



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after what I hope has been a lovely Christmas break. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils positive about their return to school and already getting to grips with and enjoying new topics within their curriculum.

There's been lots of cold weather this week and Mr Beety has been hard at work gritting and making the school site safe - please do still take care as you are walking into school as some of the meltwater has been refreezing to make extra icy patches!

There's been the tantalising hint of snow and I thought it would be worth reminding parents that, in the event of a school closure due to inclement weather, we would communicate that with parents at the earliest opportunity through a ParentMail and a text message. A school closure would only be if the conditions on site were unsafe or if we had severe staffing absences due to lack of access from outlying villages. The weather for next week is looking much brighter, so I am hoping this won't need to be a consideration!

I also wanted to take the opportunity to remind parents, further to our message this week, about our Times Tables Rockstar relaunch on Monday 13th January, where children (and adults!) are invited to come in dress up as rock stars. Understanding of key times tables facts is an essential building block to learning and this is a really great way that the children can engage and compete around it at home. Our launch day is a fun way to celebrate and promote this. I would ask parents to please not go to any extra effort for costumes - sometimes ruffled hair can be rock and roll enough!

I hope that you all have a great weekend and look forward to seeing everybody next week.

Best wishes,

*Mr Alex George
Acting Headteacher*

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



Congratulations to Danny M, Araminta P, Honey SW, and Elspeth H who have all been recognised this week for being polite and respectful at lunchtime. Well done for demonstrating our Paxcroft Citizen Values.



Outside Achievements...

Congratulations to Archie for successfully swimming 500 metres (20 lengths) non-stop. Archie is self-taught so this is a huge personal achievement. Well done, Archie!



During the holiday Gabriel braved the World's fastest zipline which flies over Penrhyn Quarry, North Wales. He reached speeds up to 100mph! Well done, Gabriel.



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.

Our Learning this week...

Owls

It has been lovely to see all the children coming back to school with such a positive attitude to their learning. In Understanding the World, we have started our new topic on space and have learnt about a few famous astronauts. In Literacy, we have been looking at our new book 'Bedtime for Monsters'. We have had great fun designing our own monsters and making escape plans and signs to scare monsters away. In Maths, we have been practising counting forwards and backwards to 20 and our 1:1 correspondences to 10 and 20.

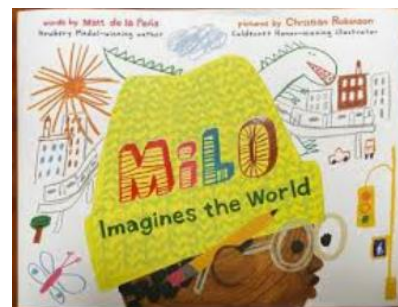


Woodpecker, Kingfisher & Nightingale

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back and we hope you all had a great holiday. KS1 have been busy this week. In English, we have started reading the book 'The Jolly Postman' by Janet and Allen Ahlberg. We have explored maps, had a class debate and written in role by responding to a letter from Goldilocks. In Maths, the children have continued to develop their skills of partitioning numbers to 100 using base 10 and part-whole models to help them. In Music, the children listened and practiced singing the song 'In the Groove: Blues' in class. The children also discussed whether they liked the song or not and talked about what instruments they could hear in the piece of music.

Skylark, Housemartin & Swift

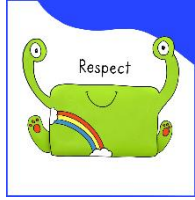
We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and would like to wish you all a 'Happy New Year'! It has been great to have the children back in school this week. We have started to read our new class book 'Milo Imagines the World' by Matt De La Pena and have been writing poems in English lessons. In Maths, the children are continuing with a multiplication and division unit of work. Our Invaders & Settlers topic is underway – we will be learning about The Celts, The Anglo-Saxons and The Vikings. Please see our curriculum letter and homework information for more details (coming soon).



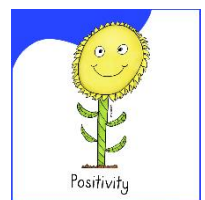
Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel

We have had a great week in Year 5/6. The children are really enjoying our new class book, 'The Sister Who Ate Her Brothers', which is a collection of traditional tales with a gruesome twist. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. Our new topic is about prehistory and how the Ancients made their mark on Wiltshire. We have started our learning by discussing the importance of chronology and creating a lengthy timeline using toilet paper!

Celebrations...



| Class | Citizen Values | Learners' Values |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Owls | Adam A – All Values | Kacper R – Independence & Positivity |
| Woodpecker | | Ralph C – Positivity Olaf R – Resilience |
| Kingfisher | Szymon J – All Values | Harrison – Positivity & Independence Jago J – Independence |
| Nightingale | | Amiya BD – Independence Libby J – Independence |
| Swift | Oliver K – Kindness & Respect | Kaia B – Kindness & Respect |
| Housemartin | | Savannah C – Independence & Resilience Terrell S – Independence & Resilience |
| Skylark | | Honey SW – Resilience Boril D – Positivity |
| Osprey | Isaac H – Respect | Maddie H – Positivity & Independence |
| Falcon | Archie WC – All Values | Faye W – Resilience |
| Kestrel | | Kareem B – Positivity Alice B – Independence & Resilience |



Paxcroft Citizen Cups



Tenayah J – All values

Szymon J – All Values



Diary dates from January 2025

Monday 13th January

TT Rockstar launch – Rockstar Dress Up

Monday 27th January

Online Safety Parent Workshop


Tuesday 4th February

Parents Evening 1 – more information to follow

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|--|--|
| Thursday 6th February | Parents Evening 2 – more information to follow |
| Tuesday 11th February | Year 1 and 2 performance – Evening Performance (details tbc) |
| Thursday 13th February | Year 1 and 2 Performance – Evening Performance (details tbc) |

Letters & Communications issued this week

| Item | To | For |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr Benjamin's Football Club cancelled (6 th Jan 2025) | Selected pupils | Information |
| Times Tables Rockstars Programme | Whole School | Information & Action |
| Art Club Reminder | Selected Pupils | Information |
| Cookery Club – Starts Next Week | Selected Pupils | Information |
| Football Club – Starts This Week | Selected Pupils | Information |
| Tag Rugby – Starts This Week | Selected Pupils | Information |
| Dance Club – Starts This Week | Selected Pupils | Information |
| Re Energise Club – Starts Today | Selected Pupils | Information |
| Magazines | Year 3 and 4 Pupils | Information & Action |



PAXCROFT
School Association

2024/2025
Meeting dates for your diary

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Wed 25th September | Mon 17th March |
| Mon 21st October | Mon 28th April |
| Wed 20th November | Wed 21st May |
| Mon 27th January | Wed 18th June |
| Wed 26th February | Mon 7th July |

All meetings start at 6pm at Paxcroft School

Every Parent, Carer and Staff of Paxcroft Primary welcome
Come along and find out how you can support