



Friday 15th December 2023

Our vision is 'Let your light shine'. The rainbow symbolises God's unconditional love for each individual. We seek to reflect that light in all we do: in our community, both local and wider, in our communication, both word and action, with curiosity and courage, and with care and compassion for everyone, inspiring a love of learning.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey our children have undertaken over the last few months. The term has been a whirlwind of activity, filled with learning, growth and exciting experiences, some of which are highlighted in this edition of the newsletter.

As always, it was wonderful to see such overwhelming support for the Christmas performances; watching our children stand on stage and perform with such confidence was a real privilege - well done to all involved and thank you for your continued support. Thank you for your generous donations to our chosen charities, Sport in Mind and the RSPCA. We have raised an amazing total of £636.26. Earlier on in the term, the children also raised £374.72 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, £450 for Children in Need and £227 for Save the Children.

We are immensely proud of the progress the children have made academically, socially and personally. Our teachers and support staff have worked diligently to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for our children, fostering their intellectual curiosity and instilling a love for learning.

As we approach the holiday season and a well-deserved break, I encourage you to take this time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and the strides they have made this term. Your unwavering support and involvement in their education have been invaluable, and we are grateful for your partnership in their journey. The spring term promises to be another exciting one and the calendar of events is included at the end of this newsletter with some key dates.

We will finish for the Christmas break at 3:15pm on Tuesday 19th December. On the last day of term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Thomas in a special Collective Worship. She will be greatly missed by children, staff and parents but I am sure you would like to join us in wishing her a very relaxing and enjoyable retirement. We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Allen as the new Assistant Headteacher and Sunshine Class Teacher at the start of the spring term.

On behalf of all the staff at Winslow CE School, I would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! We look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Samantha Dumbleby

Headteacher



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Learning Snapshot

Rainbows

This half term in Rainbows, the children have been learning about celebrations: Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali and Christmas. The children enjoyed a variety of activities including stories, art, food tasting, dressing up, exploring outdoors, games and performing in our Nativity play. For our Christmas Book Week we have learned about 'The Snowman' and the beautiful art work that our Rainbows children have created is displayed in Winslow Library. We are very proud of all our children's progress this term and we look forward to welcoming more children to our setting next term.



Reception

Sky and Sunshine classes have had a very busy first term at school. They settled in quickly and soon found their confidence. New friendships have been made and old ones strengthened; the children have all set about their learning with enthusiasm and determination.

The children have started to learn phonics and are beginning to read. They loved sharing their classroom and their learning with parents and carers during the 'Stay and Read' session earlier this term. The children are continuing to develop their love of reading and listening to stories and thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the library.



'Our Community' has been the focus for our learning this half term and the children have enjoyed finding out about many people in our community including Firefighters, Police, Librarians and Teachers. I think the children would all agree that the highlights of our learning have been our visitors. When the firefighters visited, all the children had a chance to get on the fire engine and squirt the hose. "Best day ever!" was heard from a few of the children. Mr Thomson even got the chance to race with the firefighters to put on the uniform. When the police visited us, the children enjoyed trying all the different hats, helmets and jackets. We also had visits from Mrs White, our school librarian and Mrs Burman who teaches Year One. We have learned so much about the people in our community and the children have really enjoyed looking back at photographs and talking about these visits and visitors in our floor books.



Year One

The autumn term has been a busy one for Year One. The children have enjoyed developing their writing skills by writing poems about Fireworks and Autumn. We have been so impressed with their expanding vocabulary and ability to perform their poem to the Year Two classes. The children have loved using adjectives to write setting and character descriptions and they particularly enjoyed 'The Leaf Thief' as part of their learning in English.



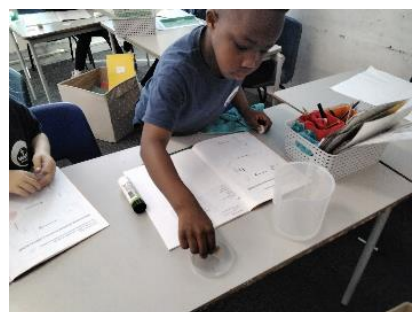
Our autumn writing linked brilliantly to our science where we have looked at seasonal changes. We tracked the weather, sunrise and sunset as well as exploring the woodland for the signs of autumn.

Our new history topic 'Winslow the high street and train line' has really captured the children's interests. They have enjoyed looking at the old shops, roads, transport and train line from the past 70 years or more. We were lucky to have Miss Smith from Network Rail come into talk to the children about the old train line and the new exciting one being built now. They came up with great questions to ask her.

The children all worked so hard on their Christmas play 'Hey Ewe'. I am sure you will agree that they did a marvellous job. Their singing and Makaton was amazing.

