

Wendover CE Junior School

Newsletter: 31.03.2023



*We aim to be the school of choice for our community.
Through living our Christian values, everyone at WCEJS has the opportunity to flourish.
We nurture the curiosity to learn, the courage to lead and the compassion to care.*

Building solid foundations (Mathew 7:24)

Respect

Responsibility

Reflection

Resilience

Collective Worship

Our focus for this week has been about thinking ahead before we act. We thought about how easy it is to upset someone by not choosing our words carefully or by acting before we know what has really happened.

Additionally, we thought about Clever Never Goes. This is an approach to keeping children safe that really encourages them to think about situations and to take positive decisions.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us today for the Easter Service.

Have a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Deep Dive into Writing – Governors Report

On 20th March we had the privilege of visiting Wendover CofE Junior School to learn about and observe a new approach to teaching writing skills. Writing is a complex process that requires the resilience to integrate different skills, including spelling, sentence construction, grammar, punctuation, awareness of audience and handwriting. Many children had fewer opportunities to develop these skills throughout the COVID pandemic and lockdown, and schools across the country are now focusing on closing the gap created.

‘The Write Stuff’ is an approach that helps children develop a complete set of tools that can be applied to their writing in all contexts. It focuses initially on helping children think about the purpose and message of their writing, generating ideas from which their writing can be crafted. Children then learn how to construct text using the rules of language, and finally bring words to life through techniques designed to help children develop their writing voices.

This approach was initially trialled in Year 6 and, following positive feedback from both teaching staff and students, it is being used across all years with the aim of embedding The Write Stuff in all subjects across the curriculum. There have been a number of ‘experience days’, including constructing an Iron Man in the playground, attempting origami and learning about Mount Everest, which give students opportunities to draw ideas from and reflect on in their writing.

Walking around the school, we were able to see how learning is enhanced in a variety of ways, meeting the needs of children with different learning styles. We saw ‘Working Walls’ in each classroom with examples of great writing from different students, each with a comment thanking them for their effort or the value of sharing their work. Writing washing lines hang from each ceiling reminding children of the different components and techniques of writing. The Year 6’s proudly showed us how The Write Stuff helps them to structure their writing by using the different learning zones, planning on one page and creating a beautifully finished piece on another. In all classes we heard the buzz of students ‘Chotting’ (chatting and jotting) and ‘Kind Calling Out’, in order to generate ideas together with a focus on collaborative learning, and teachers helping their class to consider different viewpoints or adverbs to enrich their writing.

We were struck by the energy visible in each classroom and this was echoed by the enthusiasm we heard from students for a new way of learning to write. Children commented that The Write Stuff is *‘easier, as we get to think about more ideas for our work’*, *‘we get more support and get to plan it together’*, and *‘it’s much more fun’*. This active participation has been reflected in the progress teaching staff have observed since September and suggests a great foundation on which to build. There are hopes to share more about The Write Stuff with parents and carers through children talking about their experiences in class assemblies, sharing examples of their work and school giving more information about how this approach is supporting learning across the school.

Thanks go to Mr Kynaston for arranging our visit, Mrs Khan for her leadership in this new initiative, and most importantly to the students and teaching staff for sharing their experiences and work with us.

Hannah Hook, Priya Govekar and Helen Anderson
Governors

This week's Highlights

Year 3 Children have enjoyed writing their version of the Story 'The Incredible Book Eating Boy'
Children have enjoyed having the book fair in school this week
Children have been excited to share their work with parents this week at Parents' Evenings

Year 4 have enjoyed the culmination of the Anglo Saxon and Vikings topics; learning about the Bayeux tapestry, the Battle of Hastings and the end of both civilisations in Britain after 1066.

Year 5 learnt what the word 'Malfeasance' meant this week in English, read this amazing poem and also discussed that we should not judge people by their appearance.

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the thought-provoking workshops provided by 'God and Big Bang Project'.

House point totals: **Red 910** / **Green 870** / **Blue 1110** / **Purple 600**

School Uniform

Easter may be the time when new school uniform is purchased. Children will be allowed to return in summer uniform if they wish. Please make sure that all uniform adheres to the school policy and that it is named. In particular, please make sure that children are not wearing boots or trainers to school. We understand that school shoes are becoming more like trainers. However, canvas / mesh running shoes are very clearly not school shoes – even if they are all black. Please email the school office if there is any reason why children need to wear anything other than school shoes.



Road Safety

Despite numerous appeals to parents, there are still too many parents choosing to drive onto campus and park irresponsibly.

