Autumn 2 2024

Newsletter

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



Witchampton

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

School Improvement Plan
Behaviour focus
Pupil Voice
Subject Focus: Maths and Science
Work from children
Collective Worship

Message from Mrs Staddon

Dear Families,
I hope our second newsletter finds you well. This is a wondrous time of year I think, but particularly so in schools. I enjoy listening to the children singing their Christmas songs and engaging in all the festive activities. It is a very, very busy time at home and at school but one that the children generally enjoy.

It is, however, worth remembering that Christmas can be a tricky time for many and some children find the lack of structure leading up to this quite challenging. These children have managed incredibly well thanks to the close working partnerships with families and staff knowledge and understanding to minimise difficulties, ensuring as much engagement as possible. We also know that as parents, you will ultimately experience the 'release' at home that comes from the increased effort of managing at this time in school. As always, if we can help in any way, please do let us know.

Message from Mrs Staddon

In the midst of all the typical business of this time of year, it is also a time for reflection. I like to use the end of terms to reflect on the term, celebrate what we have achieved, and plan more detailed actions for the coming terms. These are often evolving in school life as different priorities arise but no more so than this year, while I learn more about the schools' needs.
We have shared these with you in the recent meeting and in the follow-up letters, but these are summarised here.

We have been developing and enhancing our **teaching and learning** practices

- Teaching and Learning Walk-thrus (I know; it grates everytime I write it)
- Relational Practice
- Social and Emotional Support - Hamish and Milo
- My time Young Carers
- Children's Charter
- Lunchtimes -clarity over systems Subject Leadership

We have continued to develop and nurture our **children's growth**

- Introduction of Crown Awards for children
- Wimborne Schools' Council
- Positive Noticing Day
- Musical Nurture
- Behavior Expectations

We have focussed on **empowering our staff**

- New Staffing appointments: Becky Knott and Simone Cohen
- CPD for Staff Sarah Cottinham on coaching and learning models.
- Collaboration with Other Schools through Peer Reviews and Walk Thru training
- Professional Challenges through Performance Management, Drop ins and coaching

We have looked at ways of **staying informed** and connected

- Advance Notice of Calendar Dates
- Arbor System
- LSC formation and dates

Message from Mrs Staddon

- Raising our profile with increased Media coverage These are a couple of the more recent publications, in case you missed them.

Nativity season begins across Dorset
https://www.dorsetview.co.uk/bedtime-stories-for-pamphill-first-school-pupils//PamphillWitchampton

A reminder to follow this Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/PamphillWitchamptonFirstSchools

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to the children's experiences this term. From Christingles and Nativities to Reindeer visits, Bedtime stories and Pantomimes, these are moments they'll cherish.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for welcoming me into the school community and take this opportunity to wish you all a fun, festive period with your family and friends and a very healthy, happy new year.



Year 4 Play Leaders trained by Katrina Cole our School Games Organiser



Pamphill School Librarians. We have elected librarians to help promote a love of reading across the school. Look out for lots of exciting library news in the new year.

We believe this will empower children to take ownership of their development and foster pride in their achievements, which often go beyond academics.

Science this Autumn Term

By Mrs Greaves
Science Lead

6 Scientific Enquiries



This autumn term we are thrilled to share the wonderful learning that took place across both schools this term! In Reception, our little explorers have been engaging with the topic of 'Understanding the World', diving into the seasons and closely examining our bird feeders.



In Key Stage 1 autumn 1, children conducted fun scientific enquiries to explore their five senses, using exciting scientific language! In autumn 2 our topic was 'Sensational Seasons'. we observed evergreen and deciduous trees, tracked wildlife and at Witchampton we went on a winter welly walk to Abbey House. We even had the chance to hold some toads!



Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 students delved into the world of sound and light, discussing concepts such as darkness, shadows, and the properties of materials—translucent, transparent, and opaque.





Additionally, over the last two years we have been part of the Enthuse Project. This is a programme ran by STEM Learning. It has provided valuable professional development for our teachers and enriching opportunities for our children.









Maths Update

By Mrs Green
Maths Lead



'Go slow to go fast' and 'pace not race' are two phrases used in the world of Maths to show the importance of breaking the learning down into manageable chunks for learning and this is what we endeavour to do at Pamphill and Witchampton. In the Autumn term, we ensure the children work deeply within the place value of numbers and become 'masters' of numbers (within their Year group's curriculum). This allows them to build firm foundations and develop a depth of understanding which helps them feel confident to then apply into other concepts and areas such as problem solving.



We follow the 5 Big Ideas in Teaching for Mastery from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. This term the focus has been on Mathematical Thinking which is central to how pupils learn mathematics and includes looking for patterns and relationships, making connections, conjecturing, reasoning, and generalising. Pupils should actively engage in mathematical thinking in all lessons, discussing and communicating their ideas using precise mathematical language. We encourage Maths Talk from early number work and ensure all children feel valued and happy to take risks with their learning!



In Early Years, the children are able to enjoy mathematical tasks across the provision and also have specifically taught Maths inputs from the teacher using Mastering Number resources.



In Years 1-4, the children have been developing their journalling skills - using manipulatives (hands on resources to help them count and problem solve such as Dienes in the photo) and different representations (ways to show their thinking or workings out) as part of the exploration in Maths.

