



Great Wishford Primary School News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Great Wishford School newsletter.

Book Day brought lots of fun this week. Thank you so much for supporting your children to dress as characters from their class author's books. Activities ranged from fantasy story writing to illustrating in the style of the author each class was learning about. There will be lots of photos on our website from next week, and a few for a sneaky peek in the following pages.

We are looking forward to celebrating Science Week on Thursday next week. Any last minute donations of cardboard, sticking materials (masking tape is in demand if anyone has any of this spare) and fixing materials will still be very gratefully received.

Please remember, next Friday brings with it Red Nose Day. Although not one of our chosen school charities, we have decided to celebrate this charity and dress up in our PJs for the day. Mrs Gadbury has set up a Just Giving page and has emailed out the link so donations to the charity can be made if you would like to.

Warm regards,
Miss Cleaver

Upcoming Events and Dates for your Diary

- 14th March– Science Week competition
- 15th March — Red Nose Day (PJ Day)
- 18th / 19th March– Year 6 SATs parents meetings
- 22nd March– Interim Reports home
- 25th March– Coffee and chat 9:10am
- 26th March– KS1 Longleat curriculum trip
- 28th March—Easter Service 1.30pm
- 28th March– Extreme Reading Winner announced
- 28th March– End of term 4
- 29th March– BANK HOLIDAY
- 15th April– Start of Term 5

Office Hours

Please be aware that the School Office is staffed between 9:00am and 2:00pm. Please leave answer phone messages or email admin@greatwishford.wilts.sch.uk for any queries and we will get back to you at our earliest opportunity. Thank you.

Important attendance information

Please help us to maintain a high level of attendance in our school by being aware of the above advice. Please do ask us for guidance if you are unsure whether to bring your child to school.

We will continue to send out our reminders to parents for children who's attendance has fallen below 96% and organise School Attendance Meetings to support families whose children's attendance has fallen further. We understand that some absence may be due to illness but we will always send you notice of where your child's attendance is.

Great Wishford Attendance Information

100%– 97% *(school will monitor attendance)*

96.9%– 96% *(school will write to parents and offer a meeting to support attendance)*

95.9% and below *(school will be in touch with parents to set up an attendance meeting)*

A Helpful Reminder- School Registration Times:

School gates and classroom doors open from 8.30am

If your child walks to school by themselves or you are dropping them off, please ensure they are arriving no earlier than 8.30am. Children are not supervised before this time.

Registration opens at 8:40am

Registration closes at 8:50am

From 8:50am children are marked late and this will affect % attendance mark.

School gate closes at 8:50am

The green exit button can be used to open this gate if you are still onsite and leaving via the main gates. Please check that this gate locks as you leave by pulling it shut to keep the children safe onsite.

From 8:50am, late arrivals will need to be registered via the school office.

SEND News:

Did you know?

More than 1 in 100 people are on the autistic spectrum and there are now around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK.

Book Day 2024

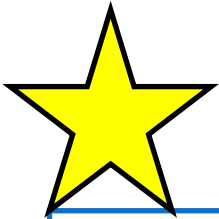


Class information on our school webpages

Remember to visit your child's class page on our school website, found under our curriculum tab, to find out about learning information and what the children have been up to recently in their class.

On this page you will also find details of homework for you and your child to work through together.

Please chat to your child's teacher at drop off or pick up if you require any further information about class activities and expectations.



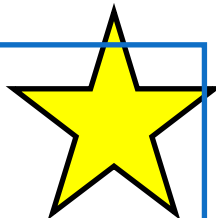
Value Champions

Squirrel Class: Lauren and Daisy
Hedgehog Class: Harry and Charlie
Fox Class: Jack and River



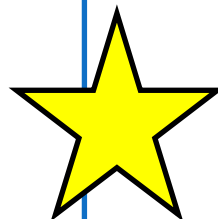
Maths Star and English Star

Maths—Rhys and Imogen
English—Charlie and Oliver



Star of the Week

Squirrel Class: Aria and Isabelle
Hedgehog Class: Chloe and Zach
Fox Class: Millie and Siena



How to keep our children safe online:

Lots of our pupils are letting us know through general conversation, that they are accessing lots of content online- usually as clips, games or cartoons.

