



Wimbish Primary Academy Newsletter
24th November 2023



Reading and Writing at Wimbish

One of the things we have been working incredibly hard on since the 1st September has been to refresh the library and the reading books and to change the way we teach writing.

For those of you who were with Wimbish last year, you will have noticed Monster Phonics have gone. Looking at the data for phonics, the scheme and quality of books we decided to have a change. As such, Mrs Butcher has enjoyed spending money on bringing in a brand new phonics scheme - Rocket Phonics, along with a whole new reading scheme. The feedback from children is they love the new books. With the help of our Y6 librarians, we have re-categorised all of the fiction books and had a big sort out. We have also started to replace and replenish the free reader books for some recommended reads and new chapter books.

Mrs Butcher has spent the past 3 weeks in Birch and Willow Class getting everyone going with the way we now teach writing. She has been modelling how to use the new method to the staff and children and we are absolutely delighted with the results at this early stage. Well done to everyone for embracing the new ways!

Mrs Butcher is planning a 'Reading Cafe' workshop for parents/carers in the new year to show you how we teach reading in school. This will involve parents/carers being invited into school and the classrooms to work alongside their children. More details to follow.

If you want to see Oliver read his favourite paragraph from his first end of unit write, have a look here: <https://x.com/WimbishPrimary/status/1725563995040416238?s=20>



Reminder - Inset Day **Friday 1st December**, children not in school

On this date, the staff will be at school having more training on our new behaviour policy and therapeutic thinking training. Children will NOT be in school on that day.



Support the PTA at the Saffron Walden Late Night Shopping Event 1st December

If you are going to the Saffron Walden late night shopping event on Friday 1st then please do pop along to the PTA stall and lend your support. All funds raised go towards providing exciting events, opportunities and resources for the children in school that the budget doesn't cover.



Learning in school this week:

Oak Class:

This week in Oak we have been focused on our 2D shapes, we have drawn them, created and sorted them. This song has really helped us get to grips with them.

[Shapes Song 2 - YouTube](#)

We have continued our work on The colour monster, to help us talk through our feelings and understand how others may react to things we do. Whilst our older children wow us with some of their extended sentences, our youngest children are becoming keen writers, experimenting with writing the sounds and using their sound knowledge to write words.

Also next week our Year 1 children will be receiving their phonics tags, a collection of sounds and tricky words they have been learning and revisiting this year so far, these can be used to practise sounds or create words.

Willow Class:

This week in Willow, the children have been very busy making a start on our new English topic- Autumn is here. We have been working hard to create a word-bank for the class to use throughout the unit, and have already written our first stanza!

Art, history and geography have been a big theme this week, as we have been exploring what Iron Age settlements look like and where they would have been situated. We also created some cross curricular links by integrating art into this, by building our own Iron Age huts and houses- we are half-way through painting them! See the pictures below.

Birch Class: In Maths we have worked hard on finding factors of a given number and then we moved onto learning Prime Numbers. This always highlights how important it is to know our number facts off by heart!

English has moved on to persuasive writing through a Viking Leader's speech. The children have really thought about word choices and how it impacts the text and affects the mood that they are trying to create.

Birch children have also embraced our new 'Recommended Reads' and it has been lovely to hear the children talk with passion about chosen stories.





Flu Vaccinations

Your child's Annual Flu Vaccination Is Now Due, please click the below link to complete a consent form.

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/SKUfKZTyKK>

The deadline to complete your child's consent form is **today!** We cannot guarantee any forms submitted after this date will be accepted at the school session.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family members and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

The vaccine is free and most children have it up their nose (nasal spray) which is quick and painless. **The nasal spray is the most effective vaccine for children.** If you do not wish for your child to receive the spray due to it containing porcine gelatine and would prefer for them to have the injectable vaccine, please contact us on the number provided below.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccines in schools have had the immunisation.

If you have any queries, please contact the immunisation team on:

0300 790 0597 – Essex, Southend, Thurrock

Wimbish Nursery and Garden Centre - Thank you!

On behalf of Wimbish Primary Academy we would like to thank Wimbish Nursery & Garden Centre for their generous donation of a Christmas tree.

The tree plays an important part of our Christmas celebrations, as we involve the children in making a decoration to hang on it.

The tree will bring a lot of joy to all the pupils and staff during the Christmas period.

We would like to say 'Thank You' to the parent that arranged and delivered the Christmas Tree, we are very grateful.



Christmas Performance - Oak Class

We are delighted to announce that Oak Class will be putting a short Christmas performance on Friday 15th December at 2.15pm. Parents and Carers of Oak Class are invited to attend. Details of reserving tickets will be made available in the coming weeks. In the meantime - save the date!!

Just a reminder...Autumn Term Reading Homework

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is the Reading Homework: **Autumn Book Bingo** for this term based on our whole school focus for this year: Reading and more specifically: Reading for Pleasure.

Every child, from Foundation to Year 6, has been given the same homework to make it more manageable for families and also the homework will be differentiated depending on the age of each child and their book choice.

We know that parents/carers and pupils, have different views on homework so you can choose how you want to approach it. Here are some options:

1. Try to read all 9 texts (which can be found in our school library, local library, online potentially and possibly on your own bookshelves at home) and tick each of the 9 boxes

2. Complete option a and complete the questions. Give your answers to Mrs Butcher and they will be displayed in the library.
3. Can you create your own Book Bingo grid and read 9 different books based on WINTER?
4. Create a book review for ONE or more of the 9 books you have read which will be displayed in the library
5. Take photographs as evidence to show you have completed reading these books. For example: a photo of your seasonal treat that you have made after reading and following a recipe
6. Start reading a spooky story and then stop reading, write what you think will happen next in the story and then carry on reading- which ending did you prefer and why?
7. After reading an autumnal poem/s and reciting it/ them, can you create your own autumnal poem after going on an autumnal walk and using all 5 senses ...

Please give all NAMED written work to Mrs Butcher who will display it in the library.

Happy Reading!



Santa Dash - Friday 8th December

On Friday 8th December the children will be participating in our Santa Dash, children can come to school in uniform, wearing a Christmas Jumper.



School Christmas Lunch - Friday 15th December

School Christmas Lunch will be on Friday 15th December, the menu is available on the Innovate (IFG) website, you can find this by clicking on the date, please order directly through the website.

Children can come to school in uniform, wearing a Christmas Jumper.



Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 28th November - Flu vaccination (consent must be submitted by 24th November)

Friday 1st December - non pupil day (no children in school)

Friday 1st December - Saffron Walden Christmas Shopping Event - PTA stall, please support!

Friday 8th December - Santa Dash (Christmas jumper with uniform)

Friday 15th December - Christmas Dinner (Christmas jumper with uniform)

Friday 15th December - Oak Class Christmas Performance 2.15pm

Wednesday 20th December - break up for Christmas

Thursday 4th January- non pupil day (no children in school)

Friday 5th January - Back to school

Have a lovely weekend

Nichola Pickford