



Dear Parents/Carers...

This week we held the first of our parents' evenings for this academic year. I hope you found this a useful opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to find out about the progress that your child has made this term. This is the first of a three-part process to ensure that you are kept fully updated on your child's progress and attainment. There will be a second parents' evening towards the end of February and a final written report in July.

Next week I will be writing to you to share information about our school Attendance policy and processes. We know that poor attendance and persistent late arrival at school has a significant impact not only on children's learning and the progress they make but also on their self-confidence and their relationships with their peers. We all want the best outcomes for the children so I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time. More information about attendance including whether your child is well enough for school can be found on the school website under the 'Parents' tab.

Tomorrow we will be holding the second of our Reception Open Mornings for children starting school in September 2024. Thank you to a number of our school House Captains and Vice House Captains who will be assisting with this by leading tours of the school.

I would also like to say thank you to Trowbridge Lions for their paint donations and to Hilperton Scout group who have kindly volunteered to paint Skylark classroom this weekend. A special thank you to Mr Loverock who has kindly organised this whole project.

Finally, thank you for your generous donations of toys and games to help enrich the children's playtimes.

Lou Rhodes

Headteacher

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

Congratulations to Tilly-Rae M-Isabelle N, Eleanor W and Nadya S who have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values.

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 and we will endeavour to add to the Paxcroft Post

Owls' New Playground...

Our school's new Reception playground has now been completed! As part of promoting physical activity amongst our Reception pupils, we have regenerated our Reception playground to make better use of this space for outdoor learning and physical education. The newly-laid surface is far more forgiving than the concrete playground previously in place and once the early years climbing apparatus is installed the area will provide excellent opportunities to exercise our younger pupils' muscles through running, walking and crawling. All of this leads to better long-term fine motor development, which is the ultimate goal of Early Years Physical Education and the skills they develop at this stage are ones that they will carry forward into subsequent years. With the ever-variable British weather, the playground has at times been too exposed in full-sun and offered little shelter in winter, so we have also installed a wonderful sail shade over one end of the playground, where the children can learn and play without being exposed to the sun or rain. The pupils themselves were delighted to see that we had replicated the roadway previously painted onto the concrete. It has always been an incredibly popular feature amongst our cohorts in their active play, using their trikes to develop physical skills and rudimentary road awareness. We cannot wait to start using it to its fullest!



Sustainable Energy...

Do we have anyone in our Paxcroft Community that works in Sustainable Energy? Mrs Sagar is looking for someone that would be able to come in and give a talk to our Y5/6 children to help with next term's topic. Please let Mrs Sagar or the school office know if you would be interested.



Hello Yellow...

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated and donated to our Hello Yellow Day. We had lots of important discussions and lessons about Mental Health and ways to help ourselves and others. As a school we managed to raise a fantastic £198 for 'Young Minds' mental health charity.

Thank you all

Mrs Aland



Our learning this week...

Owls

This week in Owls class we've finally said goodbye to the builders and hello to our new outside area which we have enjoyed watching from the window! We have been outside to collect conkers and fallen leaves for our Autumn table and the children have enjoyed looking and feeling the different-sized pumpkins we have on display and creating still-life drawings of them. In literacy, we've been clapping out the syllables of our names and the syllables of the names of dinosaurs. In maths, we've been enjoying games of 1-3 bingo in pairs. We're progressing steadily in our handwriting sessions and have enjoyed practising our letter formation in the sand.

Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

Thank you to all of you who came to parents evening this week. It was great to see so many of you! We have been very busy in Year 1 and 2 this week. On Tuesday, we all came to school dressed in yellow to support and raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. In maths, we have been comparing numerical values using the vocabulary 'less than', 'greater than' and 'equal to'. In English lessons this week, we have practiced using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to develop our writing. In art, we made clay pinch pots and tiles by impressing objects into the surface and joining clay shapes as decoration. It was very fun and messy!

Skylark, Housemartin & Swift









This week we have been celebrating Hello Yellow for World Mental Health Day in Year 3/4. It certainly brightened up the classrooms. In our 'writing to persuade' unit in English, we have been learning about rhetorical questions, imperative verbs and alliteration. If you're not sure what these mean, please ask your children. In Maths, we are beginning to add 3-digit and 4-digit numbers and carrying over to the next place value column. In Art, we have learnt about positive and negative spaces within sculpture and how to improve and evaluate them. We will be sending these home, so be prepared!



Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

This week in Year 5/6, we have been looking at a range of one-sided arguments and picking out the techniques used to sway the reader's opinion. Having identified emotive language, rhetorical questions and the use of research facts and statistics, we have practised using and applying these techniques. In Maths, we have been practising formal methods for multiplication. It would be great if all children in Upper Key Stage 2 became really fluent in their times tables facts, as this knowledge is crucial to success. For 'Hello Yellow Day', which focuses attention on mental well-being, we have had discussions in class about how to recognise and accept our emotions and come up with strategies we can use to help ourselves if we are experiencing low mood or other issues. In our Science Topic, we have been looking in greater detail at how animals and plants are adapted to their environments/habitats and how species have evolved over time. We have learned the story of the Peppered Moth as an example of how natural selection works. We have also researched Darwin and his theory of Evolution.

Celebrations

	Class	Citizen Values	Learners' Values	
	Woodpecker	Hope C - Kindness Ethan W - Respect	David Z - Independence Brooke N - Resilience	
	Kingfisher	Lola - Rose W - Kindness Grace M - Respect	Nikodem N - Independence Evan J - Independence & Resilience	
	Nightingale	Kaia B - Respect Maja K - Kindness	Dominic B - Resilience Ryan T - Independence	
	Skylark	Chimdi E - Respect Alice B - Respect Isla L - Kindness	Kiera F - Positivity	
	Housemartin	Lauren T - Kindness	Kyron T - Resilience & Positivity Isabelle M - Positivity Natalia M - Positivity	
	Swift	Hector L - B - Kindness & Respect	Roman B-M - Positivity & Resilience Beatrice M - Positivity & Independence Adrianna S - Independence & Resilience	
	Osprey	Maria N - Kindness & Respect Joshua B - Kindness & Respect	Evie Mc D - Positivity & Resilience Lacey R - Resilience & Positivity	
	Falcon	Elsbeth H - All Values Eve P - All Values Shai A - All Values Jacob B-H - All Values	Elsbeth H - All Values Eve P - All Values Shai A - All Values Jacob B-H - All Values	
	Kestrel	Freddie K - Resilience Lily W - Respect	Isobel C - Respect Charlie M - Independence	

Paxcroft Citizen Cups



Poppy T-G – All Values

Sienna P – All Values



Diary dates for Autumn Term 2023

Saturday 14th October	Open Day Reception 2024 Intake (10am)
Monday 16th October	Braeside Parents Meeting
Wednesday 18th October	Last Day Of Term 1
Monday 30th October	First day of Term 2
Monday 30th October	Mill on the Brue Parents Meeting
Tuesday 7th November	Y1/2 Outdoor learning day-please send your child with wellies and waterproof coat
Wednesday 8th November	Y3/4 Outdoor learning day-please send your child with wellies and waterproof coat
Wednesday 8th November	RE day
Thursday 9th November	Y5/6 Outdoor learning day-please send your child with wellies and waterproof coat
Monday 13th November	Individual class portraits
Tuesday 14th November	Open Day Reception 2024 Intake (9.30am)
Wednesday 15th November	Youth Parliament
Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th November	Braeside residential Y4
Friday 17th November	Children in Need fundraiser-school council to lead (details to follow)
Monday 20th – Friday 24th November	Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 29th November	Owls class walk to the post box
Friday 8th December	Flu immunisations – more information to follow

Tuesday 12th December	Owls class nativity – more information to follow
Thursday 14th December	Owls class nativity – more information to follow
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of term 2

Letters & Communications issued this week

Item	To	For
Hello Yellow	Whole School	Information
Falcon Parents Evening Postponed	Falcon Class	Information
Young Voices	Y5/6	Information
Osprey Parents Evening Postponed	Osprey Class	Information
Headlice	One Class	Information
Outdoor Play Provision For Break And Lunchtimes	Whole School	Information
November Dinner Menus	Whole School	Information
Halloween Half Term Activity Club Flyer	Whole School	Information
St Laurence Letter	Y6	Information
Dance Festival Digital Link	Selected Children	Information