



Witley C of E Infant School

Learn, love and flourish together

Newsletter no. 14 Autumn Term
Thursday, 14th December 2023

Our value this half term is respect

The Wise Men saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas!



FWS Christmas Grotto

Thank you to everyone who supported the FWS Christmas market last weekend. Well done to the Holden family for winning the wheelbarrow full of donated bottles! Please read the FWS news later on in this newsletter!

Christmas lunch



Nativity treat!



Thank you!

Thank you to all of our families for their support this year and for our wonderful gifts!

Wishing you all a very, merry Christmas. School reopens on Tues, 2nd January 2024.

Mrs Helen Szczepanski

All Saints Church

Friday 15th December
Christmas Tree Carols



After school-2pm

Come and sing your favourite carols!

Hot chocolate, tea or coffee

LOST PROPERTY

PLEASE CHECK THE LOST PROPERTY BOX NEXT TO
THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

IT IS FULL OF UNIFORM, WATER BOTTLES, etc.

Cake Raffle

Our cake raffle takes place in our Celebration Assembly.

Thank you to the Wilson family for our awesome cake complete
with a dolphin, penguin and puffin.

Well done to Harrison in Puffins!



Well done to the following children who are in our Gold Book this week:

Year R: Jack and Iris
Year 1: Chia and Olivia
Year 2: Gracie and Oskar

Mrs Szczepanski's Headteacher Award in our Celebration Assembly goes to:

Year R: Dylan
Year 1: Rupert
Year 2: Samuel



NEWS FROM FWS

Hello all, we made it to the end of term - hopefully you're not crawling to the finish line! Well done everyone! FWS have had a great half term thanks in no small part to all of you.

Our focus has been almost entirely on the Christmas Grotto and Market last weekend. We're still taking down lights and washing Elf costumes but it was so worth it!

Our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers for the set up on Friday and Saturday you were all so good humoured and massively helpful while we ran around like crazy people. We literally couldn't have been ready on Saturday without you and it meant so much to us to have a steady stream of people turning up to help.

And of course huge thanks to our 15 elves and all the volunteers who staffed the market. Elves you stepped out of your comfort zones and made magic for the kids and we love you for it! And the bar and bbq volunteers did such a good job - it's not easy making drinks with a hose in a muddy field but you did it!! Thank you all.

We hope you all enjoyed the event as much as we did we're super proud of it and hope the children will remember it for years to come.

This half term we have raised £1275 which added to last half term makes £3448 in total:

£211 on the Spare Change Competition - £90 of this has gone to Save The Children who are usually the recipient of the Christmas Jumper Day money - however this year you brought bottles so we donated £90 from the spare change funds.

£1064 on The Christmas Market and Grotto. This event cost a lot to set up so we are chuffed that it also raised so much after costs.

FWS has funded the following for our school:

- £190 on Andy Hiccup, The Christmas Entertainer and Magician
- £90 donation to Save The Children
- £505 on the school Amazon Wishlist which this half term included books, forest school equipment and more!

Mrs Szczepanski is trialling a new horse shoe shaped reading table in the classrooms for group reading and if this is a success FWS will be paying for all the classrooms to have them.

In addition our school has asked for an additional large sail to provide shade in the playground and we are looking into a new microphone and speaker system so that we can hear all our children in the varying performances they work so hard on. So your generous donations will be put to good use in the New Year. Speaking of January - we hit the ground running with events! Look out for:

Sleepy Stories on January 8th at 4.30pm

The Pied Piper Theatre Company on January 16th

The FWS Quiz is coming in February! The question writer for Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Mastermind (Jo's Mum!) has written our quiz, there will be a raffle and delicious dinner so don't miss out! Date and booking form in the New Year.

Merry Christmas all and see you in 2024.

Much love, Jo, Sam, Tiff, Hannah, Emily and Katy.



News from Surrey County Council

Is your child starting school in September 2024?

Is your child in Year 2?

In an effort to minimise the number of late applications received, SCC would like to remind parents, **including parents with pre-school siblings**, that the closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2024 entry is **15 January 2024**.

It would be much appreciated, in the hope that parents will complete an application over the Christmas holidays if they have not already.

For infant schools, this will include reminding parents of children on roll in Year 2 that they must submit an application **by 15 January** for a junior transfer.

We encourage online applications

via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>, however parents can also request a paper application form or seek impartial help in completing an application via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).

Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

Applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child. We will **only** consider an application as on-time even if it has been made late if there is a genuine reason why the application could not reasonably have been made before the closing date. If the child lives in another local authority, they should make an on-time application which can include Surrey schools, to that local authority, even if they know they will be moving. More information on this is available on our [website](#).





