

29th November 2024

Newsletter Number 712

Items for Action:

- Dates for the calendar

Items for Information:

- 2024-2025 Term Calendar dates
- Winter Wonderland

Dear Parents and Carers

Sycamore gave a wonderful assembly today to parents and families. They have done some great learning about the Stone Age – including cave art using natural dyes from plants we have today. They also gave us a lovely performance of their recorder playing which they have been practising in class.

Year 1 had a fascinating day at Windsor Castle yesterday, they learned lots and explained to me that because the flag wasn't flying the King wasn't there. They were a bit sad about that! Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for supporting the children during the day.

We had a Viking man visit school on Wednesday! It turned out to be a great learning opportunity for the children in Year 4 – and will certainly support their learning when they become Vikings themselves next week.

Just to let you know that information about our Christmas lunch and how to book will be sent to you next week – keep your eyes open for the email and information. Also, next Friday it will be non-uniform day for the PTA bottle tombola donations. Please bring donations to the front of the school on Friday morning – thank you for your support with this. Winter Wonderland is a lovely celebration at the end of the Autumn term and I know the PTA would very much appreciate if you can help on a stall on Friday evening. Please do volunteer – even if it is just for half an hour. It is such a fun evening for all.

We have had children representing us in football matches and an athletic event this week. Thank you to those children for being such wonderful representatives of the school, thanks also to the staff who attend the events with them.

Finally, Monday evening is parents evening for those of you who didn't have an appointment this week.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and the sun keeps shining. I'll look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes

Head Teacher



2024 – 2025 Term Calendar Dates

Monday	02/12/24	Parents Evening (3.45-6.15PM)
Tuesday	03/12/24	Yr 4 Viking Day
Friday	06/12/24	KS1 Christmas Play dress rehearsal
Friday	06/12/24	Winter Wonderland (PTA Event)
Monday	09/12/24	Year 1 Christmas Play AM
Monday	09/12/24	Year 2 Christmas Play PM
Tuesday	10/12/24	Year 2 Christmas Play AM
Tuesday	10/12/24	Year 1 Christmas Play PM
Monday	16/12/24	EYFS and Nursery Concert / Nativity
Wednesday	18/12/24	Christmas Lunch
Thursday	19/12/24	5-6 PM Yr3/4 Disco
Thursday	19/12/24	6-7 PM Yr5/6 Disco
Friday	20/12/24	Last day of Autumn Term 1PM close
SPRING TERM		
Monday	06/01/25	Inset Day
Tuesday	07/01/25	First day of Spring Term
Monday - Friday	17/02 – 21/02/25	Half Term
Monday	24/02/25	Inset Day
Friday	04/04/25	Last day of Spring Term 1PM close
SUMMER TERM		
Tuesday	22/04/25	First day of Summer Term
Monday	05/05/25	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Friday	23/05/25	Inset Day
Monday - Friday	26/05 – 30/05/24	Half Term
Wednesday	23/07/25	Last day of Summer Term 1PM close



This Weeks Awards

Unicorn Awards			Values Leaf Awards		
Wyatt	R	Acorns	Amarliyah	R	Acorns
Hugo	R	Conkers	Evie	R	Conkers
Holly Class	1	Holly	Marley	1	Holly
Silver Birch Class	1	Silver Birch	Kairav	1	Silver Birch
Reynolds	2	Aspen	Ivy	2	Aspen
Toby	2	Maple	Riley	2	Maple
Macey	3	Sycamore	Wilbur	3	Sycamore
Zak	4	Willow	Amaya	4	Willow
Nisa	5	Beech	Beech Class	5	Beech
Alona	6	Oak	Edie	6	Oak

Weekly Birthdays

We wish the following children, a very happy birthday for this week:

Daphne
Melissa
Olivia B



Weekly Attendance Cup Maple Class



Weekly House Winner

Saturn



Christmas Post Box

We are very excited to have our Christmas Post box ready to accept Christmas Cards from Monday 2nd December, in the Reception foyer by the office. If your children would like to send cards, please ensure that the cards are addressed to include Name and Class of recipient, then our Elves will sort and process the Christmas Post.

Please note that unfortunately we cannot print class lists due to GDPR. It's a great memory exercise for your child to write a list of their friends.



Year 1

We had such fun visiting Windsor Castle and meeting with our friend Sophie who told us all about the castle. It was fabulous seeing the shiny Staterooms, glittering with festive Christmas Trees. The Great Hall had the most amazing tree, which was over 10 metres tall. The children learned all about the King's home and Queen Victoria. They also saw features of a castle in real life including the Battlements and Arrow Slits.

