



## *Dear Parents/Carers...*

I hope that you all had a good Christmas and I wish you and your families a very happy and healthy 2024.

Teachers spent the first training day of this term focused on ways to develop and strengthen high quality teaching and learning for the children. Together with colleagues from other Trowbridge schools, they participated in training workshops led by School Effectiveness Leads from Wiltshire Council. These workshops covered areas such as strategies for effective assessment of children's learning and helping children to retain and build knowledge, understanding and skills.

The safety and wellbeing of all our children is a key priority so staff spent the second of our training days completing a range of Health and Safety training and Prevent training. The Prevent duty requires all schools 'to help prevent the risk of young people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. This includes safeguarding learners from extremist ideologies and radicalisation. This training is an integral part of the school's wider safeguarding training, policies and processes. It also links with promotion of our school values, wider British Values, E-safety and our Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum.

I am extremely proud of the positive way the children have returned to school after the festive break. There has been plenty of evidence of our Paxcroft Values on show by children across the school. Well done everyone!

We have certainly hit the ground running. Year 5/6 children enjoyed exploring the Mayan sarcophagus that mysteriously appeared in our new outdoor classroom and, on Wednesday, a group of 36 children from Year 5/6 travelled to Birmingham to perform at the Young Voices singing event. Adriana took part and said, "I loved the experience of us all singing together with lots of children from other schools in front of a live audience. The arena was huge and it was brilliant to sing with the professional conductor and musicians."

Year 3/4 have been writing some fantastic poetry and planning their forthcoming trip to the Roman Baths.

Year 1/2 loved dressing up as pirates as part of their new 'Treasure Island' Geography/History topic.

Our Reception children have enjoyed finding out about Space and exploring their new outdoor playground equipment.

Please look out for information regarding your child's curriculum for the forthcoming term. This will be sent to you via parent mail.

Finally, with colder weather forecast for next week, please take extra care when coming on to the school site as surfaces may be icy and slippery.

*Lou Rhodes*

*Headteacher*

## Staffing update

A warm welcome to Ms Rebecca Kellow who has joined the Reception team in Owls as a teaching assistant, Ms Lisa Weeks who is our new ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Adviser), and our new Head Cook, Ms Theresa Collett (see more information below).

## News from the Paxcroft Kitchen

With over 45 years of culinary expertise, new Head cook, Theresa Collett has a passion for creating delicious, nutritious meals using some innovative recipes that captivate students' taste buds and promote a healthy, enjoyable dining experience. As you will see in February's menu (issued next week), Theresa has already made some exciting changes. She has brought in some traditional school favourites like cottage pie and jam & coconut sponge, and balanced these with new dishes such as salmon & broccoli parcels, all day brunch, vegan vegetable burger and many more.



Theresa will continue to provide fresh, healthy school meals with locally sourced produce and has a keen interest in incorporating the ethos of Paxcroft into the school kitchen. As we progress with development of the vegetable beds in the new Forest School area, Theresa is keen to bring learning into the kitchen through schemes like Farm to Fork.

In her career, Theresa has served everyone from the royal family to stars of the soaps, and now she is excited to get to know the pupils of Paxcroft. Theresa's commitment to culinary excellence and her child-friendly approach is sure to make her an integral part of the Paxcroft Primary School community. Give her a wave if you see her around school.

## Our Learning this week..

### Owls

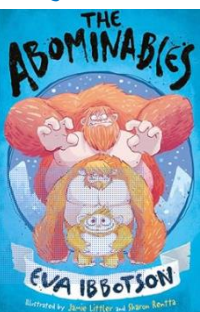


We have had a great start to the new term. We have launched our new topic on space by learning that the planet we live on is Earth! We are excited to learn about our Solar System and the planets within over the next few weeks. In Literacy, we have been using the sentence stem 'my favourite present was' to write about our favourite present for Christmas. In Maths, we have been learning to subitise with our eyes, and matching the quantity to the correct numeral. We are getting better at recognising our numbers to 5. We have also been talking about and drawing people in our family for understanding the world. We also had some very exciting new equipment built to enhance our outdoor area. It has already been a boat, a secret hideaway and a house!

### Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and hear about what they all got up to over the Christmas holidays. In Maths this week, Year 1 and 2's have been exploring the properties of 2D and 3D Shapes. We have also started learning how to write a character description in English lessons. This week, we have focussed on learning what the key features of a character description are and how to use similes to make our writing better. On Friday, we launched our exciting new topic 'Treasure Island'. We all dressed as pirates for the afternoon, went on a treasure hunt around the school and took part in some other fun pirate activities. The children are very excited to find out more!

