

January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope this newsletter finds you well! It has been a fantastic few weeks in school, and we want to take a moment to celebrate our wonderful children. They have been working incredibly hard in their learning, showing great enthusiasm and determination every day. Their exemplary behaviour and kindness towards each other make our school a truly special place, and we couldn't be prouder of them!

We also have some exciting news to share! Thanks to the generous support of our PTA and a successful community grant bid, we will soon be furnishing the corridor area outside Year R and Year 1 to enhance learning and wellbeing. This space will be designed to support children's development with engaging and calming elements that will make a real difference to their daily experience at school. We are incredibly grateful for your contributions—every penny goes a long way in making our school environment even better for our children.

A gentle reminder to sign up for our upcoming Parent-Teacher Meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and look at

ways we can continue supporting them together. If you haven't already done so, please book your slot as soon as possible.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Your involvement makes a huge difference, and we appreciate all that you do. If you have any questions or ideas, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

Attendance in Primary School

As a school, we have a legal duty with strict guidance on monitoring and raising attendance. We'd like to take a moment to remind you how important regular attendance is for your child's education. The Department for Education (DfE) states that:

✅ **Good attendance** (above 95%) ensures children make steady progress in their learning. Children below 90% are classed as 'Persistent Absentee'.

✅ **Poor attendance** can lead to gaps in learning, making it harder for children to catch up.

✅ **Punctuality matters** – arriving on time helps children settle into the school day.

We understand that children may be unwell at times, and we appreciate you letting us know when they are unable to attend. However, avoiding unnecessary absences and taking holidays during school breaks helps support your child's success.

Due to the plethora of viruses that have hit our school, we will be sending out our attendance letters a little later this term. If your child is in the 'Persistent Absentee' category, then we would like to work with you to help develop better attendance habits.

If you have any concerns or need support regarding attendance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

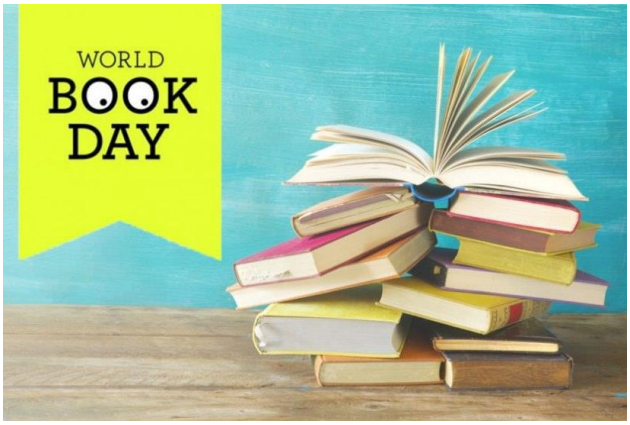
World Book Day

World Book Day is on 6th March and this year we are inviting all children to dress a book character and to bring the book that the character is from with them. We are looking forward to seeing the characters the children choose.

Please do not feel you have to buy an outfit, homemade ones are often the best. If you do need a book outfit we have some spares in school so please see the class teacher.

All children will be given a voucher that can be used for money off a full price book or can exchange for a free world book day book. Please see link below for more details

https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/



School Trip Payments

We would like to remind you that there is still an outstanding balance of **£180** for the upcoming school trip to Manor Farm. To ensure that all arrangements can be finalised (coaches paid and workshops paid), we kindly ask that payment is made as soon as possible. If you have any concerns or need assistance with the payment, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parents evening will be held on the 4th and 5th March and be a chance to discuss progress with your child's teacher. slots can be booked via arbor or please contact the school office if you have any difficulties.

Please be aware when booking via Arbor you have to book for both parents attending and cannot untick one.

A creche will be running for children aged under 11 .

PTA Update

The Festive Season feels like a distant memory, and hard to believe it was only 5 weeks ago. It was a busy time for the PTA and the school with all the fun activities for the children which they absolutely loved.

