

Whitchurch C of E Primary School

School Matters



19/12/25

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of this busy and joyful term, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the incredible support you've shown since I joined as headteacher. It has been a privilege to get to know the school and to feel so warmly welcomed into this wonderful community. I truly feel part of something special here. I have been immensely proud of our children and their achievements this term. The last couple of weeks have been full of fun and festivities with some of the highlights including:

- Year 3 and 5 delighted us with their carol concerts
- Year R, 1 and 2 shone in their nativity performances
- Year 6 impressed everyone with their Greek museum
- Year 5 successfully completed their Bikeability training
- On Wednesday we also all wore Christmas jumpers for Christmas Dinner Day.
- Yesterday afternoon, we rounded off the term with a whole-school Christmas sing-along, counting down the top 10 Christmas songs voted for by everyone. The cheer for Jingle Bells as the winner was unforgettable, and the children sang their hearts out! We finished with our famous rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas, with each class acting out their line.

It is safe to say we are now all exhausted... including the children.

As we look ahead, please remember that Monday 5th January is an INSET day, so pupils return on Tuesday 6th January.

Finally, a quick note: we are seeking donations for OPAL play equipment. Please see Jack from Kingfishers' flyer at the end of the newsletter for details.

Thank you again for your kindness and support. Wishing you and your families a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in January!

All the best,

Mr D Ware
Headteacher

Key Dates

New dates in yellow

First week back– Lunches Week 1

KS2 hot dog Fridays – the first Friday in school of every month

Mon 5 January – Inset day

Tue 6 January – change to lunches – pizza and mac cheese, jackets, pasta

Wed 21 January – Year 5 Hampton Court

Thu 12 February – Year 3 Fishbourne

Fri 17 April – Year 1 Jungle Jonathan visiting

Friday 22 May – Inset day

Mon 15-Wed 17 June – Year 4 Ufton Court

Thu 18 June – Class and group photos

A Note About Mud: I know many children have been coming home muddier than expected, and I apologise for this. Our site gets very muddy, and while we encourage outdoor play, I recognise it's not ideal. We're exploring ways to improve the grounds so they can be used year-round, including possible resurfacing. I'll keep you updated as plans progress. Thank you for your patience and understanding in the meantime.

Year R 2026 applications opened on 1st November [Apply Here](#)
Please don't miss the deadline of 18th January! Please check with friends and neighbours to see if they've applied. Thank you.

Celebration

Year R Stars of the Week

Pelicans

Friday – Ophelia
Monday – Reuben
Tuesday – Jacob
Wednesday – Marcey and KJ
Thursday – Henry
Friday - Oliver

Puffins

Friday – Harry
Monday – Fleur
Tuesday – Raphael
Wednesday – Arietta
Thursday – Lilian
Friday - Alfie

Lead Learners

Seahorses – Casper
Turtles – Kinsley-May
Dolphins – Maddy
Seals – Poppy Cr
Jaguars – Rafe B
Leopards – Harper
Pumas – Florence
Tigers – Jack Sn
Doves – Alex C
Kingfishers – Rowan
Falcons – Elsie M
Kestrels – Aria

Roll of Honour

Kingfisher - Esme
Kestrels – Tommaso
All of the children in Year R, 1 and 2 for their endearing performances in their nativities.
Well done to Year 3 and 5 for fantastic and enthusiastic Christmas Concerts this week and to Year 6 for their fascinating Greek Museum.
Thank you to the children in Performing Arts Club who gave a fantastic performance at the Christmas Fair. You were all amazing.

Focus Year – Year R

Year R have been enjoying lots of Christmas activities including reading the story 'The Christmas Department Store' they then used their imagination in Drawing Club to design a new form of transport to get around the store when the train broke down and write a code for something magical to happen in the story.



Dear God, As we come to the end of this term, we thank You for the gift of learning, friendship, and care shared in our school community. Bless our pupils, families, and staff with peace and joy this Christmas. May Your love guide us into the new year with hope and kindness. Amen.