The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to take part



www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



TERM DATES 2023/24

DAY	DATE	SPRING TERM 2024
Tues	02.01	First day of term
Mon	08.01	Sleepy Story Time. Drop your child off at the Jubilee Hall at 4.30 pm (via the staff car park) and collect from their classroom doors in the playground at 5.30 pm. Year R will exit through the middle door in the playground.
Tues	16.01	Pied Piper Theatre Production in the school hall for pupils. Funded by FWS
Tues	16.01	Little Wandle Phonics Workshop for all parents starting at 2.30 – 3.05 pm
Fri	19.01	Safeguarding workshop for volunteers, 9 – 9.45 am. Contact the office for further info.
Fri	19.01	Wear something BLUE – Be Lovely and Understanding to Everyone! Celebrating friendship and understanding bullying. Children can wear something blue, either socks, a hair accessory, jumper, etc.
Fri	19.01	Interim Pupil Reports issued for all year groups.
Tues	23.01	Poetry Slam performed by KS1 – Years 1 and 2 only at 2 pm in the Jubilee Hall. FOLLOWED by Open Classroom 2.45 – 3.30 pm for ALL year groups.
Wed	24.01	Year 1 Trip to Brooklands Museum
Tues	06.02	Parent Consultations 4 – 7.30 pm held in school
Th	08.02	Parents Consultations 3.30 – 6 pm held in school
Fri	09.02	INSET DAY No. 3 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING
		FEBRUARY HALF TERM 12.02 to 16.02
Mon	19.02	First day of term
Th	29.02	Safeguarding workshop for volunteers. Contact the office for further info.
Th	07.03	World Book Day – come dressed as your favourite book character!
Wed	13.03	Year 2 Trip to Marwell Zoo
Tues	19.03	Year 2 Class Assembly in the Jubilee Hall 9.05 – 9.30 am Parents welcome
Th	28.03	1.05.pm LAST DAY OF TERM –PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH

		SUMMER TERM 2024
Mon	15.04	INSET DAY No. 4 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING
Tues	16.04	First day of term
Mon	06.05	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
Mon	07.05	Witley School we be participating in the optional Key Stage 1 Tests for Year 2 pupils this academic year. This will take place in the month of May.
Fri	24.05	INSET DAY No. 5 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING
		MAY HALF TERM 27.05 to 31.05
Mon	10.06	Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 – all week
Weds	19.06	Year 1 Team Building Games at Rodborough School - am
Th	20.06	Whole Class group photographs
Weds	26.06	Year 2 Team Building Games at Rodborough School - am
Wed	03.07	Year 1 Trip to Chichester Harbour
Th	18.07	Year 2 Trip to Sayers Croft
Tues	23.07	1.05 pm LAST DAY OF TERM. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER FINISH.



If you need support now, here's what to do

**If you're in immediate danger:
call 999**

**If you have an urgent need, call our
crisis team on 0800 915 4644 . It's open
24 hours a day – 7 days a week.**

If you're not in a crisis, but still need support ...

If you do not need urgent support, you can talk to your mental health lead in school. They are there to listen and support you with your mental health and wellbeing. If you do not know who this is, talk to a member of school staff you trust and they will be able to help you.

Visit our website, www.mindworks-surrey.org – this offers a wide range of information which can help your mental health and wellbeing. We have resources such as [My Safety Plan](#) and [self-help tips](#) to help guide you through your wellbeing during challenging times. You'll find links to useful websites, recommended reading , plus coping strategies to help you through difficult times.

We are partnered with Kooth, who are a digital mental health platform providing confidential support for all young people. Here you can access forums, activity centres, messaging and live counselling. You can get support when you need it, with no waiting lists or need to be referred by an adult. Visit www.kooth.com for more information.

Sometimes it might feel easier to message/ text about how you are feeling and there are many places you can do this:

- **Shout:** is a free, confidential, 24/7 text support service for anyone in the UK who is struggling to cope. To start a conversation, text the word 'SHOUT' to 85258.
- **Chat Health:** is a safe and easy way for you to speak to a qualified health professional. They provide information about services near you that can provide support. Contact them through their website www.chathealth.nhs.uk

The CYP (Children & Young People) Haven is a safe space for any child or young people aged 10–18 to go where they can talk about worries and mental health in a confidential, friendly and supportive place. Scan the QR code for more information.



We also work closely with young people groups such as Amplify, their contact email amplify.mindworks@sabp.nhs.uk and Surrey Youth Voice, where your voice can help us help other young people's mental health and wellbeing services across Surrey and North East Hampshire. Contact them on 01483 519 464 or user.voice@surreycc.gov.uk

Mindworks Surrey provides a dedicated out-of-hours helpline for parents and carers of children with suspected or diagnosed neurodevelopmental needs such as ASD and/or ADHD. It's open 5 pm–11 pm, seven days a week. Call 0300 222 5755.

Mindworks Surrey also offers a range of groups and youth clubs for both children and young people. These are all open to self-referral and you can find out more information on our website by scanning the QR code.



**The Mindworks Access and Advice Team can also provide support in signposting you to more help.
Call them on 0300 222 5755.**

**Find out more at
mindworks-surrey.org**