Year Two

It has been a busy and exciting autumn term in Year 2 and the children should feel incredibly proud of all their hard work and effort. At the start of the term the children were learning about 'Materials' in Science. They enjoyed a number of investigations, including exploring the best material to use for a water toy and the best material for soaking up a spillage in the lunch hall. The children were tasked with planning their investigations and were asked to make predictions about their results. We think they are all super scientists!





In history the children have been learning about London in 1666 and 'The Great Fire of London.' They spent time role-playing what life in London was like then, before learning about the reasons why the fire started and how it spread so quickly.

Geography has taken the children on a trip round the world as they learnt the names of the seven continents and five oceans, as well as iconic human and physical features. The children have shown so much interest and curiosity in our world it has been lovely to see.

In Design & Technology, the children explored 'Wheels and Axles' and were asked to create a fire engine following a specific design criteria. They needed to make a net of their design before assembling it, adding the wheels and axles and finally, painting it using their original plan for guidance. The finished results were fantastic!

The children have enjoyed reading a wide range of books this term and we have seen such a growth in the children's love of reading. 'The Barnabus Project' by the Fan Brothers and wordless book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker have been very popular with the children.



Year Three

Year Three have really been letting their light shine across the curriculum and a particular highlight has been learning about 'The Stone Age', 'Bronze Age' and 'Iron Age' in History and English lessons. The children went back in time to the Stone Age where the children used their imagination to build dens, go fishing and cook around a 'campfire'. The children then used this as inspiration to write superb stories based on the book 'Stone Age Boy', by Satoshi Kitamura. As part of outdoor learning day, they created giant cave paintings using key skills that they had learnt in art lessons whilst playing the drums.

In science, Year 3 investigated different types of soils and classified rocks. The children were mesmerised by the different fossils and even created their very own 'ammonites'.



The enthusiasm and determination that the children have shown in Maths lessons has been fantastic. Exploring place value and the four operations, the children have used practical materials such as dienes blocks, counters and cubes to deepen their understanding. It is lovely to see their excitement when they complete the problem solving challenges!

Wow, what a fantastic first term we have had in Year Three. The children are excited to continue on our learning journey after Christmas.



Year Four

Year Four have had a number of 'wow days' this term with some wonderful learning opportunities. The children have enjoyed learning about Mary and her role in the Christian Story in their RE Curriculum. They were joined by Reverend Stephen where they presented many lines of inquiry related to their unit question 'Does the Christmas narrative need Mary?' They then had the privilege of visiting St Laurence Church whilst they were in the process of getting ready for advent.



They have also enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt in History. A 'wow day' provided a great stimulus to learning, bringing the Ancient Egyptians to life, baking bread and even mummifying an orange. The opportunity to put the children's design technology skills in English was greatly received, building a paper boat and a wardrobe which acted as a stimulus for their English texts 'Float' and 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The children have really enjoyed the process of 'showing not telling' in their latest English unit 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' which coupled with the Christmas production has put everyone in the Christmas spirit. Well done to everyone for such an amazing start to Year 4!

Year Five

The children in Year Five have worked incredibly hard in all subjects and have become fully immersed in their learning. Across the term, the children have participated in a number of science investigations. We started the term exploring separating mixtures and more recently have been investigating the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction. The children were able to apply their theoretical knowledge of forces to their practical enquiries by leading investigations and reflecting on their results.



As well as this, Year Five have worked extremely hard to develop an understanding of several periods in History. We began by studying Anglo-Saxons and Vikings where we linked our English unit, Arthur and the Golden Rope, to our continuation of the curriculum that they began learning in Year 4. We then dived into the History of Medicine by studying how health care changed from Ancient history, through to the medieval era, Tudor era, Victorian era and modern day. Within this unit, we also dressed up as Victorians to help us write from the perspective of Jim Jarvis from the book Street Child.

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Year Six

This autumn term has been a busy one for Year 6, with the children sitting their 11+ exams in our second week back after the summer holidays! Only a few short weeks later, they found themselves at PGL, scaling 30-foot walls and building rafts that would carry them across the lake. The children who were unable to attend took part in enrichment activities at school, ranging from making tie-dye patterns, clay dragon eyes and designing a new "DEBUG" sign for our playground.

The children put together a wonderful Remembrance Service where they shared what they had learnt about fallen soldiers of Winslow and further afield, as well as honouring those serving our country in the modern era through research carried out and poetry written in class.



In the classroom, the children have looked in depth at WW2 and its impacts on our local home of Winslow, Britain as a country and the wider world. They used this knowledge in their learning in English, researching the evacuations of children out of the cities to the safety of the countryside during the bombings of London, linking to our class text "Letters from the Lighthouse".

Winslow Carols and Lanterns

It was wonderful to see so many of our families working together to make their lanterns for the Winslow Carols and Lanterns parade after school on Tuesday.

We are looking forward to the parade on Tuesday 19th December. If you are attending with your child/children, please meet in **Winslow Market Square** ready for **6:30pm**.

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you in advance for your support and commitment with this wonderful community opportunity.