In January, other than catching our breath, and trying to avoid the collection of illnesses around. We funded the school pantomime, which the children really enjoyed, and also agreed to spend a significant amount of money raised on a new school project, watch this space for more news as that progresses. We also started planning the remaining events for the year.

Whilst it's possible dates may change, we are planning to run the following larger events:

- Easter Egg Hunt - 3rd April
- Summer Fayre - 16th May
- PTA Quiz Night and/or Bingo Night - TBC

In addition we are also planning some more sweet stalls, a summer raffle, and possibly an additional joint event with the Junior School FOBS team.

Last year we held our annual PTA Quiz which was very popular and successful; a fun night had by all. We are planning to run this event again this year, but numerous parents had mentioned the idea of a bingo evening. Therefore we would like to ask you to register your interest (without commitment) for either or both the events. If you could fill in this 2 question google form, https://forms.gle/udcc6KyW6ogh6UnE7 it would be much appreciated as it helps us to select, size or cancel the events subject to interest.

We are only a small PTA this year having shrunk in size from last year, with Parents leaving as their children moved on to the Junior school, and unfortunately no new committee members coming forward. It's sad to see this important committee that delivers such great experiences for the children, as well as vital fundraising for the school starting to struggle to exist.

As a result we are more than ever reliant on our amazing group of volunteers to continue putting on these events, as without you we would either have to cancel or significantly scale back events like the Summer Fayre, or the recently held Christmas Bazaar.

Unfortunately a number of our volunteers left last year, and we have had very small numbers join this year to replace them, reducing from 60 volunteers to only 35 this year.

Thanks to those who have joined our group of volunteers. We had an issue with our previous WhatsApp group and have, as a result, transitioned to a WhatsApp Community based group.

Please click this link to request to join
https://chat.whatsapp.com/D25G0SoD2BLLUTUDK5eHuR[1]

If you have any questions about how you can help, or wish to join the PTA please reach out to us at bwispta@gmail.com. The more members we have the easier it is for everyone and the more likely the PTA is to endure. There is only 4 of us, we are parents, and work full time too, so whilst we aim to respond within a couple of days, please be patient.

Wishing you all the best.

Your PTA Team

Governor Update

A belated welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone following the Christmas break from all school governors. We hope everyone has had a good start to the year and are looking forward to some better spring weather ahead.

The last few weeks at the school has unfortunately seen unusually high levels of sickness with both children and staff. This sickness has resulted in some operational challenges that have had to be overcome and all governors would like to thank Mrs Riches and team for showing flexibility and great team work to ensure school life continued with minimal disruption. Thankfully, sickness levels have now improved and we are pleased to see many more children and staff back in school.

In governance matters, the board has continued its usual business of policy updates, school visits and financial reviews. Some governors have also recently attended the Hampshire Governor Forum where they received a briefing on Hampshire's Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Wellbeing provision. A presentation was also received from Hampshire's Education Finance Services Manger on the latest situation regarding school budget allocations. Both briefings were really well received by governors and will help in providing relevant support on

[1] https://chat.whatsapp.com/D25G0SoD2BLLUTUDK5eHuR

strategic decisions and forward planning. Next week we have our first full governing board meeting of the year and a whole-board training event on Recruitment and Succession Planning.

