

School Newsletter Friday 27th January

Coming up next week:

Tuesday - Year 3 & 4 swimming

Term 4 School Clubs

Since October half term we have been trialling a change to the way that the after school clubs are paid for. We did this because deadlines for club applications were not being met which resulted in confusion regarding whether or not children were supposed to be attending clubs and whether or not they had actually been paid for. The new system is working well but the downside is that parents cannot see detail on their ParentPay accounts, only a debit against 'half sessions'.

In order to try and continue the progress that has been made but also to act upon your feedback, we are going to tweak the arrangements again for term 4.

So.....

Next week we will send home the timetable of clubs for Term 4. All clubs will be available on parentpay as a block of 7 sessions and the deadline for applications will be the last day of term, Friday 10th February.

Art will have a finite number of places available which will only be secured by making your applications via parentpay. (Please apply for this even if your child is staying in afterschool club until 5pm but wants to do art at the start).

After that date, the services will be removed from parentpay and the club lists drawn up.

Even if you have not paid for the term's block of 7 sessions children are still most welcome to attend any afterschool club either every week or on an ad hoc basis (**with the exception of art**) you will simply be charged as they go and this will show against 'half session' on parentpay.

We would also politely ask that you check your parentpay account and raise any queries with us in the same week or the following week that the charge has occurred as it is not always feasible to check back through registers looking for something that may have taken place two months ago.

If you have any questions about how to book your child on to clubs next term then please do not hesitate to contact us in the school office. And as always your feedback is most welcome.

Don't forget we also have 'Wake n Shake- Breakfast club' running every morning from 7.45am -8.40am for £3.75.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Cold, bright and not a wet playtime in sight: what more could you ask for? Academic efforts have been redoubled, children seemed to have learnt something (ish, I mean, let us not go overboard here) and the only blot in the copybook was when the boiler temporarily packed up on Wednesday morning. Miss Madge actually let out a yelp of delight when she heard this news. Conversely, you should have seen the size of her bottom lip sticking out when she realised that school would stay open.

Chinese New Year has been providing Reception with their inspiration this week. Once videos and books had been poured over and discussed, an ensemble of activities from Chinese drums making (why would you give a class of four and five year olds drums?) to designing cards with messages in them were attacked. This variety of tasks allows both creative and fine motor development, as well as the opportunity for the children to practise and refine their writing. In fact, this was so successful that both Jamie and Reuben declared that they had written their best 'e's ever. On close inspection (they were not going to allow me to leave the room until I had verified their claims), I can confirm that these were the most perfect letter 'e's I have ever seen. Excellent work boys.

For Year 1/2, the trip to Tynesfield was a clear highlight of the week. That is, once we had got past the, 'What do you mean we are not getting a coach up there?' and our heads around the fact that walking was a viable option. (Although, the way some of them were dressed, you would think that they were about to attack the North Face of the Eiger). To be fair, the walk itself was an absolute joy; a beautiful way to encroach onto the estate. Once in the grounds, they made their way to

the mansion where they had a guided tour of the rooms. As many of you will know, the house is exceptional, with all manner of quirky, innovative features, which were a real love of the Gibbs family. The visit allowed the children to see first-hand, the toys from the Victorian era – the huge rocking horse was an absolute show stopper for them. Although there were moments, namely Rory and Bill hiding in the Royal Dalton Vases and Otis and Molly having a couple of frames on the heated snooker table, that did little for Mrs Brierley and Mrs Yandall's blood pressure. Having 27 children traipsing around the rooms and pawing at the Victorian china and glassware is not for the faint hearted. However, the children loved the experience and learnt an awful lot, so well worth the heightened anxiety of the staff. Thank you to all the mums who have up their time to help us; it is much appreciated.

Descriptive poetry has been the name of the game in Year 3/4. Continuing their work on Gregory Cool, the children used the Caribbean setting of the story as a source of inspiration for their writing. The focus fell on their language choices; helping them to describe, for example, the beautiful sunset without using the words, 'The sunset was beautiful.' They were after something a little more sophisticated than that: onomatopoeia, personification, similes and metaphors were all used with control and for effect. After an initial 'first go', there was a heavy weighting on refinement; making their pieces 10% better. Here are a couple of lines which really stood out:

Old oak trees are croaking ancient words. Woody

While the sun is getting pale and dying, the moon is rising and putting the world to bed. Thomas

The crystal moon awakens the gentle darkness Molly

It is a little bit different from Year 5/6 this week. In a break from their usual diet of Literacy and Maths, they were tasked with inventing, planning and carrying out their own sports games. Half of the skill was for them to work collaboratively in a small group, compromising on what they would include, while the other half was concerned with creating a purposeful activity, with a clearly defined set of rules. Once they had sourced the equipment for the games (when I say 'sourced' I mean stripped the school of everything that was not nailed down; the Reception outdoor area was particularly sparse by the time they had finished) they had to explain the rules to their peers and then have a go at the games. Unsurprisingly, it was the simplest ones which were the most effective. A particularly pleasing spin off from the lesson was the way the groups got behind each other, showing great sportsmanship when they were competing.

This time our Stars of the Week are Jamie in Reception, Max & Beau in Year 1/2, Thomas & Jess in Year 3/4 and Georgia & Ben in Year 5/6. There has been an awful lot of hard work taking place this week so for you guys to be chosen, that is superb. Dragons were the house with the most conduct marks, and they also had the highest number of work marks. Bronze badges were awarded to Tilly, Alex, Emma, Nikita, Eloise, Kristina, Nathan & Emme. Silver badges to Jess C, Joshua, Woody, Harrison, Finley, Frankie & Evie and a Gold badge to Benji.

Just to round off the week, we thought we would take a 'freeze frame' of each class so you could see what an average day in the life of Wraxall School looks like. This is extremely serious stuff and not to be taken lightly. It is in no way our attempt at the 'Mannequin Challenge' and no amount of staging took place whatsoever. Edit: the results will be uploaded onto the class individual webpages through e-schools... just as soon as we have worked out how to do it.

Have a great weekend. Play safely and take care,

Mr Tucker

Church News

Sunday 5th February 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC), All Saints' Wraxall Church

This will be Frances' last ATIC service before she leaves us to become the vicar of a church in Oxshott Surrey. Please come and join us to say THANK YOU for all that she has done. Lets give her a great send off and pray for her continuing journey in ministry.