

— Autumn 1 2024 —

Newsletter

*A newsletter contributed to by the staff and children of
Witchampton and Pamphill First Schools*



Pumpkins at Pamphill

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

Personal Development
School Improvement Plan
Pupil Voice
Phonics & Kinetic Letters
Work from children
Collective Worship

Message from Mrs Staddon

Dear Families,

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome I've received from you and your children over the past few weeks. It's been a pleasure getting to know you and your families.

This is the first of our joint half-termly newsletters, which will be sent via Parent Mail. If you encounter any issues setting up Parent Mail, please don't hesitate to contact the school office for assistance.

Highlights of the Term

There have been so many wonderful moments this term, it's hard to know where to begin.

- **New Arrivals:** A big welcome to our new children who have recently joined us. They've been seamlessly integrated into our school community thanks to the support of their buddies and classmates.
- **Learning and Growth:** It's been heartwarming to witness our children's progress in learning their sounds, interacting with others, and engaging in play. To date, I have been lucky enough to have had a dental check, an injection and some coffee and cake during these sessions!



- **Social and Emotional Development:** At the beginning of the term, we had a focus on promoting positive interactions. We modeled appropriate greetings, such as handshakes, for our children. Many of our children have embraced this practice and greet others enthusiastically each day. We're also encouraging children who may not be as comfortable with greetings.
- We believe that fostering positive interactions with adults before class starts helps children feel safe, valued, and prepared to learn. In the next half-term, we'll encourage children to greet adults around the school and when dropping off their registers. We'll explicitly model appropriate greetings like 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon' and emphasise the importance of saying 'Thank you' and 'You're welcome.'

'We believe that fostering positive interactions with adults helps children feel safe, valued, and prepared to learn.'

These interactions provide invaluable opportunities for language development and boost children's confidence. We know that this is an ever-increasing need for children and we will be introducing the Hamish and Milo programme after half term for some children. This is, in essence a 10-week support programme for different social-emotional areas. More information to follow then, when training has been completed.

Upcoming Initiatives

- **Lunchtime Routines:** After half-term, we'll be revisiting lunchtime routines to create a calmer atmosphere.
- **Foundation Sports:** Our Foundation Sports staff will be joining us at lunchtimes to offer sports opportunities for all children at Pamphill.
- Mrs. Murray's piano playing has been a highlight at Witchampton, watch this space. More to follow.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Sharon Staddon



Personal Development

By Mrs Staddon

We've been working collaboratively across the Trust to develop a Personal Development Charter, which was launched in our schools last September. This charter outlines the valuable experiences and opportunities we want our children to have during their time with us. As a staff team, we've reviewed this charter in light of our own practices and begun mapping out how our enrichment activities align with it. We're also identifying areas where we can enhance our offerings. Our goal is to create a Pupil Passport for each child, which will be stamped as they progress through the charter. We believe this will empower children to take ownership of their development and foster pride in their achievements, which often go beyond academics. These passports will be ready for next year, but your children will continue to benefit from the experiences outlined in the charter.

We're incredibly grateful to our Parent Association for their invaluable support in making many of these initiatives possible. As part of our efforts, we're introducing a half-termly Headteacher Crown award to recognise exceptional achievements. If your child is selected for this award, you'll be notified in advance so you can celebrate together. If you're unable to attend, we'll do our best to send you a video.

We'll provide more updates on our progress in future newsletters.



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STUDENT CHARTER

OUR 5Cs



Initio Learning Trust is committed to ensuring that all students access and undertake meaningful and life enhancing curricular and extracurricular activities. The '5Cs model' is designed to enable *all* students to flourish within their personal development and is underpinned by the values of *collaboration, ambition and respect*.

1 CURRICULUM

Rich experiences within the school curriculum, subjects and school day.



2 COMMUNITY

Active participation within the school and local community, also nationally and internationally.



3 CULTURE

Participation in activities and events that promote character, skills and celebrate diversity and inclusion.