Carol Singing

Children in Year 3 visited Swan House and Scott Evans Court Care Homes this week to sing Christmas carols for the residents. It was a lovely opportunity to bring some festive cheer to the elderly and they really appreciated the children's wonderful singing. Thank you to the parent volunteers who helped with the visit.

Termly Values Awards

Each Term we choose children who have displayed all of the School Values throughout the term to be awarded the Values Cups. Each Values Cup winner is awarded with a lovely trophy that they are able to keep at home for the next term. Congratulations to the following children who are a good example to others to follow and admire:

Year 1: Isabella & Albie

Year 2: Lola & Rex

Year 3: Polina & Luna

Year 4: Maisie & Miami

Year 5: Jonny & Alfie

Year 6: Immy & Soffee

House Points

Congratulations to Barnardo House who have earned House Mufti day in the first week back after the Christmas Break on Friday 5th January 2024.

Parks	Barnardo	Wiltshire	Anning
9734	11,280	10,692	10,099

Attendance

Well done to 4KF who had the best whole class average attendance this week with 98.61%. Our average whole school attendance this week is 93.33%.

Reporting an absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office via Parent Mail, the telephone absence line or the office email address before 9.00am. Please give full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will call or email you to find out why your child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Accelerated Readers

The following classes have been awarded the Reading Trophies this week for completing the most Accelerated Reader Quizzes:

2AA
3AP
4SW
5FG
6KEP



Rainbows Preschool and Starting School in September 2024

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 you can now apply for a school place at [Buckinghamshire School Admissions](#). If you would like a place for child in Reception in September 2024, you must apply for a place, even if your child is at currently attending Rainbows Pre-school.

The application deadline is 15th January 2024 - please do not miss it.

FOWS – Carols on the Playground



'Carols on the Playground' is planned to take place on **Tuesday 19th December @2:30pm** (weather permitting).

This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together as we start the Christmas break and we hope that as many parents/carers as possible are able to attend. FOWS will be selling mince pies and hot drinks.

TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP PLEASE EMAIL: FOWSWINSLOW@GMAIL.COM

We look forward to seeing you there!

Safeguarding

If you have a concern about a child please contact Mrs Samantha Dimbleby, Mrs Tracy Thomas or Mrs Katie Epps via the School Office on 01296 712296 or alternatively if out of school hours, weekends or holidays visit <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/> to report your concerns.

Mrs Samantha Dimbleby Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Mrs Tracy Thomas Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Mrs Katie Epps Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Child Protection Governor Mr David Shaw	

What can we do even better as a school?

If you have any comments or suggestions, please do get in contact with Mrs Dimbleby via the school office, or better still, come and chat to her at the start or the end of the day on the playground.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Calendar of Events Spring Term 2024

Please see below our spring calendar of events for your immediate attention. This will be published on our school website and updated as appropriate.

Date	Event	Year Group
Thursday 4 th January	Children return to school	Whole school
wc 4 th January	Take One Picture Arts Week	Whole school
Friday 5 th January	House Mufti Day	Barnardo House Only
Wednesday 10 th January (2:00pm)	FOWS Meeting for Parents	Whole school
wc 11 th January	KS2 Swimming starts	Year Four
Friday 12 th January	Roman Day	Year Four
Tuesday 23 rd January (9:00am-10:00am)	Phonics Information Session	Reception, Year One and Year Two
wc Monday 3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Week	Whole School
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day	Whole School
Date TBC	Internet Safety Parent Information Evening	Whole School
Tuesday 6 th February (5:00pm-6:00pm)	SATS Information Evening for Parents	Year Six
Wednesday 7 th February (9:00am – 10:00am)	Maths Stay and Play Session	Reception, Year One and Year Two
Thursday 8 th February	FOWS 5p Challenge Launch	Whole School
Thursday 8 th February	Interim Reports to Parents	Reception – Year six
Friday 9 th February	INSET DAY – school closed to children	Whole School
HALF TERM HOLIDAY (Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February)		
Monday 19 th February	Children return to school	Whole School
Monday 19 th February (3:30pm – 6:30pm) and Wednesday 21 st February (4:30pm – 7:30pm)	Parents' Evening	Reception – Year Six
Tuesday 5 th March (2:00pm)	KS2 Reading Information Session	Year Three – Year Six
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	Whole School
Friday 8 th March	FOWS Mother's Day Gifts Sale	Whole School
wc 11 th March	Science Week	Whole School
Wednesday 13 th March	Group Photographs	Reception and Year Six
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day – non-uniform fundraising day	Whole School
Tuesday 19 th March – Thursday 21 st March	Woodrow Residential	Year Four
Tuesday 19 th March	Stay and Read Session	Reception, Year One and Year Two
wc 25 th March	Bikeability	Year Three
Tuesday 26 th March	Trip to Science Oxford	Year One and Year Two
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term	Whole School
Easter HOLIDAY Children return on Monday 15 th April 2024		

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