The following Online Safety advice is really helpful with great advice from National Online Safety. Please do take a moment to read it.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about — SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could aim an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as these images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 10 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterVital.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Science Week

Science Week runs from 8th—17th March. We will be celebrating with a Science competition that will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 14th March.

8-17 March
**British
Science
Week
2024**

Year R and KS1 will be investigating how quickly they can melt an ice cube, KS2 will be inventing a way to measure time.

Please could you start to collect together cardboard and 'junk modelling' equipment (Sticky tape would also be very helpful) that our KS2 children can create time measuring machines from? Perhaps even begin to think of ideas with your children ready for the day.



Our School Value this term

In our Collective Worship time this term, we are exploring our value of Service. This week the children have been thinking about Service with no strings attached.

Jesus was called the 'servant king'; his mission was to serve God and to serve all those he met, through his teaching, his example and the way he led his life.

Talk to your children about:

Who are the unsung heroes who serve us?

- ◆ At school
- ◆ At home
- ◆ In your clubs



How do you serve others?



Reading fun!

'Great Wishford Extreme Reading'.

Try and find the most unusual place for you and your child to read. Take a photo of you sharing reading and enjoying your book together and send to admin@greatwishford.wilts.sch.uk.

A winning family will be chosen each term.

There are some fabulous ones on our display. It is going to be hard to pick a winner— Good Luck!



From Jonathan

Casting our nets

***'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing.
Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.'***

Luke 5

Dear Friends,

I hope all is well. The term is progressing well and yet there is so much to do before the Easter holiday and we thank our brilliant staff for all they are doing in each and every lesson.

In our *Open the Book* session this week we explored Luke's story of Jesus meeting the exhausted and unsuccessful fishermen at the Lake of Galilee and graciously gifting them a miraculous catch of fish. This set me thinking.

First, the fishermen, led by Simon Peter, had worked so hard throughout the night (the best time to catch fish), using all their skills and experience and yet had caught absolutely nothing! There are times when we work very hard ~ in lessons or at work ~ but seem to get nowhere. This is a challenge – *'how can I change this situation; what do I do now?'* Do we just give up?

Second, Simon was very experienced and probably thought he knew when he was beaten. Yet, Jesus asks Simon Peter to go further out into the deeper water and to cast his nets again ~ more hard work. The fisherman now had a dilemma. Does he follow Jesus' advice, Jesus the man he admired, or use his own judgement and explain respectfully that there are no fish to be caught. Simon Peter, like us at times, is thinking in the shallows of his experience, exhausted by his work. Jesus, however, is operating in the depth of His love and power offering a fresh start.

Finally, Simon Peter agrees, finds new energy, and rows his boat out to the deeper part of the lake. The nets were cast and a huge number of fish were caught. Simon Peter was astonished: the overflowing net making a deep impression on him ~ which is hardly surprising.

Luke's point is clear: where do we put our faith? In our own, very human, experience; into influencers shouting from the other side or from advertisers and media powers? When Jesus does something, He doesn't do it half-way. All expectations are exceeded. The nets started to break and the boats almost sank under the load. Peter's act of faith was richly rewarded. Peter who had doubted himself ~ how human ~ now receives from Jesus more than just a whole lot of fish ~ Simon Peter's heart was filled with the greatness of Jesus and a keen knowledge of himself. Simon Peter was a changed man. This is our challenge everyday ~ in every lesson. Do we listen to our own senses or to those around us or do we trust in something else, something that will lift us and guide us into something deeper and loving. Jesus Christ.

An ancient prayer ...

*Steer the ship of my life, good Lord,
to your quiet harbour,
where I can be safe from the storms of daily life.
Show me the course I should take.
Renew me in Your power,
so that I can always see the right direction in which I should go.
And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course,
even when the sea is rough and the waves are high,
knowing that through enduring hardship and danger,
in your name, we shall find comfort and peace.
Amen.*

Blessings,

Jonathan

Rector, Wylye and Till Valley.