4 COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Developing resilience and championing British values.



5 CAREERS AND FUTURES

Participate in ambitious and diverse careers, education and training.



School Improvement Plan 2024-5

Mrs Staddon

Each school has a school improvement plan, usually for the year, which helps to drive improvement and is a focus for our training and use of resources. We have three overall areas that we are working on:

- Communication
- Curriculum
- Collaboration

Within these general areas we have broken down our key areas to focus on term by term.

Currently, our key focus areas are:

- Systems and procedures
- Behaviour
- Quality first teaching

Our INSET day on 4th November reflects these. Following this INSET we will have a plan for improvements which we will share with you.

We have been working across the schools in the Trust with Bob from the Science Enthuse Project and this is upskilling staff on working scientifically with children. This is an ongoing project which continues after half term.

After half term we will be having some Walk Thru training to improve and hone our teaching skills. This too, has been ongoing and will continue. There is always room for improvement!



Our school community will have a clear understanding of the key learning with high expectations for all.



Pupil Voice WFS

By Miss Murphy

Our new pupil voice leaders have been elected through class voting! They are very excited to get involved in making positive changes to school life!



Our new school council team for the Autumn term: Ollie, Austin, Hattie, Edward, Paris, Leila, Heidi and Lyla. Our school council ambassador for the year is Iola.

Our new worship team for the Autumn term: Rose, Ralphie, Olivia and Wilbur.

Our worship team ambassador for the year is Joseph.



Our new Eco team for the Autumn term: Bea, Olive, Rosie and Isabel. Our Eco team ambassador for the year is Lyla.

Phonics and Kinetic Letters

By Mrs Legge, Mrs Jenkinson and Mrs Lloyd

Kinetic Letters:

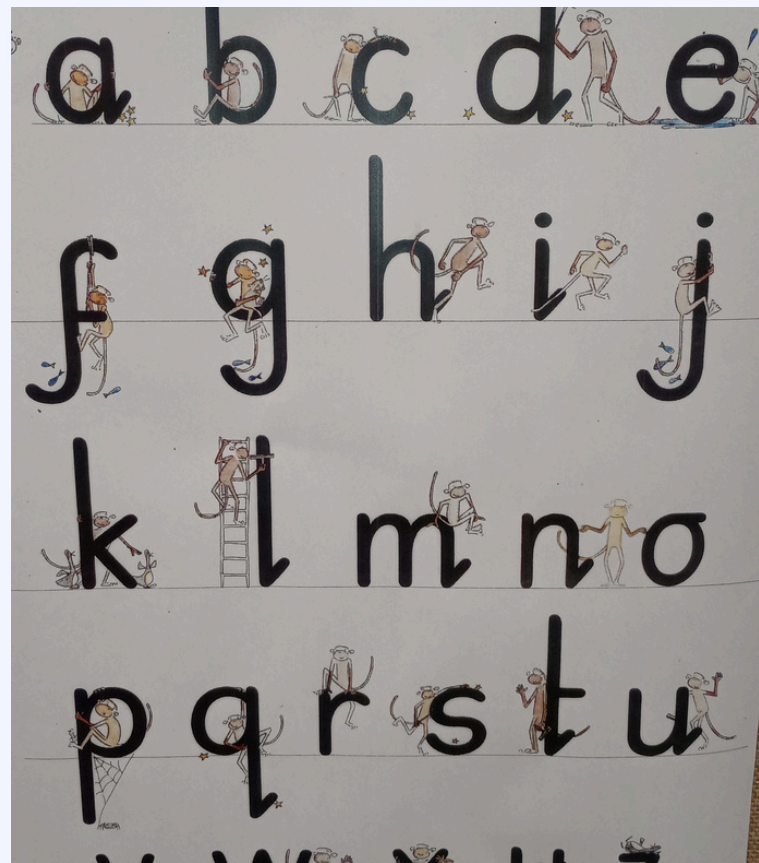
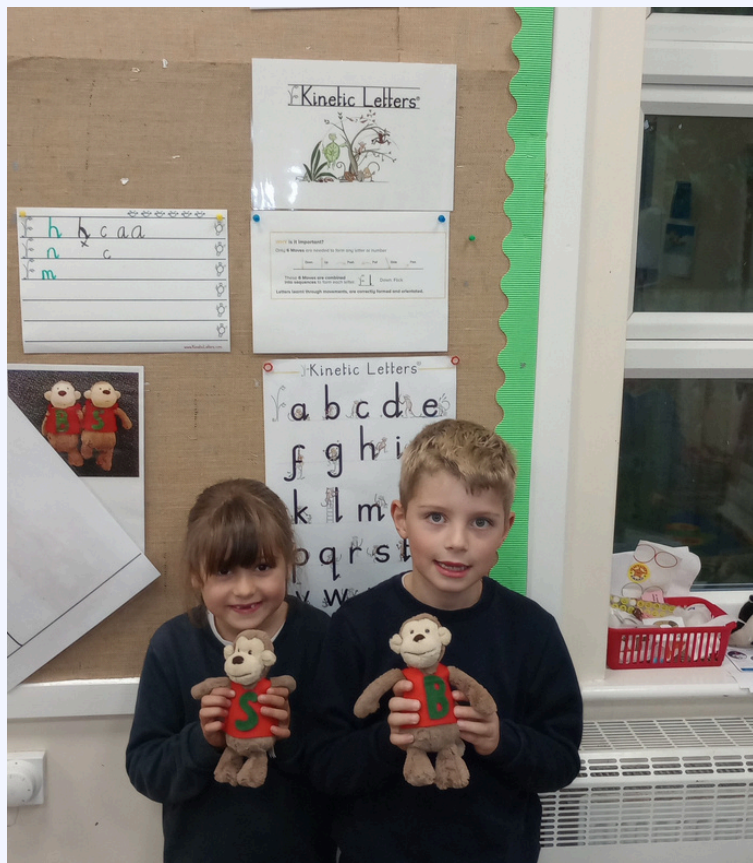
Following on from our training session to develop and improve handwriting, we have introduced a daily session of Kinetic Letters.

