



# Urchfont CE Primary School Newsletter

## Dec 2024

**Thursday 19th December 2024**

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*As this busy term comes to an end, I once again write my end of term letter to you. The weeks have truly sped by, with lots of superb events happening.*

*The children have been busy raising money for many charities including, The Poppy appeal which raised £162.90 and Children in Need, which raised £84. This truly embeds the school values of compassion and friendship.*

*On the sporting front, Owls have again been receiving hockey lessons from Dauntseys Outreach. We entered two teams in the end of term competition. They did us proud and played valiantly as a team. This resulted us winning the tournament, which was a wonderful achievement. The netball team have played a number of matches in the H5 league and have gone from strength to strength as the term has progressed and have won all of their matches. Whenever we play any sport, our children always try their best and we are very proud of all who represent the school.*

*On the musical front, Robins performed their Nativity 'Happy Birthday, Jesus'. They were all great, the singing was superb and those with speaking parts were loud and clear (after lots*

*of practise). My thanks go to all the staff; Mrs Underwood, Mrs Pottinger, Mrs James and Miss Burgess, for their patience and endurance over the last few weeks practising with the children.*

*Other events included the Christmas Lunch, Christingle Service and USSPA Disco, and we have the visit to watch Sleeping Beauty at Salisbury Playhouse to look forward to in January. We hope the children have enjoyed the activities in addition to their class Christmas activities.*

*In addition, I wanted to remind parents of the pre-loved school uniform boxes, which have been placed at the back of St Michael and All Angels church. We encourage parents to use these boxes and take uniform from and replace, if possible, any uniform their child might have grown out of.*

*And finally, the staff and I would like to wish you and your families a happy, restful and peaceful Christmas and see you all again on Monday 6th January.*

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## KEY DATES



*Dates for the Diary:*

- **Friday 20th December - Last day of Term 2**
- **Monday 06th January 2025 - School re-opens to all pupils (Term 3 begins)**
- Wednesday 08th January - Whole school trip to Salisbury Playhouse
- Wednesday 15th January
  - H5 Netball League Matches (**NETBALL CLUB CANCELLED**)
  - Parent IEP meetings taking place
  - **Deadline for Primary School Reception Applications**

- Monday 20th January - USSPA Movie Night
- Wednesday 22nd January - Support Plan Meetings taking place
- Wednesday 29th January
  - School Nursing Team in (Reception Health Checks)
  - Book Look Session: Parents welcome to take a look at their child's work and books
  - Meeting of Full Governing Body
- **NEW: Friday 07th February - Staff Training Day (School Closed to pupils)**
- Tuesday 11th February - Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 12th February
  - H5 League Match (**NETBALL CLUB CANCELLED**)
  - USSPA Disco
- Friday 14th February
  - Celebration Assembly
  - **Last day of Term 3**
  - Dauntsey Dance Show (selected pupils only)
- **Monday 24th February - School re-opens to all pupils (Term 4 begins) *PLEASE NOTE: This is no longer a school closure day***
- Wednesday 26th February - Senco Drop in session
- w/c 10th March - Parents Evenings

## Classroom News

### Anti-Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying week, we learnt about respect and how we can use this when we interact with others. We supported Odd Sock Day to help raise awareness of bullying, to support our understanding of bullying and what we can do to prevent it. The children in KS2 completed an online lesson with Hacker T Dog which was very well received. Lots of activities happened in classes throughout the week to support our understanding of bullying and what we can do to prevent it.








### Well-being Week at Urchfont School

#### 4<sup>th</sup> November – 8<sup>th</sup> November, 24

What a fabulous week in school we had, full of fun activities. All children, of all ages, engaged in a range of well-being activities including:

- creating a class feeling tree
- creating a class worry box
- creating a class positive comments jar
- painting to music
- moving to music
- useful self-regulation strategies e.g. breathing exercises, star jumps, wall push-ups, counting to 10 and giving your body a self-hug
- creating a class glitter jar
- the making of individual 'fab' files
- quiet time and story time
- mindful colouring and doodling








Having learnt a range of regulating strategies during the week and practised them on several occasions, at the end of the week, every child in the school created their own 'toolkit' of strategies that they believe will help them when needed.

These toolkits will be kept in class as a reminder for the children of their own strategies and a copy was sent home, so that parents can engage with their children and work on these at home too.

Two parent information sessions were also held, one on well-being and one on Five to Thrive.





## Christmas Activities

Wow, the school smells amazing with the scent of Christmas baking wafting throughout the hall. Woodpeckers have worked really hard to make stained glass window biscuit decorations to hang on the tree. We decided to make 2 each as we didn't think we could resist eating one before they made it onto the tree!!







Who knew Woodpeckers class were so talented! After many hours, lots of sore fingers and quite a lot of frustration, we have managed to finish our Christmas slippers! I am so proud of all the children and the effort they have put in. Their finished slippers are wonderful and I know you will love them too.

Many thanks to all the parents who donated fabric and craft items to enable us to do this activity.