House Points



House Point winners this week are Victory, well done children!

Change to Lunches – Tuesday 6th January

Lunches will be margarita pizza, mac cheese, jacket potato with cheese and beans or tomato pasta.

Illness/Appointments During School Hours

Please avoid appointments during school hours as much as possible. We realise that this is not always possible, so if your child does have an appointment during school hours, please inform the office and show them the appointment letter/card/text reminder.

If your child is ill, please leave a message on the answerphone. Give your child's name and a **detailed** reason for why they are ill – not just “they are ill today”.

If your child has an illness that has lasted a whole week or more, please ask the doctor for an appointment card to show to school upon return. We may mark the absence as unauthorised if it is suspected that the illness is not genuine. If it becomes apparent that you have taken a holiday whilst saying your child is ill, then we will subsequently unauthorise the time.



School Fundraising with FOWPS



FOWPS Christmas Fair

The Friends of Whitchurch Primary School team would like to thank everyone for your support in making the Christmas Fair last week a huge success. We hope you all had a sparkly and smashing time.

We'd especially like to thank all those fantastic local businesses who donated super generous and fabulous prizes for our silent auction or raffle; all those parents, grandparents and friends who volunteered their time; and all the teachers and staff at the school for their support and assistance.

A huge thank you to Santa Claus for dropping by and making a careful note of all those Christmas wishes!

The team would also like to congratulate the Year 6 pupils who designed, developed and marketed their own products for our Pocket Money Market. This new initiative for this year saw these budding entrepreneurs score a timely top up of their own funds for the holidays. We'd also like to thank the Year 5 and Year 6 team who also ran the games room with such aplomb.

Every cake donated, raffle ticket bought, grotto session booked, cup of tea downed, tombola played, glitter tattoo done, auction lot bid on and every single 50p token spent goes directly to FOWPS. As a result of all this hard work and generosity, FOWPS is delighted to share that more than £3,000 was raised through the Fair which will be put to good use enriching the children's school experience in the months ahead.

Thank you for helping us make it magical, we couldn't do this without you! Look out for more events next term, and in the meantime, have a great Christmas and New Year.

More info

Want to keep up to date with FOWPS and our fundraising activities which are designed to enrich school life?

Follow <https://www.facebook.com/F.O.W.P.S/> or the [FOWPS channel on WhatsApp](#). You can also email us at admin@fowpswhitchurch.co.uk



Whitchurch CofE Primary School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr David Ware and the Deputy DSLs are Mrs Michelle Dunwell, Mr David May and Mrs Emma Cooke. The Designated Safeguarding Leads can be contacted through the school office on 01256 892755 or email to adminoffice@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk marked for the attention of one of the safeguarding leads.

School Nurse Clinic On Tuesday 20th January Starting at 8.45am



Open to all parents!



Our School Nurse Michelle will be running a 1:1 clinic for parents to offer advice and signposting.

The 30 minute sessions will be running at:

8.45am, 9.15am, 9.45am, 10.15am, 10.45am and 11.15am.

The School Nursing Team can help with all kinds of things such as:

Sleep and Behaviour

Toileting

Emotional Well-being

Healthy Lifestyle

Please email our Family Link Worker Mrs Cooke at e.cooke@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk if you would like to book a 1:1 slot with Michelle on 20.01.26 stating your preferred time slot.



WE NEED MORE OPAL PLAY EQUIPMENT!

The School has asked for some play equipment so if you want to, you can give the school the following things. Thank you. :)

- Lego
- wooden or plastic building blocks
- Fancy dress costumes
- wooden planks
- Toy cars, toy dinosaurs and play dolls
- Any spare kitchen equipment (no cutlery)
- Skipping ropes
- cardboard tubes
- bean bags
- action figures
- hula-hoops
- cones and barriers
- aprons
- Any figits
- Chalk
- Any sandpit tools
- Plastic crates
- watering cans
- empty cereal boxes
- Any beach toys
- Laundry baskets or just baskets

From Jack