

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER

COMING UP NEXT WEEK:

DECEMBER

Tuesday 4th : Year 6 making Xmas cakes
Wednesday 5th: Year 5 & 6 at Gemini Gym
Saturday 8th: Xmas Fayre at Long Ashton Village Hall 11am-2pm
Tuesday 11th: Year 6 Icing their Xmas cakes
Wednesday 12th: School Christmas Lunch- optional wear a Xmas Jumper or (please do tell us before if your child will NOT be having Xmas lunch)
Tuesday 18th: 1.45pm Matinee Performance of the Christmas Production
6.30pm Evening Performance of the Christmas Production
Wednesday 19th: Reception Class at Tobacco Factory AM
Years 1,2,3,4,5,6 at The Playhouse in WSM PM, details TBC
Thursday 20th: Farewell Service at All Saint's Church 1.45pm
Friday 21st -: Last day of Term

Monday 7th January - First day of Term

Collection of children after school

There are an increasing number of children who are not being collected promptly at the end of the school day. Once the rest of the class has been dismissed, these children will be placed in after school club where we can ensure their safe supervision. The end of the school day can be an extremely busy time: being available for parent's queries, organising the bus children, dispatching children to clubs. It is not always feasible to keep children at the front office or in the classrooms. This may lead to a nominal after school club charge, appropriate to your arrival time.

We would also politely remind you that if you intend for your child to be in after school club, you book them in (by phone or email) and you make it clear to them what they are doing on any given day.

FWSA

Christmas Fair - Saturday 8th December - 11am-2pm - Long Ashton Community Centre.

One week to go!!! You can still get raffle tickets from the school office or from Eventbrite. Don't forget the student with the most tickets sold will win the Kindle Fire. Check out the FWSA Facebook page for details of the fantastic raffle prizes!

Please can all raffles tickets be handed into the office by Thursday 6th December. The Eventbrite tickets will be available until Friday 7th.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wraxall-primary-school-christmas-fayre-tickets-51726031954?ref=eios&aff=eios>

We're looking for a few more volunteers to help run stalls and serve refreshments. The successful running of our school events are only made possible by the amazing support and generosity of our parents, grandparents, carers and friends, thank you. Please contact your class rep if you can spare an hour and a half of your time next Saturday.

Thank you for the awesome unwanted gift contributions so far, we are still collecting items if there is anything else you would like to regift!

Cakes! Where would our school fair be without the cake stall!?! If you would like to make/donate any delicious offerings please bring them to school drop off/pick up on Friday 7th December and look for the open car boot!

So many thanks, FWSA.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday 2nd December 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC) Toy Service, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

We will be collecting new unwrapped toys for all ages to give to children in need in Bristol area over the Christmas period. It would be lovely to see you and every toy will find a good home.

Saturday 15th December 18:00 - Carols by Candlelight, St Bartholomew's Church, Failand

Sunday 16th December 16:30 - Family Carol Service, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Monday 24th December 15:00 - Crib Service, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Monday 24th December 21:00 - Christmas Eve Communion, St Bartholomew's Church, Failand

Monday 24th December 23:00 - Christmas Eve Communion, All Saints' Church, Wraxall

Tuesday 25th December 10.00 - Christmas Day Family Communion, All Saints' Church

Dear Parents/Carers,

I start the newsletter with the unfortunate news that during the strong winds on Thursday, half of Reception have been blown away. Last seen disappearing over the Tynstesfield estate, we believe they are now somewhere over the Grampians, although unconfirmed sightings place Sonny and Frankie in Stockholm. Still, it has made for a quieter day today so a mixed week at worst. (Edit: as I type this, it is raining so hard and it is so grim outside that the nightlights have come on. This is getting decidedly gnarly).

Those of you who have been with us for more than two minutes will be well aware that spelling is not my strongest suit. (Yes, thank you Beth, I do have some strong suits. I am just biding my time before showing what they are). On the other hand, there are no such concerns with Reception. They have been looking into owls this week, using the beautiful Owl Babies by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson as their stimulus. Like so many children's books, it utilises repetition to help the children follow the story and predict what is coming up next. Taking many of these words and phrases ('I want my mummy', 'Sit on my branch' etc) they have incorporated them into their own independent writing, producing some exceptional pieces. Please enjoy reading a few of them.