### [Happy Birthday Jesus!](#)

'Happy Birthday Jesus' is a simple retelling of the Christmas Nativity, written to delight the youngest of children. The children in Robins class beautifully performed this charming early years nativity to the school, parents and grandparents. The narrators spoke clearly and confidently, the stars and angels danced beautifully, the shepherds and wise men presented their gifts with care and the singing was amazing!

The nativity supports children's learning and understanding that we celebrate Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday.

We would like to thank parents for the wonderful costumes they provided.







The whole school came together to make our Christingles ready for our church service at St. Michael and All Angels Church which took place on Thursday at 10.30am. There was lots of collaborative work with the older children helping the younger ones.







## Charging Station

We are very lucky to have a new charging station for our tablets in Urchfont school. This has meant that we are able to keep our tablets neat and tidy and ready to use at any time of the day! All classes have been working hard this term on various computing units to develop our skills.











## Owls Learning Update

### Term 2 Owls

What a busy term Owls have had! Here are just a few of the things we have been up to.

In PSHE, through undertaking different challenges, we have developed our empathy for people, who are living with disabilities.



Building paper bridges, which would support a weight, with our eyes closed was very tricky because we couldn't see what we were doing, it was difficult to imagine what we were creating with our hands and we had to fully rely on our touch.

Making a paper aeroplane, with our dominant hand behind our back, was very tricky because the paper kept on moving and it was difficult to make paper folds with one hand.



### The Aztecs

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we enjoyed sharing our Aztec assembly with all the children in the school, the teachers and parents. We welcomed all adventurers to join us on a wild and wacky historical tour of the world of the Aztecs. We had fun preparing for the assembly and making our headdresses.

#### Did You Know?

The Aztecs' built their city, Tenochtitlan, on the site where they saw an eagle, perched on a cactus, eating a serpent.

They believed the sun died every evening and were terrified that it would not rise again.

They believed that the gods controlled everything from rain, wind and sun to disease, crops and travelling.



It was lovely to see the whole class perform with such confidence.



We thoroughly enjoyed making our Aztec headdresses, which we wore at our sharing assembly.



## Nov 2024 Well-being week



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Two parent information sessions were also held, one on well-being and one on Five to Thrive.



## Forest School Activities

What wonderful weather and fun Woodpeckers have had during their Forest School sessions in Oakfrith Woods this term. The sun was glorious and we were blown away by the colours we found.







SEND News





Following our very successful well-being week in school, we have children using their individual 'toolkit' of strategies to aid emotional regulation. Our ELSA has begun her emotional regulating sessions with those children, who need a little extra guidance. She is running both a KS1 and KS2 session on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. As a staff, we are continuing to implement the Five to Thrive approaches with all children across school.

Many thanks to the parents who attended the two workshops that were open to all parents this term. These were the well-being workshop led by Mrs. Groves and the Five to Thrive workshop led by Mrs. Groves and Mrs. Underwood. Although these workshops were open to every parent in the school, unfortunately neither was well supported. As a school, we are keen to share with parents the teaching approaches and strategies that we implement to help the children to progress academically, emotionally and socially. We are also keen to hear our parents' thoughts and work together as a team. Please do keep your eyes open for the workshops that we put on. They are advertised around the school in windows, on Weduc and sent via individual emails.

Mrs. Groves attended a Mental Health in Schools course during this term and is very pleased to report that the actions that we are taking in school e.g. well-being week, toolkits, fab files and a five to thrive approach to aid and support our children's well-being were considered excellent ideas and strategies.

### **SEND Dates for the diary**

IEP meetings Wednesday 15th January 2025, 3.30pm to 4.45pm. These meetings are for parents of children on the SEND register at School Support Level, to meet with class teachers to discuss their child's progress, review previous targets and set new ones. A time slot will be emailed to parents. Please note that this is a change of date due to the school pantomime trip being on the 8th January.

Support Plan Meetings Wednesday 22nd January, 2024 12pm to 3.15pm. These are for parents of children on the SEND register at SEND Support Plan level. Parents involved in these meetings will have already confirmed their time slot with Mrs. Groves.

## Applying for a School Place (Reception 2025)

### For the attention of all parents

**Will your child be four years  
old before September 2025?**

**You must apply for a primary school place**

.....  
Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or  
complete an application form, available at  
all Wiltshire Council offices.

**The deadline for applications is**

**12 midnight, 15 January 2025**

All forms must be returned to the school admissions  
team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

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Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide  
to finding a primary school place in Wiltshire.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**Wiltshire Council**

## COMMUNITY NEWS



Dauntsey's  
**SWIM SCHOOL**

Open to  
children  
age 4+

Bookings open for  
**Winter Block**  
7 January - 14 February 2025  
*£96 for the block of six lessons*

  
Dauntsey's

**For further information or to book:**  
[c.church@dauntseys.org](mailto:c.church@dauntseys.org)  
[www.dauntseys.org/swimschool](http://www.dauntseys.org/swimschool)