

The Winchcombe School

News Bulletin



Number 4: Autumn Term

www.winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk


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11th December 2020

Issued every 3 weeks (holidays excepted)

- ✚ **Pantomime at the Corn Exchange:** We are so looking forward to a trip out to see "Aladdin" at the Corn Exchange next week! We have the whole auditorium to ourselves for each performance, with plenty of space between each class bubble. We ask those who are meeting their Year 4 children at the Corn Exchange after the Tuesday afternoon performance to wait outside the front entrance where we will bring the classes out one by one and line up. This makes it easier for you to collect your child safely.
- ✚ **Sparkle and Light Dress Down Day:**

We were amazed and humbled at how many food and toiletry items were donated last Friday by our families. On Monday the founder of the Newbury Soup Kitchen came to school to collect the donations and meet some of the children. We hope we will feature in the Newbury Weekly News this week.


- ✚ **FoWS Festive Fun:** Please see the Friends of the Winchcombe School Christmas newsletter (attached) for some Christmas themed activities, which includes a Snowman Christmas Trail and a Teddy & Toy Voucher Prize Draw! Prizes are ready and waiting under the school Christmas Tree for the lucky winners to take home on Friday 18th December. Don't leave it too late to take part!
- ✚ **Foundation Stage 2 Christmas Songs:** We hope parents of Seedlings and Saplings enjoyed watching the video of the Christmas poems and songs as much as we enjoyed performing them! For safeguarding and data protection reasons, please do not share the video with others or on social media.
- ✚ **Foundation Christmas Party:** We are holding our party on the morning of Thursday 17th December. We kindly ask parents for a small donation toward the cost of treats – please give to your class teacher. Children can come to school in party wear on this day.
- ✚ **Card & Presents for Staff:** we are always overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents. Should anyone wish to give their class teachers presents, please could they be in school by Tuesday morning latest, so that they can be suitably 'quarantined' by the last day of term. Thank you.
- ✚ **Christmas Jumper Day:** There have been so many lovely festive jumpers in school today! Once again, we would like to thank all our families for being so generous with their donations. We will let you know soon how much was raised for both Save The Children and the FoWS.
- ✚ **School Christmas Dinner:** This will be on Wednesday 16th December for years R to 6, served in class bubbles. The children will be making Christmas hats to wear. If you have not ordered a dinner, please ensure you send a packed lunch to school with your child.
- ✚ **Last Day of Term:** Please remember that we are finishing at 1.15 pm on Friday 18th December. There is NO Phoenix Club on this afternoon. School re-commences on Tuesday 5th January 2021.
- ✚ **Junior Librarian - Reading for Pleasure:** Thank you to all the children who have started using our online Library Service - I am very pleased to see so many children from all year groups reserving books. Every child from Year 1-6 should have received a copy of our new Reading for Pleasure guide. These recommended books are all available in the school library; there are a variety of books both modern and classic, books that tackle current issues and books that can make you laugh! If you haven't yet reserved a book online, please make time to have a look in the New Year – we have lots of great books both fiction and non-fiction to choose from. Many thanks for your continuing support. Mrs Alston. Click on the Junior Librarian tab on the home page of the school website for more information and to log in.

- ✦ **Staff Leavers:** We are very sorry to see two of our staff leave us at the end of this term. Mrs Stanborough has been at the school for 15 years. Her knowledge, sunny disposition and enthusiasm for improvement will be greatly missed. Mrs Frampton has been with us for 6 years. Her kind and gentle manner with the children will be greatly missed. we wish her well in a new finance role in another school.
- ✦ **Y6 Residential:** At present we are assuming that the trip will still be going ahead. The third installment is due by 8th January. There may be some financial help for those who are struggling financially or whose children are in receipt of free meals, so please contact the school office for more information.
- ✦ **Phoenix Club:** We have now moved into the space previously occupied by Happy Kids, who have moved into their brand-new purpose-built building. We do have some spaces available, so please contact the school office for an application form or find it on the website - [Link to Phoenix Club page](#) .
- ✦ **Illness/Absence:** Please leave a message on the absence line with a reason for absence by 10am latest, for our records, and update us on a daily basis. Should the child or any family member be isolating due to Covid, we politely ask for sight of a test result prior to the child returning.
- ✦ **Car Engines:** In this cold weather, it is tempting to keep your engines idling whilst waiting in your car during drop off and pick up. However, this is detrimental to the health of young children who are regularly exposed to exhaust fumes. It is also illegal and can result in a £20 fine if you refuse to switch your engine off when asked to do so by an authorised person.
- ✦ **Parking:** We understand that parking near to school is always an issue. Shaw Social club has very kindly allowed us to have temporary use of their car park during parent drop off and pick up times. This has been reviewed and will continue for a while into the Spring term. It helps everyone if you could observe an unofficial one-way system, entering Maple Crescent from the Shaw Social Club end, at pick up and drop off times.

Dates for 2020-21	
December	
Monday 14th	Wear Christmas Jumper for recording Christmas Songs: Year 2 Movie & Popcorn Reward Afternoon: Years 2 & 4
Tuesday 15th	Pantomime – Years 2 & 3 - 10 a.m. Year 4 - 1.30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn Reward Afternoon: Years 5 & 6 (wear PJs in)
Wednesday 16th	Pantomime – Years R & 1 - 10 a.m. Christmas Dinner - Years R to 6
Thursday 17th	Pantomime – Years 5 & 6 – 10 a.m. Christmas party: Foundation Stage – morning
Friday 18th	Movie & Popcorn Reward Morning – Years R & 1 Last Day of Autumn Term finish at 1.15 p.m. No after school Phoenix Club
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January 2021 Inclusive	
January	
Tuesday 5th	First Day of Spring Term
Wednesday 13th	First Steel pans
18th – 20th	Year 6 Bikeability course at school– To Be Confirmed
February	
HALF TERM – Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021 inclusive	
Monday 22nd	Y6 to Rhos-Y Gwaliau residential
Saturday 27th	Y6 Return from residential
March	
Wednesday 31st	Last Day of Term, finish at 1.15 pm
EASTER HOLIDAY – Thursday 1st April to Friday 16th April inclusive	

