

School Newsletter Friday 4th November

Coming up next week:

Monday - Diwali Workshops

Wednesday - Year 1 & 2 Church Service 9.00am &

Year 3 & 4 Gemini Gym (Girls please bring socks if you are wearing tights)

Friday - Years 1-6 Hindu Temple (helpers still needed)

Spelling Buzz

The first Spelling Buzz test will take place next week.

Your child will be asked to write a few sentences that include all the words at their level (plus some words from lower levels). To pass the level, he/she needs to spell all the words from that and lower level correctly.

For Year 1/2 children, the test will be carried out in normal lesson time over the course of the week.

For Years 3-6, the test will be done in lunch breaks. Every child will be tested on one level, but they can choose to be tested on additional higher levels if they know they have learnt the words. We expect each level to take only about 5 minutes, so your child will not miss much of his/her lunch break.

We are hoping to timetable it as below, but it may change a little:

Monday:	Levels 1 to 5
Tuesday:	Levels 6 to 10
Wednesday	Levels 11 to 15
Thursday	Levels 16 to 20

Poppies will be on sale at break and lunch time next week.

Orchestra Day at Nailsea school - Wednesday 16th November

If your child plays a musical instrument they will have brought home an invitation to Nailsea school Orchestra day. If they would like to take part please complete and return the slip to Wraxall school office on Monday next week.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a big week at Wraxall, with all sorts of lovely things going on... and then there was parents' evening. Seriously, thank you so much to everyone who was able to make it this time to chat to the teachers. If we can work together, on behalf of our children, their chances of success go up exponentially.

The newsletter is going to have a slightly different flavour to it this week (No Beth, that doesn't mean it will be interesting for once, thank you). Rather than dealing with classes, I shall be going for events, as a couple of hum dingers took place. Therefore, I will not be talking about how Year 3/4 are now visiting Gemini Gym every Wednesday until the end of term. I will especially not mention how Mr Harris, accompanying the class as an additional adult, amazed everyone with his somersaults across the sprung floor; by raising

himself into the crucifix position on the rings and then copying Beth Tweddle's Olympic winning routine on the A-Symmetric bars. Who knew?

On Tuesday afternoon, Years 3-6 were fortunate enough to have The Young Shakespeare Company come in to perform Macbeth for them. It was simply stunning. The key to their success is to use the language that Shakespeare wrote, not dumb it down at all, but to have one of their troupe act as a sort of narrator who pauses proceedings and questions and explains what is going on. The actors are classically trained, which allows their voices to be these incredible instruments, drawing the children into the performance. They were transfixed and living every minute of it. Honestly, you should have seen Nikita's face when Macbeth and Macduff were duelling at the end – she was there, on the heath, with them. There was a lovely moment when Lady ~~Beth~~ Macbeth (thinking about it, uncanny similarities between the two), was wringing her hands, trying to rid herself of the blood of King Duncan. The narrator asked what she was doing and Louie piped up, 'She is trying to wash off the guilt.' Er, yup. That is exactly it. Nice one.

Thursday was meant to be, and was to a certain extent, Diwali day for us in Wraxall: the festival of light. This was a very conscious decision on our part to promote understanding and, by extension, respect for other religions and viewpoints. On the downside, the lady who was coming in to make the lanterns and put on the dance workshop unfortunately came down with food poisoning. On the plus side, all the other activities we were planning to do still took place and the children loved it. Years 3/4 and 5/6 got involved with some background research into Diwali and branched out into drawing some Rangoli patterns on the playground. These, hopefully, symmetrical patterns are traditionally drawn outside Hindu homes, with the hope that it will encourage the goddess Lakshmi to enter. They look great. The only slight stumbling block was when I nearly spilt tea on Oli and Josh's. Not happy bunnies. Year 1/2 carried on the Rangoli theme by making pictures out of coloured rice and petals. A bit of a different medium to use but so impressive. They look really effective, as do Reception's firework pictures. Mrs H made the schoolgirl error of mixing paint, glitter and Reception children. A foolish move on her part. It looks like Tinkerbell has been vigorously shaken all over her classroom.

For many of the children though, the highlight of the day was traditional Indian sweetie making. Fearing it could go horribly wrong if Mr Fossard or I were left in charge of the cooking, Mrs Brierley brought in the big guns: Mrs Brown was wheeled out of retirement and ensured that everything went smoothly. Cocoa powder, biscuits, chocolate chips and the secret weapon, condensed milk, were all mixed together to produce little chocolate balls of gooey deliciousness. Messy? Absolutely. Good fun and delicious? You bet. In fact, they were so good that Mr Fossard ate 52 of them. A huge thank you to Mrs Brierley who organised the day for us and is on the case to ensure the lanterns and dancing take place next week (we can now confirm that his is happening on Monday).

Coming up next week, we have our first Spelling Buzz Test. Attached to the newsletter is a bit more information if you wish to help your child prepare for it. This should be so beneficial to our children and I am really looking forward to seeing them progress up through the levels. I would say that they will end up better spellers than me but most of them are that already. Maybe I should be doing this.

While we are on the subject of future events, we are going to run another Grandparents' afternoon on Wednesday 30th November. It was a huge success last year and a real privilege to have so many Grannies and Grandads join us. If Nan or Grandpa would like to come in and help create another piece of art work, we would love to have them. If they are thinking of coming in, please could you let Susanne or Beth know in the office.

Our Stars of the Week are Ada in Reception, William & Hannah in Year 1/2, Marlowe & Evie in Year 3/4 and Georgia & George in Year 5/6. Lovely stuff. Well done to Dragons House who had the most conduct marks and Dragons House who had the highest number of work marks. Congratulations to the following people who were awarded their bronze badges this week: Jess C, Aleksander, Louis B, Benjie, Mathew, Oliver & Woody.

While I am writing about badges, we are missing over 100 shield badges at the moment and have not got enough to give to everybody who has earned them. Please, if any are lurking at home, we would be incredibly grateful to have them back. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. Hopefully, you will be enjoying some sort of firework display and eating your own body weight in hotdogs on Saturday. I certainly will be. Beth here: it looks like he already has... eaten his own body weight in hotdogs! Tee hee. Be safe.

Mr Tucker

FWSA Upcoming dates:

Monday, 14th November, 8pm, The Battle Axes: FWSA meeting, all welcome

Friday, 18th November, 8:30am, car park: hand in hamper items at morning drop off

Friday, 18th November/2nd December, 9am-1700: Christmas gift making workshop for grown-ups at the Cross Tree Centre

Saturday 3rd December, Failand Village Hall: Christmas Fayre 11-2pm

Last chance to see an amazing fireworks display!

We still need helpers to sell glow sticks during the firework event at Camford Park in Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, tomorrow night! (5th November 6-8pm). Volunteers get free entry (if you want to bring the rest of the family, tickets are £5 and under 3s are free) and your participation will result in a sizeable donation to the FWSA. Please contact juliahelendavies@gmail.com or 07709 495231 for more details.

CHURCH NEWS:

Sunday 6th November 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC), All Saints' Wraxall Church

We will be celebrating All Saints' Day and the Archdeacon of Bath (our local area lead person) will be joining us. This is a special church 'birthday' celebration with coffee and cakes afterwards in the Cross Tree Centre. At this special service we want to highlight the good things that have recently happened in church and the community, please join us as we would love to welcome you.