



*Dear Parents/Carers,*

What a busy week! The construction work on our Reception playground has continued, with a new surface having been laid to allow for safer play and more gross motor activities. The final touches are just being added and, very soon, the children will have access to their fantastic new area!

Harvest donations have been arriving by the day, and we have been blown away by the generosity of our school community. Next week, we will be taking the donations to Storehouse food bank, which will have such a positive impact on our wider local area. Thank you to all of our families (and staff!) who have been able to contribute, we are very appreciative.

Ramsbury English Hub have been in to support us with the roll-out of our Phonics scheme, Sounds-Write. We have had lots of positive feedback and some really useful advice to help us further tailor our provision for the needs of our children.

In further fantastic reading news, we have had a new order of reading for pleasure books arrive! The PSA have very generously donated £843 towards us replenishing our main library and class libraries in KS2. We have had a delivery of 140 new picture and early reader books for our Reception and KS1 children, which will soon be in the main school library for the children to access on their weekly visits, and 125 new chapter books for our KS2 children, which are already topping up their class libraries! Thank you so much to the PSA for their help in this – this will have a direct impact on our children and their love of reading.

And, finally, it is worth noting that we are currently experiencing a high rate of sickness absence amongst both staff and pupils with a range of colds and sickness bugs, including some cases of COVID. I have asked staff to remind the children to wash their hands regularly and ventilate classroom spaces, and would appreciate if you could do the same at home. We are currently managing to cover classes through supply agencies and internal cover, and if, at any point, we are forced to close any classes due to staffing issues, we will inform parents as soon as we are able to.

If there will be any impact on next week's Parents' Evening appointments for any classes, we will let you know as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

*Alex George*  
*Deputy Headteacher*

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

Hello Yellow - Supporting Mental Health Awareness - October 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

Reminder that the children are invited to wear yellow on October 10<sup>th</sup> to support and raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. We will be carrying out lessons and assemblies based on this in school that day.

We will gratefully accept any contributions you may like to make on the day and have also set up a fundraising page as below if you would like to contribute.

[Paxcroft-Primary-School-Hello-Yellow-2023](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)

For more information about how you can get involved visit the Young Minds website

[https://www.youngminds.org.uk/](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)

*Sarah Aland*

## *Harvest..*

This year, working together with St James' Church, we will be collecting donations of tinned food and dried goods for Storehouse food bank.

We would be very grateful for your support.

All are welcome at the Harvest Service at St James' Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 10.45am.



## *Starla's Princess Trust Donation...*



Well done to Starla B who raised £320.00 for the Princess Trust cutting 13 inches off of her hair



## *European Language Day..*

To celebrate European Language Day, our wonderful cooks added 2 exciting new additions to our October Menu. All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed both dishes.

Bulgarian Moussaka served with yoghurt - minced meat in tomato based sauce topped with chopped potato  
Stuffed Peppers with salad - peppers stuffed with rice and herbs.



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

Congratulations to Jasper E, Poppy TG, Eli C and Brooke B have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values

## *November Menus ...*

Dinner menus for November will go live on Scopay on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am. The deadline for submitting menus is 3.30pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Paper copies of the menus and allergen charts can be found on the website, in the foyer and will be sent out via ParentMail



## *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, we have been describing the dinosaurs using adjectives in Literacy. We were very impressed with how most of the children could hear initial sounds and some even had a go at writing them. In Maths, we have been looking at how we can count carefully and recognise different objects of groups of 3 and 4. In Expressive Arts and Design, we pretended to be dinosaurs and danced around to classical dinosaur music - it was lovely to see all the different interpretations! We also got changed for PE for the first time this week!

### *Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale*

This week Year 1/2 have started a new writing sequence 'writing to entertain'. We orally rehearsed a model text through the use of a story map, whilst identifying the tools needed to write a setting description. 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 number line. 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. On Friday, Year 1 and 2 spent the morning outdoor learning with an art focus, gathering inspiration for their sculptures and descriptive writing in English.

### *Skylark, Housemartin & Swift*

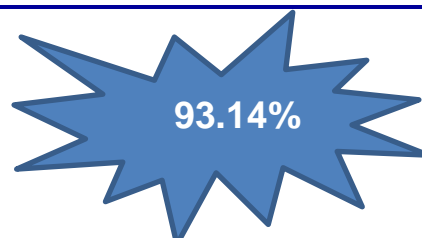
As always, it has been a busy and exciting week in Year 3/4. We have started our new 'writing to persuade' unit in English, which the children have been really enjoying. We apologise in advance for how persuasive they are about to become! We have continued to look at the impressive work of influential trailblazers in Topic and been developing our ability to classify animals in Science. In Art, we have been finishing and drawing our sculptures. Thank you again for all the cardboard boxes that you kindly provided us with. The children have been good at thinking outside of the box and being creative. We look forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening next week to discuss how your child has gotten on this term.

### *Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel*

This week in Year 5/6, we have continued to read 'The Boy at the Back of the Class,' by Onjalie Rauf, which tells the story of Ahmet, a refugee, his experiences and adventures. The children have impressed us with their enthusiasm and interest in the topic of the book. In English, we have been analysing, identifying and applying the features of persuasive writing. This week we have started Science, learning about inheritance and evolution. We have learnt about the theory of evolution and how animals are adapted to their environment. Finally, we have had class debates about whether football players deserve to be paid more than teachers!

## *Attendance...*

This weeks whole school attendance



## *Diary dates for Autumn Term 2023*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <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>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>                            | Open Day Reception 2024 Intake (10am)            |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>                              | Braeside Parents Meeting                         |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>                           | Last Day Of Term 1                               |
| <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>                              | First day of Term 2                              |
| <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>                              | Mill on the Brue Parents Meeting                 |
| <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b>                             | Y1/2 Outdoor learning day                        |
| <b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>                           | Y3/4 Outdoor learning day                        |
| <b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>                           | RE day   |
| <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b>                            | Y5/6 Outdoor learning day                        |
| <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>                             | Individual class portraits                       |
| <b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>                            | Open Day Reception 2024 Intake (9.30am)          |
| <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>                          | Youth Parliament                                 |
| <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b> | Braeside residential Y4                          |
| <b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>                             | Children in Need                                 |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>    | Anti-bullying week                               |
| <b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>                          | Owls class walk to the post box                  |
| <b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>                              | Flu immunisations – more information to follow   |
| <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>                            | Owls class nativity – more information to follow |
| <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>                           | Owls class nativity – more information to follow |
| <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>                          | Last day of term 2                               |
|  |  |

## Letters & Communications issued this week

| Item   | To                | For                  |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Beat The Street                              | Whole School      | Information          |
| Mill On The Brue                             | Y6                | Information & Action |
| Parent Governor Elections                    | Whole School      | Information          |
| Tiger Martial Arts                           | Whole School      | Information          |
| Outdoor Owls Term 2                          | Selected          | Information & Action |
| Braeside Payment Reminder                    | Y4                | Information          |
| Headlice                                     | One Class         | Information & Action |
| Parents Evening                              | Whole School      | Information & Action |
| No Art Club Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October | Selected Children | Information          |
| Flu immunisation                             | Whole School      | Information          |
| Headlice                                     | One Class         | Information & Action |