

Wyke Regis Primary Federation



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Inspiring Hearts and Minds

Dear Parents and Carers,

It hardly seems possible that Christmas is almost here already. It was lovely to see so many of you coming to the performances and Christingles last week and I know the children were very excited to see you too. This week we are gearing up for parties and pantos and the staff are looking forward to a well earned break.

We have a new vicar to welcome in assemblies at both school sites this week. The Reverend John McKenzie led our Carol Service last week at All Saints and I know he would warmly welcome any families on Christmas Eve at the church service, which is a lovely time to attend. The church has donated some money to the school for a hardship fund - please contact me in confidence if you are worried about making ends meet over the holiday. Likewise, if the school can help with uniform items, please contact the school office at either site. Lost property will be put outside this week!

On behalf of the Federation staff and governors, I wish you all peace, joy and love this Christmas and into the new year.

Mrs Roberts

Key Dates

2nd Jan	Back to school Y2 Aspirations Day
8th Jan	FS2 library visits
10th Jan	Y1 Stay and Learn (science)
11th Jan	Y6 MHST Workshop - Stress and Relaxation
18th Jan	Y5 Theatre Trip (11 for 11)
24th/25th Jan	Parent Consultations
5th Feb	Y2 Stay and Learn (bridges) Y3 Cave Painting - 2- 2:50pm
6th Feb	Safer Internet Day
9th Feb	Training Day - school closed for pupils
12th - 16th Feb	Half Term



ATTENDANCE



Every week, our attendance figures are compared with the national percentages and these are shared within school and with the governors.

One of our key measures is PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM - the number of children whose attendance is less than 90%. Currently this is 16% (58 children) at the Junior School and 17% (44 children) at the Infant School. Prior to covid, these figures were closer to 8%.

The table below shows how attendance links to attainment. The figures show how many children are reaching the expected levels in reading, writing and maths when their attendance is above 95% and when it is below 90%. Put simply, if children aren't here, we can't teach them. Let's try to do everything we can to promote good attendance to ensure that your child has the best chance to be successful.

Well done 3B - two weeks of 100% attendance as a class!

Subject	Attendance between 95% and 100%	Attendance less than 90%
Reading	72%	53%
Writing	55%	36%
Maths	70%	42%

Current Attendance

Infant Site - 94.4%

Junior Site - 94.3%



Reminders

UNIFORM

We have noticed that some children are wearing black leggings instead of grey trousers or grey skirts. Please can you ensure that children return after Christmas in the correct uniform and footwear. Please look on the school website (<http://www.wykeregisfed.dorset.sch.uk/school-uniform/>) for further information about uniform. Trainers may be worn on PE days only.

If you require any assistance with uniform costs, please contact the school office.

OUR VISION

As a Church of England School, the Junior School's culture and ethos is underpinned with a story from the Bible. Our vision statement, **'With God All Things Are Possible'** is taken from the Parable of the Mustard Seed written in the book of Matthew. Please read through the attached booklet for an explanation of the story and reasons behind us choosing this to be our vision.

PARKING

We are still having issues with people parking on the zig-zag lines on Portland Road and the High Street as well as parking on the pavement along Shrubbery Lane.

These markings are there to ensure children's safety so please can we ask you to park considerably around the school site.



LIBRARY BOOKS

We have noticed that quite a few of our library books are going missing at the junior school. When your child borrows a book, they log it out on our Junior Librarian system. The system then only allows the children to borrow a certain number of books at a time. If the books are not returned, not only does it cost the school money to replace or mean that other children can't borrow them, it may also mean that your child is unable to take any more books to read at home.

Please could you take some time over the Christmas holidays to see if you have any school reading books laying around at home and return them to the school. Thank you very much for your support.



HOMEWORK

Thank you everyone for your continued support with Home Learning - it really is making a difference to children's reading, spelling and maths.

A special mention to 3B who have had the most 'Homework Heroes' twice this half term with over 25 children completing all of their homework every week - that's amazing! Let's see if there are any other classes who can take the crown after Christmas.

A reminder that if there are any issues with home learning, please contact your child's class teacher via the school office email - thank you.



MEET THE GOVERNORS MRS KIRKPATRICK



Hello! My name is Janet Kirkpatrick and I am the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors. I am also the Chair of the Governors' School Improvement Committee, whose role is to support Mrs Roberts and the staff in delivering the best possible education for your children. We regularly come into school to drop in on lessons, look at the children's books and talk to them about their work. We also meet with teachers so that we are better informed about the curriculum and the Federation's current priorities. I was a teacher myself until I retired a few years ago and it is always a pleasure to come into school and see teaching and learning in action!

THANK YOU

We just wanted to say a big 'thank you' for your support with Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal.

We raised £205.10 at the infant site and £279.29 at the junior site for Children in Need.

We also raised £448.43 for the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you for your generosity.



GARDENING CLUB

Well done to Gardening Club for all their hard work in the autumn Term. A special thank you to Sophie Castle and Abbotsbury Gardens for all of their kind donations.



FEDERATION FOOTBALL

Our Federation Football teams have been doing really well. In the semi-finals of the county qualifiers, the girl's team had a 3-2 win vs St. Georges and 2-2 draw with St. Augustines. Our Mixed team had a 6-1 win vs St. Augustines following the tournament.



YEAR 1 AND 2 CHOIR

A big 'thank you' for all of the children in Year 1 and Year 2 who came to sing in Wyke Square on Sunday 3rd December - Mrs Lindsay was very proud of you all!