Best Wishes

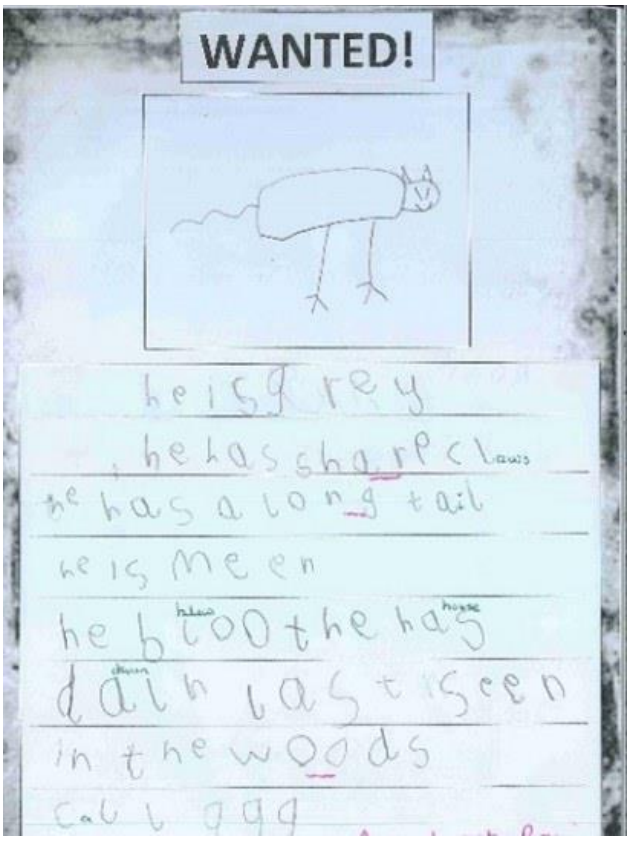
BWIS Governing Body

Year Group Updates

Year R

Year R had a surprise visit from one of the three little pigs! The children were amazed to find the pig in the classroom. Unfortunately, the little pig was very upset after the Wolf blew his house down but thankfully the children agreed to help him out and came up with lots of ideas to help him. They have been busy learning the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', writing posters to warn people about the wolf and writing the wolf letters with lots of good ideas explaining how he could apologise to the pigs.

Now the Gingerbread Man needs the children's help to escape from the fox.





Year 1

In Year 1, we have been thinking about dragons. We discussed what they might look like, where they might live and what they might do. We then used our creativity to write descriptive poems, make a scrunch-print dragon portrait and plan a dragon dance. At the end of our project, we performed our dance for our grown ups! We hope they weren't too scared by the big finale! Thank you to all parents and carers for helping with your child's costume. They looked fabulous and really added to the dragon atmosphere of the dance.

Now, we are learning about Victorian childhood and the differences between the Victorian Era and now. We discovered an old trunk with Victorian artefacts in and discussed what they might have been used for. We will be comparing household items of then to now, learning about children's jobs and schooling and experiencing a day in the life of a Victorian Child at Manor Farm. At the end of our project, will be inviting the grown ups into our Museum to show them everything we have learned.

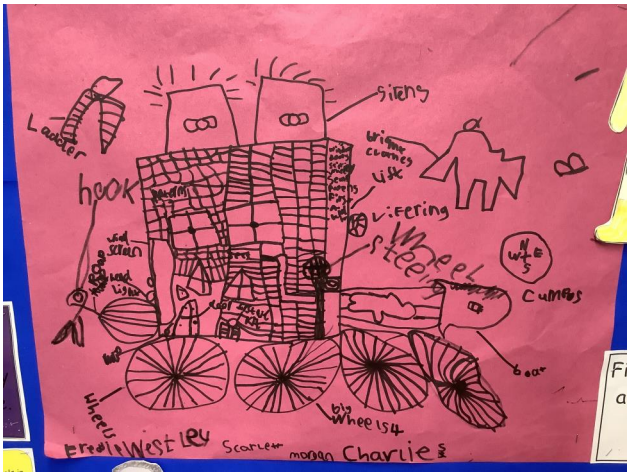


Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy term. They have worked in groups, interdependently to design and make the ultimate rescue vehicle. They have learnt about chassis and axles in order to make a

wheeled vehicle. They have carried out experiments to test materials and types of wheels for different environments including snow. Next week we will be evaluating them. Can they travel down a slope and carry their 'egg' casualty safely? The children are very excited to test their vehicles and proud of their products.







Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 11th February - Year 1 trip to Manor Farm
- Friday 14th February - Last day of half term, school finishes at 3.10pm
- Monday 24th February - INSET DAY - school closed for staff training
- Tuesday 25th February-Term 2B. School reopens to all pupils
- Wednesday 26th February - Year 2 Trip to HMS Victory
- Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th March - Parents Evening
- Thursday 6th March - World Book Day



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