

Wivelsfield Primary School

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Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to have a near normal run up to Christmas at Wivelsfield Primary School, albeit with some restrictions to be as Covid safe as we can be.

Staff News

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Thomas as one of our Midday Supervisors. Thank you Mrs Thomas for all the warmth and care you have shown to our youngest children during your time with us.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Keast as both midday supervisor and a member of our Larks Breakfast Club Team.

Miss Brennan is stepping down from her role in Kingfishers After School Club, but we are delighted that Mrs Shorter will be part of that team for four days each week. We are finalising the appointment of someone to support Miss Tuffin on the other day. Thank you Miss Brennan for all your work in looking after so many children over the last few years at the end of each school day.

Mrs Hunter is also giving up her hours as a teaching assistant in Robins Class, but we are delighted that she remains committed to continuing in her role as Forest School Leader. We are pleased that Miss Butler will be increasing her hours in Robins Class and Mrs Ros Cannon will also be joining the Early Years team for 3 days each week.

Curriculum

In amongst the festivities, children have been working hard in all areas of the curriculum. Some of the highlights have been Otters1066 day when they came to school armed with fantastic shields, whilst Badgers Class stepped back to World War Two for a day, with their end of the school filled with the haunting sound of air raid sirens.

Rabbits and Foxes enjoyed a visit from the Fire and Rescue Service to learn about fire and road safety complete with the highlight of the visit: an opportunity to use the water hoses in the car park! Another exciting learning opportunity this week was a re-enactment of the Great Fire of London with a street of houses made by the children.



Meanwhile, Owls and Otters Classes have been the first classes this year to share their learning at class assemblies. Well done to both classes for very well presented assemblies, including great use of technology.

The School in the Community

After working behind closed doors for eighteen months, one of our aims this year is to re-establish ourselves in the community. We are also committed to supporting various local charities as well as other more widely known ones.

It was lovely to see some of our Year 6 students representing the school when they read the Roll of Honour at the Remembrance Sunday Service at the war memorial. Two children also laid a wreath, made at After School club, whilst others had the opportunity to plant wooden crosses as their own act of remembrance.

Thanks to some very enthusiastic Year 6 students, and your generosity, we raised £350.48 from this year's Poppy Appeal.

As always, we supported Children in Need and this year had a 'Strictly Come Dancing' theme with everyone dressing up in sparkles for a whole school dance event during the day, along with a toy and book sale. We are delighted that we raised £486.57



On a dismal afternoon, children and teachers alike, donned elf hats for an energetic Elf run around the playground. It was great fun and for this event we raised a truly amazing £1635.10 for St Pete and St James Hospice. Parents and carers of Key Stage 2 children may have noticed the hats were put to further good use for our Musical Christmas!



Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to any of these charity events.

Mrs James has been working her magic with the choir, and it was a huge disappointment when the hospice had to cancel their Christmas Fair where the children were due to perform. However, they had a chance to showcase their hard work when we were invited by the Dame Vera Lynn charity to perform in the Orchards Shopping Centre. It was a lovely crisp December morning and both the singing and behaviour of the children were fantastic. A huge thank you to Mrs James for organising the event and her inspirational work with our young people. The highlight of the Christmas term for many

Sporting News

Our young sportspeople have been enjoying football tournaments against other schools after a long time without any interschool competitions being permitted,

Thank you to Mrs Sinclair for taking some year 5/6 teams to tournaments at Chailey School and to Mrs Diack for arranging a couple of matches against Lindfield Primary Academy. She reports that the matches were very exciting, close run games resulting in a 2-1 loss and 3-1 loss with Goals by George and Isaac.

Our PE leader, Miss Griffith was keen to ensure the whole school remained active through the dull, dark days of December and set daily Active Advent Challenges for each class, thank you Miss Griffith and well done to everyone for completing them!

Online Safety

With young people spending more time indoors during the winter months, they will almost inevitably be using smart phones, iPads and computers more. Below is a link to a useful website that gives lots of advice to help parents keep children safe online, as well as hints and tips that they can access themselves:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Christmas

We have had a great time celebrating Christmas here at Wivelsfield. Children have enjoyed meeting Father Christmas in our outside grotto at Festive Friday, eaten a delicious Christmas lunch, complete with festive music and crackers, and today have partied all afternoon with another Santa visit. Thank you to the PTA for their tireless work in helping the children to have so much fun, as well as raising money for the school.

I hope as many of you as were able to attend, enjoyed the Christmas productions.

Key Stage 2 classes entertained everyone with Christmas songs, accompanied by Mr Hards. Some songs were also accompanied by, our new orchestra, which Mr Hards has been working with for just 2 or 3 months. Thank you, Mr Hards for your commitment to our young instrumentalists! All the performers spoke, sang or played an instrument brilliantly. Well done and a big thank you to the staff for all their hard work in helping the children to be ready to perform.

parents of our youngest children is undoubtedly the end of term 'nativity'. After some debate (and the inevitable risk assessment writing), we decided to perform The Big Little Nativity in our well-ventilated hall with a limit on audience size, and I hope you agree it was an uplifting experience. As always, the children performed brilliantly and again a massive thank you to all the staff for helping and 'inspiring them to be the best they can be'.

There are a few pictures of The Big Little Nativity below and more Christmas photos will be posted on the website or our new Facebook page.

Our School Council have chosen two charities they want us to support this year and thank you for your generosity in donating £258 60 at collections after performances and our Christmas post-box. This will be split between Chailey Heritage and Cancer Research

I look forward to seeing you all when school re-opens on **Tuesday 4th January.**

It just remains for me to wish you a very Happy Christmas. Let's hope we all remain healthy so we can enjoy time with our families and that 2022 sees a return to a more normal lifestyle.

With every good wish and season's greetings,

Helen M. Smith

Helen Smith
Headteacher





- ☒ Fluffy sheep
- ☒ 1 x Star
- ☒ 3 x Wise men
- ☒ 2 x Presenters
- ☒ 1 x Excited Audience