



Wheatcroft Primary School



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Start of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term and I hope that everyone in our school community was able to spend some much needed quality time with family and friends. Although the spring term is a short one, this hasn't prevented us from packing in many exciting teaching & learning opportunities for our children which you can see from our key stage paragraphs below. This term we plan to welcome back parent helpers into school; your class teachers will be in touch with those of you already on our list if they require help and for those of you who are not signed up, there is a letter explaining the process to you. We of course need to stay extremely mindful of reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 across our school so will ask that if you are coming in to help, a lateral flow test is carried out on the day and that you wear a face covering at all times inside the school building. We are really looking forward to welcoming you back to support our children's learning.

Yours sincerely
Mrs D Miller
Head teacher

Foundation Stage

Mrs Woodier, Mrs Waller, Mrs Duffy, Mrs Starling

Welcome to the Spring term! We hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas with your families and your children are ready for 2022 in Wheatcroft Foundation Stage.

This half term Nursery and Reception will be learning about 'Traditional Tales' from the Gingerbread Man, The Elves & The Shoemaker, The Snow Queen to The Three Little Pigs. The children will be exploring these stories through engaging in activities inside and outside the classroom.

Activities will include decorating gingerbread men, exploring cold climates when we read Snow Queen and making shoes out of junk modelling for the Elves. We will also be exploring these stories in our Forest School sessions, for example using positional language to find the big bad wolf from Little Red Riding Hood!

We are looking forward to a fun packed term!

Key Stage 1

Miss Brown, Miss Morris, Mrs Hickman, Miss Jones, Mrs Leishman

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term; we hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We have a lot of exciting things planned for your children this term.

We will be looking at the life and legacy of Beatrix Potter, including reading her wonderful stories. We will also be exploring events that happen in the Jewish and Christian faiths.

We will be looking at the common plants found in our local environment and we will visit the forest school area. Following the plant theme we will be investigating and exploring art in our natural environment.



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In Music we will be learning to play the ocarina, a simple wind instrument, and exploring drumming. In Computing, we will explore how to make a simple algorithm on the program Scratch and we will be following instructions ourselves when we make healthy food, including vegetable quiches in Design & Technology.

The healthy theme continues into PSHE where we will be considering how to keep ourselves safe and healthy in different situations as well as thinking about our goals and dreams. Finally, in PE we will be outside for games (weather dependent) and inside for gymnastics.

As always, your child will need all their clothing and personal items named and PE kit, including trainers, in school every day.

We will continue to set spelling homework and to change reading books on the usual days. Thank you, in advance, for all your support.

Lower Key Stage 2

Mr Wackett, Mr Griffin, Miss Clarke, Mrs Smart

It has been a pleasure talking with the children finding out the fun activities they have been up to over the Christmas period.

In English, we will be reading the story 'Leon and the Place Between' for our unit 'Mystery and Suspense'. For our non-fiction unit, we will be using explanation texts linked to Wallace and Gromit and their unusual contraptions. Lastly, we will be investigating Haikus, Kennings and Tankas to produce our own poetry.

In Maths, each class will continue to explore the four operations with a focus on formal written methods and calculations. Building on previous knowledge, we will then begin to look at adding and subtracting fractions, the properties of shape, as well as perimeter and scaling.

We are excited to offer many cross-curricular opportunities, with examples such as our 'Electricity' topic spanning both science and design and technology. Children will learn the subject knowledge and apply it practically making their own circuit boards using a switch, light and buzzer.

Lastly, we look forward to performing in our end of term LKS2 production! An exciting term ahead for LKS2!

Upper Key Stage 2

Miss Diemel, Miss Peffers, Mr Marshall

Welcome back to another busy term in UKS2. We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas break and a good rest after what was a very busy Autumn term.

To kick off our English, each class is practising their essay writing skills: Year 6 are writing about their future careers to enter the Rotary Club competition and Year 5 are reflecting on the best day of their lives; we look forward to reading their contributions.

Our topics this term are flooding in Geography; this will be complemented by a study of the book 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgewick. In non-fiction, we will discuss the contentious topic of graffiti and consider whether it is vandalism or art and we produce our own designs in Art using different media as well as trying our hand at screen printing.

In History, we will look at the Victorians and will be studying 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty to accompany this.

In Maths, each class will continue with their learning journeys covering different areas such as shape, angles and more complex calculations.

We are also pleased to be working with Hertfordshire Constabulary with the Year 6 students on a 'mini police' project. All in all, there is a lot to keep us busy!



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Diary Dates

w/c Mon 17th Jan: Autumn Term Clubs, which were postponed last term, start for existing members.
Mon 17th – Fri 21st Jan: Y5&6 L1 & 2 Cycle Training (Rescheduled dates)
Mon 17th Jan: Nursery Sept '22 Application Process Open
Tue 25th Jan: Y6 School Nurse - Lancaster Model
w/c 7th Feb: Feeling Good Week
Tues 8th Feb & Weds 9th Feb: Parent Consultations
Mon 14th Feb – Fri 18th Feb: Spring Half Term break
Thur 3rd Mar: World Book Day
w/c 21st March: last week of clubs
Fri 1st Apr 1:30pm: End of Spring Term
Wed 20th Apr: Start of Summer Term
Mon 30th May – Fri 3rd Jun: Summer Half Term break
Weds 20th July 1:30pm: End Summer Term

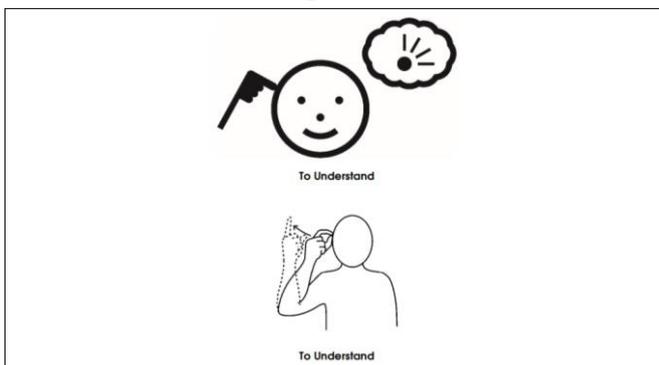
Pupil Voice

We asked Year 4 what they thought about their swimming lessons this week:
 "It was fun because I haven't been for a while."
 "We were able to learn new tricks in the pool."
 "It helps you get confident in the water."
 "It can save your life if you get stuck in the sea."
 "It was fun and the teachers were really nice."
 "The instructors were good at explaining everything."
 "I was worried beforehand but it was fine
 "I was nervous but the instructors boosted my confidence"

Notices

Mrs Smart – we are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Smart from her maternity leave this term. She will be teaching the year 4 class in a job share with Miss Clarke.
Indoor Shoes: reminder that all children should have a pair of indoor shoes, preferably black plimsolls, which they can change into when they come into school. Please remember to name these.
Hair accessories – For health & safety reasons, please remember that long hair should always be tied up with a plain hair band.

Makaton Sign of the Week



Achievement Award Stars!

R1: Grace L	Y3/4: Vivienne B
R2: Rory S	Y4: Darcy H
Y1: George H	Y5: Lola B
Y1/2: Sophia-Grace	Y5/6: Alexander M
Y2: Freija B	Y6: Reece G
Y3: Theodore A	

Birthday Book Donations



Thank you to **Elias, Fayrouz** and **Isaac M** for celebrating your December (holiday) birthdays with us.

Team Points



Word of the week

EYFS: sound **Y1:** confused **Y2:** patience **Y3:** refreshing **Y4:** horrendous **Y5:** tranquil **Y6:** harass