The children have enjoyed getting to know the handwriting monkeys 'Bounce and Skip' who help them know where to start forming their letters.

We have all been learning the 'three friends grip' song; this helps the children hold their pencil correctly- an important life long skill! Please pop in if you would like a copy of the music to practise at home!

Phonics:

Our fast paced scheme: Unlocking Letters and Sounds has given the children an introduction to the phonemes (sounds) they need to form the basis of their reading and writing. Next half of term we will be using our knowledge to begin to write simple words and captions. You will find all the phonemes in your child's reading record.



Pen Licenses...



and some very proud children.

Planet Wimborne Poetry Competition

Winner - Heidi Y4 from Witchampton

River water dashes like lightning.

Icy, cold, frozen water in the winter.

Vast varying flows of water.

Everybody paddling in the water having fun.

Ripping up vallisneria with the current.

Swirling, silver ripples splashing the bank.

Twisting, turning bends.

Otters, ducks, swans and fish calmly swimming.

Under the water little fish darting quickly.

Rain water makes the river rise.



Collective worship

Mrs Dimmick

This half term in Collective Worship we have been focusing on the value of 'Thankfulness'. We have shared stories from the Bible, including 'The 10 Lepers' and reflected upon noticing things to be thankful for in everyday life. We have explored how it feels when someone says 'Thank you'.

We also welcomed Open the Book for collective worship, at church for Witchampton and at school for Pamphill sharing Bible stories including 'The Precious Pearl' and the calling of Jesus' disciples. The children enjoyed watching these stories come to life and reflected thoughtfully on the meanings.



This week the children have participated in a thankfulness afternoon, working in mixed class groups to participate in activities such as creating a gratitude jar for each classroom and doing a 'thankful scavenger hunt' outside. Going forward, the children will use the gratitude jars in class for reflection times.