Below is a picture that was sent to us this week by a Motts coach driver dropping children off to school. As you can see the car is parked on a double yellow and in a hatched area. Just out of shot on the other side of the coach is another car parked on a double yellow. The coach could not manoeuvre around these cars and therefore was stuck on campus until the owners returned.



Hot Meals

All lunchtime bookings for a hot meals must be booked (via ParentPay) in advance. If your child is entitled to universal free school meals or pupil premium meals the bookings still need to be made by a parent in advance. We have many children with food allergies, religious observations and general likes or dislikes and parents/carers are responsible for making the food choices for their child.

Our catering company only cook the number of meals booked on our system to try to minimise food waste. We are getting an increasing amount of parents not booking or providing a packed lunch for their child. Whilst we will of course never let a child go without food they often become upset and distressed if they do not have a packed lunch or meal booked.

Please note that meals for next term need to be booked on ParentPay by Thursday 13th April.

Young Carers

Our Young Carers had lots of fun making Easter cards this week!



'Have a go brass sessions'

This Wednesday, our brilliant peripatetic brass instruments teacher, Steve Kitchen, gave up some of this time to give students of WJCES a chance to 'have a go' at the trumpet.

We had around 40 children sign up to participate, and they gave it their all - learning how to hold a trumpet, how to create a 'buzz' with their lips and then produce a super sound from the instrument itself. It was such fun!

Steve Kitchen offers lessons in the full range of brass instruments - and has spaces available on a Wednesday afternoon.

We would be delighted if some of the pupils who 'had a go' decide to try something new in the summer term and start brass lessons at school. Parents can book sessions direction with Mr Kitchen via this email: rjkitchen@sky.com



Book Fair



Together we have raised...**£1098.02**...
for our school to spend on **FREE BOOKS**



WJS Easter Bake Sale

Thank you to all our parents, carers and children for your efforts in baking for our Easter Bake Sale.

Thank you to everyone who braved the elements and came and supported us by buying a cake (or two).

Winners for the best Easter-themed bakes were:

Yehor

Charlie

Penny

Adele and Nicole

The bake sale and preloved uniform sale raised an amazing £576.87 for the school!

Wendover Church of England Junior School PTA's

EASTER BAKE SALE

MONDAY 27TH MARCH
3:30-4PM

FUN PRIZE FOR THE BEST EASTER BAKE IN EACH YEAR GROUP



Have fun creating amazing Easter themed bakes (NO nuts please)! Please bring in your baked goods to reception Monday morning, labelled with your name and class.

All bakes will be displayed for sale under the Gazebo after school, so please remember to bring CASH and card with you!

ALSO AVAILABLE SECOND HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM STALL

Dates for the Diary

Year 3 Swimming Lessons: Every Friday (Friday 17th March – Friday 26th May)

End of Term: Friday 31st March – school closes at 13:15

School re-opens: Monday 17th April

4S Class Assembly: Thursday 20th April @ 9am

Y5 Greek theatre workshop: Monday 24th April

Early May Bank holiday: Monday 1st May (school closed)

Bank holiday - King's coronation: Monday 8th May (school closed)

2023 PTA events

Strawberry Fayre: Thursday 29th June

Y6 Leavers Garden Party: Friday 21st July

Premier Education Wraparound & Holiday Club

Premier Education are providing before and after school care every day the school is open and also offer multi-activity camps during the school holidays. Our aim is to deliver a top quality, Ofsted registered provision, with a range of stimulating activities in a safe, secure and fun environment, providing an outstanding service for busy parents.

Our staff will adapt each day based on particular children's needs or the weather, but timings and structure of the days will be consistent. Activities will be designed to fit in with the schools termly theme and include arts & crafts, baking, sports, Lego, games, quiet reading and general free play.

Our sessions run at the Wendover Youth Centre Monday to Friday for the breakfast and after school club. For the Breakfast club, children are dropped off at the Youth Centre from 7:50am, and will be taken to the school at 8:45am. Children attending the After school course will be collected from the school playground (meeting at the adventure playground) and escorted after registration over to the youth centre.

Prices:

Breakfast club, 7.50am – 8.50am - £5.25 a session

Afterschool club, 3.30pm – 6pm - £12.00 a session

Chilterns.office@premier-education.com

01296 620097

Booking:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/17247/?location=wendover>

Booking for Gymnastics and Dodgeball:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/12019/?location=wendover>

Family Support

Our Time

The charity supports children of parents with mental health difficulties, see further information [HERE](#)

Support for Families and Staff

The [Support and Resources for Schools and Families in Buckinghamshire](#) document has been updated with further contacts and links for finance and budgeting, health and wellbeing, food and cooking advice. Please share with staff, families, colleagues, friends and let us know of anything we have missed.