'It was dark in the wood and they had to be brave.' Fergus

'All owls think a lot.' (BIG full stop) William

'Sit on my branch Sarah.' Daniel

'I love my mummy said Bill.' Arthur

'Bill and Percy live in a hole in a tree with their owl mother.' Sophie

Concentrating on fire (yes, it makes us a little nervous as well), Year 1/2 have been delving in to the Great Fire of London for the last few weeks. It really warms the old heart to hear the children recite factual information, such as how the blaze started in a bakery in Pudding Lane and then turn this information into really sophisticated sentences. To aide with these studies, the local fire

crew and their rather impressive engine, paid the class a visit. It was like they had been given gold, such was the excitement around real firemen coming to school. They learnt all about the various roles the emergency service performs (I had no idea that dealing with chemical spills fell under their remit), with each correct answer earning them a jigsaw piece which, when put together, formed the image of a fireman. For many, however, the highlight was seeing Mrs Brierley being dressed up in one of their uniforms. For all of her many and various virtues, height is not one of them. The uniform was a little... roomy on her.

There has been a huge push in Year 3/4 to improve the quality of their writing, particularly focusing on using a variety of sentence types in order to increase the sophistication of their pieces and engage the reader. At first, we learn to write in simple sentences: I have a dog. We go for walks. Clearly, this only takes us so far; we also need to be using a variety of conjunctions (as well as other devices) and a mixture of compound and complex sentences. They are absolutely nailing the difference between the compound and complex; are able to explain how different conjunctions affect the type of sentence it is and why subordinating phrases add detail but cannot stand on their own. Although I am absolutely convinced that all adults reading this newsletter (all 3 of you) are completely au fait with how these sentences are formed, if you are in any doubt, ask Rory; his definition was textbook (and annoyingly better than anything I could construct, myself).

Against my better judgement and as part of their World War II studies, Year 5/6 were released from captivity on Tuesday so that they could visit Steam in Swindon. For those who have never been before, this is a museum centred around The Great Western Railway, which, due to the role the railway played in evacuating children, has various World War II educational 'experiences' for primary schools. The children looked the absolute business: all dressed up in their evacuation gear. Their first session saw them greeted by an Air Raid Warden, who had clearly just come from working on the land. Hearing the air raid siren signalling that enemy planes were on their way, everyone had to rush into the public shelter. Inside, was kitted out just like a real shelter: washing lines, cots, posters and the obligatory bucket! Once the danger had passed, they all trooped off to a 1940s train station and waited to be evacuated. Saying 'good bye' to their 'parents', huddling down on the train floor and even being 'told off' when one of them opened a blackout blind, all helped them to get a feel for what life might have been like. Everybody found it a very stimulating and informative experience. Many positive comments were made about the children's understanding and knowledge of the era as well as their impeccable behaviour. Many thanks to the parents who accompanied the class; they thoroughly embraced the experience and certainly played along.

For many of our children and I hope our wider community, the highlight of the week was our traditional Grandparents' Afternoon. Now in its fourth year, this is an opportunity for those people who often play such an important role in our children's lives to simply enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, within the school setting, and see what we get up to here at Wraxall. There was this lovely moment when the grannies and granddads came towards the classrooms; you could hear this, 'They're coming, they're coming'. Just delightful. Unfortunately, several grandpas and grandmas looked like they had been rolled in glitter or were so covered in green paint that they could have passed as the Jolly Green Giant but apart from that, it was a great afternoon.

This time our Stars of the Week are Fergus & Abigail in Reception, JoJo & Esther in Year 1/2, Sophie & Molly in Year 3/4 and Woody & Aaron in Year 5/6. The house with the most conduct marks was Phoenix, while Dragons had the most work marks. Bronze badges were awarded to Krishan, Beau, Hannah & Isabella. Well done!

At both All Saints' and St Bartholomew's Churches, there will a Toy Service this Sunday. This is where toys are collected and distributed to children in the local area who may not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas. If you would like to attend, you would be most welcome.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care.

Mr Tucker