It was great to see so many families join us for our Harvest services, the children enjoyed sharing their harvest reflections and songs with you. Thank you so much for your donations to Wimborne Food Bank, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Please find attached a 'Thankfulness' activity sheet that we invite you to share at home if you would like to during half term.

TALK TOGETHER about Thankfulness

'Count your blessings' is an old saying, but it reminds us to be **thankful** and not take things for granted.

As a family you may like to talk about

- Remembering to let other people know when you are **thankful**
- Not taking things for granted
- Practical ways of showing gratitude
- How it feels when someone **thanks** you!

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.

Have you used one to say **thank** you?"
Anon



READ TOGETHER... The Man Who Came Back

Jesus was travelling along the dusty roads towards Jerusalem. At each village he was welcomed by people, happy to see him and listen to his teaching. But today, as he entered the village he saw in the distance a small group standing apart from the crowd. They were calling out, "Jesus, Master, help us, please make us well." These poor people had a disease called leprosy. They were terribly ill and no-one in the village wanted to go near them.

But Jesus didn't ignore them. He stood among them and prayed for them. As each of them went on his way they began to notice that their whole bodies were healing up. They were so excited that they immediately rushed off to share their good news. Well, nine of them did. The tenth turned and fell on his knees in front of Jesus and **thanked** him for what he had done.

"I healed ten people with leprosy today", said Jesus to the man. "Where are the others?". But then he smiled "Well at least you came back to say **thank** you!".

Bible story based on Luke 17:11-19



QUIZ

Jumbled Words

Unjumble the words (that are known as anagrams), to discover words from the story.

- r sleep _____
- per day _____
- net _____
- sly rope _____
- heed al _____
- had kent _____
- sue js _____



FASCINATING FACTS

Have you ever thought about how many people we have to **thank** for some of the everyday things that we take for granted? For example the milk we drink.

Thank you Mum & Dad for buying the milk ,

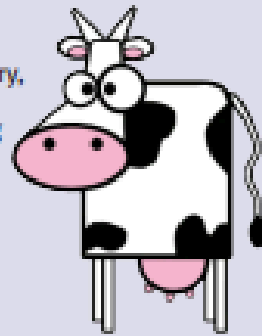
Thank you supermarket workers for stacking the shelves and operating the cash tills,

Thank you lorry driver for bringing cartons of milk to the supermarket,

Thank you workers in the packaging factory,

Thank you milk tanker driver for collecting the milk from the farms and bringing it to the factory,

Thank you farmers for milking the cows.



★ HALL OF FAME

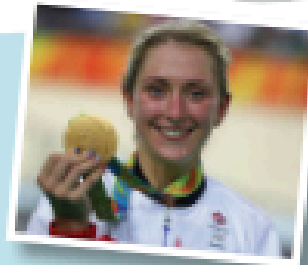
Laura Trott Track Cyclist

At the age of just 20 Laura won two gold medals in Track Cycling at the London 2012 Olympics. Then four years later in Rio, she won another two, making her the first British woman in any sport to win four Olympic gold medals.

It wasn't easy – as a child she suffered from asthma but enjoyed and competed in trampolining until she had to give up due to breathing problems. Then as a young teenager she took up cycling and at 17 won a junior title racing in the British championships.

Her inspiration to train and succeed as a cyclist came from a meeting with Sir Bradley Wiggins for which she will always be **thankful**. She chatted to him and wore his gold medal for a few moments. It felt amazing!

After her success in the Rio 2016 Olympics, Laura talked about her training programme – it is not just her hard work that brings success. She really is **thankful** for the whole team - managers, coaches, doctors, mechanics, therapists and so many more people - who encourage, motivate and support her.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Thank you chain

Think about how an everyday item reaches you: Where does it come from? Who was involved in making it? Who should you **thank**?

Make a **thank**you chain and bring it to school to hang in the Challenge Gallery.



FAMILY FOCUS

Time to say "Thank you"

Draw a clock face for your family to fill in together.

Choose one day and ask every one to think, as the hours tick by, about one thing in each hour that they would like to say **thank** you for.

Draw a picture of what you are **thankful** for in each segment.