Spotlight on Nursery

In Nursery, we loved getting excited about Halloween and bonfire night. We have been dressing up, telling stories and getting creative, making rockets, firework pictures and having lots of messy fun with pumpkins and potions. Our Drawing club is going really well and we loved working together to make a giant treasure map for our pirate topic. We are also now experts at listening and following instructions for parachute games and using the apparatus in the hall, even making our own pirate world where we had to walk the plank and climb over mountains and dodge the lava! Nursery is lucky to have so many expert chefs. We have made pizza, pasta and sauce, milkshakes and banana cakes, perfecting our chopping skills - and have loved eating the results. In recent weeks, we have been busy preparing for Christmas and learning lots of new songs, even making up some of our own. We don't want to give too much of our amazing Christmas creativity away, but we can share pictures of our Christmas tree dough gym and wrapping paper printing without giving away any surprises! Happy Christmas everyone, see you in the New Year.



Spotlight on FS2

In FS2 we have been busy learning about celebrations from around the world. In drawing club we have had a different story each week to help us learn about these celebrations. Our favourite was 'What's in the Witch's Kitchen?' by Nick Sharratt and the children loved having a go at making their own version choosing something nasty and something nice to eat! We have also enjoyed learning about Thanksgiving, making turkey decorations and hats and we found out about why Americans celebrate thanksgiving. We finished off the week with our own Thanksgiving feast.

In phonics we have been working hard to learn all of our alphabet sounds, to have a go at blending sounds into words and writing and making words with the magnetic boards. Please keep practising at home to help your children get even better.

We have been using Numberblocks to help us with our maths learning. We have started with 1,2,3,4 and 5. The children have enjoyed making the numbers in different ways using cubes, counters and all sorts of things as well as writing these numbers too.

As you also know, we have been very busy learning and practising our Christmas Shows. We really hope that you enjoyed them! Have a wonderful Christmas!



Spotlight on Year 1

In Year 1 we just can't believe the Autumn term is over, it went so fast. The children have worked incredibly hard this half term and produced some tremendous work. We are particularly proud of our Naughty Bus inspired stories. The children really embraced this learning and developed some very unique and utterly amazing stories of naughty vehicles of their own. We are currently writing to Santa as we develop a different genre of writing. Reading has been a real focus for us and the children are making good progress. We have recently assessed all the children. An outcome of this is that you will be receiving a personalised Tapestry post which identifies the sounds your child needs to practice to progress. The Tapestry post will have links to specific sound videos tailored to your child's needs. We really hope you can support us on this as it's a new angle of home learning which we hope will take the pressure off of you at home but benefit us massively in school.

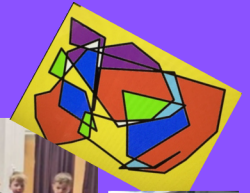
Maths has been all about investigating number and addition and subtraction. The children have explored lots of different strategies to help solve the problems they have been presented with.

Our topic work has seen the children learn all about planet Earth. The Poles, Equator and the features associated with the regions. In computing we've been learning how to use different artistic tools whilst learning about famous artists and their unique styles.

Finally I would like to thank you all for supporting the Christmas performances so well this year. The children loved seeing you there and we hope you enjoyed our performances.

Merry
Christmas!

From Year 1



Spotlight on Year 2

Wow! What a busy half term we have all had in Year 2. The children have worked so incredibly hard in learning all of our songs and lines for our 'Bethlehem Bake-Off' performances. The children did incredibly well and we are so proud of each and every one of them. We have continued learning all about London and the UK this half term. The children have learnt some amazing facts all about the different London landmarks and have made their very own 'Visit London' posters as well as creating their own first two-page spread all about a London landmark of their choice. We will be combining all of these together to make our very own non-fiction book all about what London has to offer.



Spotlight on Year 3

Year 3 have been working incredibly hard this half term. If not preparing for their fantastic Christmas performances, they have been investigating light and darkness in science, visiting Harold the Giraffe in the SCARF PSHE tent to talk about how to look after our physical and mental health and even learning how to build and create their very own pop-up cards in DT. Well done Year 3.

The whole team wishes you and your families a lovely Christmas and a happy new year!



Spotlight on Year 4

It's been another busy half term in Year 4. Our topic has been 'Food Glorious Food' and we have had some fabulous creations. We've researched pasta sauces that are on the market and evaluated what we liked about them so that we could then design our own. We've had an amazing time creating - and most importantly - tasting and evaluating these! Finally, we have used the skills we learnt in English to write a set of instructions for how to make our pasta sauce. Alongside this, we have been rehearsing for our Christingle Services, which we hope you enjoyed.



Spotlight on Year 5

Year 5 have been busy this half-term with lots of exciting things such as the Space Dome, Winchester Science Museum and Christingle Services. Our topic has been 'Out of This World', and the children have been exploring the planets that make up our solar system. We had an incredible time working scientifically to make our own model rockets. We used Alka Seltzer and water to create a chemical reaction that launched our rockets.



When we were waiting for the rocket to go off, it was really nerve wracking because we were really scared that it would go off on our hand! Whilst setting it up, you also had to be really quick. When it went off, it made everyone jump because of how quick it shot off. It was very fun waiting because you never knew when it would go off .

Tink 5F



Spotlight on Year 6

Wow! What a busy half term we have had in Year Six. In November, all three classes travelled back in time to 1940. As evacuees, Year 6 experienced what life would have been like for a child living through World War II. Children enjoyed learning about how billeting worked and the lives they would have experienced in the countryside. After visiting the WW2 shop, children understood how food was rationed and how different, and more difficult, buying things was using a very different money system. Ask your children to help with the laundry at home as they have mangled and rinsed dirty clothes on washing day at Nothe Fort so 21st century washing should pose no problems at all.



Nothe Fort is very good at making WW2 something we will always remember. My favourite part was sitting in an Anderson Shelter during an air raid. It really felt like we were in the war. I feel very lucky to live near Nothe Fort and will definitely visit again.
Neve, 6M