.30-11am Open Day – Reception 2023 intake
Wednesday 16 th November	Reception Parent Workshop – Reading and Writing
Weds 16 th – Fri 18 th November	Y4 residential to Braeside
Friday 18 th November	<i>*BBC Children in Need – School Council to lead</i>

Letters & Communications issued this week

<i>Item</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>For</i>
November Allergen Information	All	Information & Action
Dinner Menu	All	Information & Action
Oexmann Art Competition	All	Information & Action
Y6 Residential Visit - Survey	Y6	Information & Action
Space Challenge	Y3/4	Information
Braeside information – Kit List & Medical	Y4	Information & Action
Bikeability Course 1 Reminder	Selected Children	Information
Reception – Personal, Social & Emotional Development	YR	Information & Action
Bikeability extra course	Y6	Information & Action