A huge thankyou to all the grown ups who came with us and helped to look after us.



Parking – Polite reminder

Please refrain from parking in the residents and visitor car parks on the residential roads near the school.

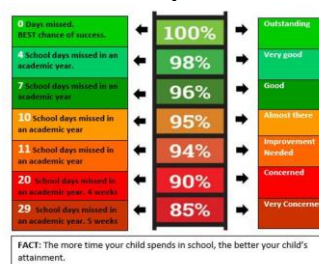
Several people have had an idea that may help the traffic flow through the school and on Baston Road. If all drivers could make a left hand turn onto Biggs Lane where it meets Baston Road (after exiting the school). This may help the flow of traffic leaving the school site not come to a standstill.

By driving down to the roundabout and coming back up Biggs Lane it may actually save time for everybody.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Bateman

Attendance

In the Government's document 'Working together to Improve Attendance' it states: 'All schools have a continuing responsibility to proactively manage and improve attendance across their school community. Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all pupils. This is why we continue to set expectations about attendance levels for our children. **However, we work with all families, and especially those with children who have SEN or medical needs, to support them with any attendance concerns regarding their children. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if support would be helpful.**



Playground at Pickup

Please note that the Pirate Ship and Adventure Playground should not be used outside of the school day. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your younger children do not play on these whilst you are collecting your school children.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Bateman

Sickness

Please be aware that if your child has been sick (vomited) or had an upset tummy (diarrhoea) they cannot return to school until 48 hours have passed since the last bout of illness.

Please see NHS guidelines here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Leave of Absence Forms

If your child requires time off school for any medical appointment, please ensure that you complete a Leave of Absence form which can be obtained from our website or paper copy from the Office Reception.

Disabled Parking Bays

A polite reminder that disabled parking bays are for parents, grandparents and visitors who require these specific bays. Please do not park in these bays unless you are a blue badge holder. The disabled bays have designated space around the parking bay to allow for easier access. Please also consider that there are a wide range of impairments or conditions not necessarily visible to others, please be considerate and respect others.



WINTER WONDERLAND DONATION APPEAL



GOOD QUALITY RAFFLE PRIZES

We'd love your help with Winter Wonderland Raffle donations! Perfect items include "as new" gifts—like toiletries, toys, electronics, luxury food, drinks, and books.

The elves will be making up our raffle hampers next week, so please kindly drop all donations to the room opposite the school office (Owl Room) by **Mon 2nd December** to help them make Winter Wonderland extra special!

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

WINTER WONDERLAND NON-UNIFORM DAY



FRIDAY, 6TH DECEMBER!

Children are invited to wear their own clothes to school in exchange for donating a "Prizeworthy Bottle" for our Bottle Tombola.

This could be anything from fancy soft drinks to sparkling wines – your generosity will help make the Winter Wonderland even more magical!

**TOGETHER EVERYONE
ACHIEVES MORE**



WINTER WONDERLAND 2024

ONLINE AUCTION IS NOW LIVE!

The Farley Hill Primary School Online Auction is officially open for bidding!

Amazing promises are up for grabs—perfect for everyone!

- Visit auctionofpromises.com/FarleyHillWinter2024 to place your bids now
- Bidding closes soon – don't miss your chance to get involved!

All proceeds go to Farley Hill Primary School PTA (Registered Charity no: 1041931). Thank you for your support!



SCAN ME!
TO MAKE YOUR BID.



The Auction includes donations from:







TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

WBC Consulting on school admission numbers

We are looking to reduce the number of school places offered to reception pupils in eight primary schools in the borough to help schools to better plan for future resources.

We want to make sure people have the chance to have their voice heard, so please see our [consultation document](#) for full details.

The changes would be in place for the school year 2026/27 at the following schools:

- Radstock Primary School
- Robert Piggott CofE Infant School
- The Colleton Primary School
- Gorse Ride Infant School
- Gorse Ride Junior School
- Bearwood Primary School
- Winnersh Primary School
- Walter Infant School

There are currently significantly more primary school places in Wokingham borough than are needed.

This is due to a decline in the birth rate, which is steeper in the borough than the national average. Families moving into new housing as well as other demographics of local areas mean not all schools have experienced the same decline in applications.

These changes have a major impact on school operations, as funding received is per child, not per class.

By reducing school places offered, these proposals will allow schools to structure and plan more effectively and be more financially stable, all leading to better quality education.