### Skylark, Housemartin & Swift



We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and would like to wish you all a 'Happy New Year!' It has been great to have the children back in school this week. We have started to read our new class book 'The Abominables' by Eva Ibbotson and have been looking at, and writing, poems in English lessons. In Maths, the children are continuing with a multiplication and division unit of work. This week we have been multiplying a two or three-digit number by one digit. On Thursday, we had a visitor to our classes who spoke to us about ways to keep ourselves healthy. Our Romans topic is continuing and we are hoping to visit The Roman Baths nearer the end of term – please see separate letter for more details. Please check the website for a reminder of the Homework project we set last term, due in on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

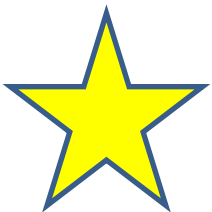
## *Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel*

On Monday we launched our new topic – ‘Deep in the Jungle’, with a visit to the tomb of Pakal the Great. The children were intrigued by the magnificent sarcophagus, the jade funerary mask and the intricate hieroglyphs, which we then decoded. We all thoroughly enjoyed being explorers for the day! In English we have started a unit of work on Narrative Poetry, featuring the poem ‘The Listeners’ by Walter De La Mare. We are extremely proud of the achievements and behaviour of our Young Voices Choir. Well done everybody! Meanwhile, back at school we investigated the Mayan Number System and learnt that they also had a place holder zero and a base 20 number system! We also explored further poems, including the Magic Box.

## *Celebrating Outside School Achievements.....*



Well done to Lawrence who was awarded his Silver Challenge badge at Cubs and William who was awarded with his Bronze Challenge badge at Beavers. These are the highest badges you can achieve in Cubs and Beavers respectively and involved a lot of hard work and dedication to complete all of the tasks and challenges that they were set to achieve these badges. We are very proud of all of their hard work. Congratulations to you both!



Huge congratulations to Lottie who has passed her ABRSM Grade 1 Flute exam with a Merit. Great work, Lottie!



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.

## The Big Ambition Survey...

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

**The Big Ambition** aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important. In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

**The Big Ambition** survey will be open until Friday 19th January.

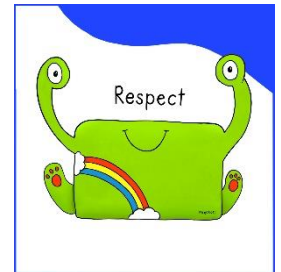
Children and parents or carers can complete the survey

here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

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



Congratulations to Max D, Orlaith W, Lily W and Isla H who have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values.



## Paxcroft Playground Pals...



Thank you to the Playground Pals from Term 2, who did a fantastic job of helping the adults and younger children during lunchtimes. This term a new set of Playground Pals, have been chosen and are already helping during lunchtimes. Paxcroft Playground Pals for Term 3 are Adriana, Izzabella, Jaiden, Sofia, Abtulah, Ruby, Lacey and Alyissia.

## Celebrations



Class	Citizen Values	Learners' Values
Owls	Cassian O - Kindness	Ronnie C - Positivity
Woodpecker		Evelyn McC - Resilience Ethan W - Independence
Kingfisher		Nikodem N - Resilience Grace M - Independence
Nightingale		Ryan T - Kindness Corey C - Independence
Skylark	Edward K - All values Woody S - All values	
Housemartin		Alex M - Positivity Theo B - Positivity
Swift		Ella-May H - Resilience Jacob A - Positivity
Osprey	Billy N - All Values	Zuzanna H - All values
Falcon		Izzabella S - Positivity & Resilience Elsbeth H - Positivity & Resilience
Kestrel	Juniper A - Kindness	Malachy R - Resilience



## Paxcroft Citizen Cups



**Maja K – All Values**  
**Young Voices Choir – All Values**



## Diary dates for Spring Terms 2024

Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	RE Day
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Youth Parliament meeting
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Y3/4 Trip to The Roman Baths
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Y1/2 Performance - whole school dress rehearsal
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y1/2 Performance to parents - 1.45 pm

<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Y1/2 Performance to parents - 6pm
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Y6 Heights & Weights
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Last day of Term 3
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	First day of Term 4
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Parents Evening - more details to follow
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Parents Evening - more details to follow
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Book Fair
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	Book Fair
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Book Fair
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Reception - Fire Safety Workshop
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Reception Heights & Weights
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y1/2 Library trip - more details to follow
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Reception Library trip
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Red Nose Day Disco
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Red Nose Day
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Youth Parliament Meeting
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Y1/2 Church visit - more details to follow
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y1/2 Outdoor learning day
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y3/4 Performance to parents (PM) - more details to follow
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y3/4 Performance to parents (Eve) - more details to follow
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y5/6 Outdoor learning day
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y3/4 Outdoor learning day
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Last day of Term 4

## Letters & Communications issued this week

Item	To	For
Young Voices Arrangement	Selected	Information & Action
Re-Energise Fitness	Whole School	Information
Y3/4 Trip to The Roman Baths	Y3/4	Information & Action
Young Voices Mobile	Selected	Information
Young Voices – Post Concert Collection Details	Selected	Information & Action
Young Voices – Safe Arrival	Selected	Information
Y1/2 Performances – ‘Wiz Wham Alakazam’	Y1/2	Information
Young Voices – Safe Arrival	Selected	Information
Treasure Island – Dressing Up Day Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y1/2	Information & Action
Treasure Island – Dressing Up Day – TOMORROW	Y1/2	Information & Action
Free Wild Figures Course Run By Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Whole School	Information



# GREEN LANE WOODS



**wildlife  
watch**



If you are aged between 3 and 12 bring your grown-ups along to discover the wildness just outside your door.

**Saturday 20th January**

**Winter Birds**

**10am—12pm**

(and the third Saturday of every month)

For more information and to book, email:  
[GLwildlifewatch@gmail.com](mailto:GLwildlifewatch@gmail.com)

£2.50 per child  
Adults go free & all proceeds go to group activities.