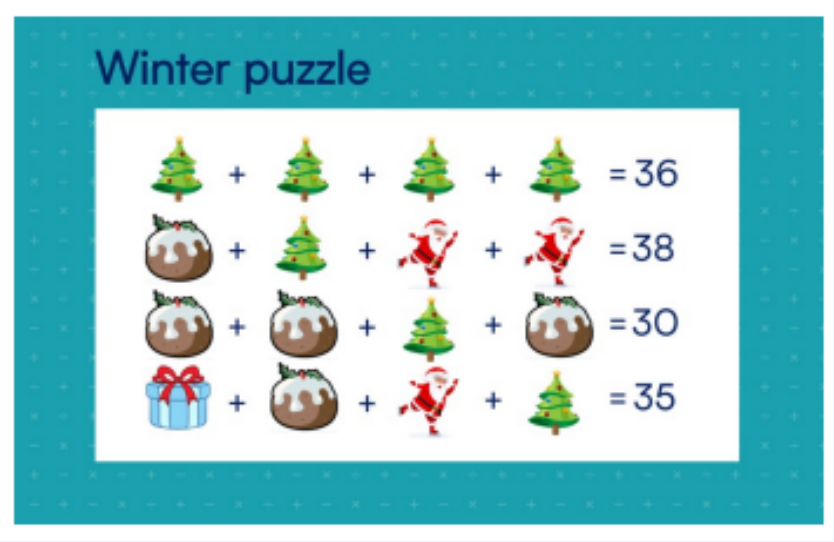
Christmas Maths

By Mrs Green
Maths Lead

How to help your child:

- Be positive about Maths!
- Ask your child what they found easy in Maths today? Or challenging?
- Play board games such as Snakes and Ladders or Monopoly Junior
- Weighing when baking and using language to compare (more than, less than, heavier than...)
- Talking about time as part of your daily routine (age appropriately)
- Encourage learning times tables facts for years 2, 3 and 4

What does each picture represent? How do you know?



On Monday Foxes at Pamphill enjoyed a snow themed day with lots of fun activities, including snowmen maths, how to build a snowman writing and decorating snowmen cookies.







NCETM
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS



Playtimes



'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.



- Lunchtime Routines: We have revisited 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 magic will continue to take effect in the Spring and Summer Terms, as we have planned more intervention and nurture work through music.

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 6th January reflects these.

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 in the new year.

We will continue 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.

ENTHUSE PARTNERSHIP

STEM LEARNING



Witchampton Eco Club

Mrs Lloyd



We are delighted to announce that our Eco Club has welcomed a fantastic new team this year, led by the brilliant Lyla! Everyone's enthusiasm has been infectious, and we've had some great brainstorming sessions to come up with ideas for making our school more eco-friendly.
One of our exciting plans is to implement a new Eco Box in the playground, packed with resources for all our budding eco-warriors. In the box, there will be different activities, we'll have bird identification guides to help us get to know our feathered friends better, along with litter-picking equipment, so we can scrub up the playground and take care of our surroundings together.
We're really looking forward to diving into these activities and making our little corner of the world a greener place. Stay tuned for updates and join us in making a difference.
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ENTHUSE PARTNERSHIP

STEM LEARNING



Polite request

At both schools members of the public and of the school community have raised concerns about parking and speeding.
At Pamphill, please drive slowly along the approach roads to school and park in the car park. There have been complaints about parents parking on the side of the road, and indeed turning on the road outside the school.
At Witchampton, please can parents also use the carpark, and not park on the zigzags. This is an offense, anytime.
Thank you for following the new drop off and pick up arrangements. I hope this helps the children develop independence and makes for safer journeys.
All of these measures are in place to keep your children safe so please ....new years resolutions and all that!

Christmas Fun at Pamphill!

What a lovely afternoon the children had when the PTA helped host a Christmas crafternoon. Foxes had foraged for things to make decorations with, Owls had chosen the tree from the Dairy and Stags made yummy cookies for all the children to decorate and enjoy. Thank you PTA for making Pamphill festive and fun for us all.





Pamphill's amazing PTA hosted three after school Elfridges for the children to come and choose a gift to buy for someone special and then have help to wrap it.





<u>Bedtime Stories</u>

After the regular school day, pupils came back to school on a blustery, dark evening and were treated to festive bedtime stories as the Christmas lights twinkled on the classroom trees. They snuggled up in their classrooms in their pyjamas and blankets, while their teachers read to them. The children also enjoyed some hot chocolate and treats provided by the school's Parents' Association - thank you Santa's Little Helpers!

Christmas Fun at Witchampton!



Christmas lunch

Witchampton First School had our annual whole school Christmas lunch in the school hall organised by the generous Mrs Giles and helped by the amazing Mrs Hayter. We really enjoyed eating together in the hall and sitting in our classes.





Special visitors

This year, we had two special visitors in school. We had a visit by Snickers the pony (Rudolph) and a visit from Santa. He was very kind and gave out different presents for each class (he chose very well!).







Collective worship

Mrs Dimmick



As we approach the festive season, our collective worship theme this half term has centred around the notion of Trust, specifically reflecting on the Christmas story and the message delivered by the Angel Gabriel to Mary at Christmas. This story has helped us to explore how Mary exemplified unwavering trust in God's plan, despite feeling scared. We have reflected on what this story means to us, thinking about who we can trust: family, friends, teachers and Jesus.



We were delighted to welcome several visitors to our schools, including the Open the Book team, Rev Nick, and Rev Sharon, who have shared worships about Advent and preparing for Christmas. Their contributions greatly enriched our understanding of the Christmas story.



Our Christingle services served as a heartwarming reminder of Jesus being the Light of the World. At Pamphill, we were fortunate to have Robin supporting us as the children shared the Christmas story, while at Witchampton, Rev Marianne and Rev Andrew joined us in exploring the significance behind the Christingles. These experiences have not only deepened our knowledge of the Christmas narrative but have also fostered a greater sense of community and togetherness. Thank you to all who participated and joined us for the services. raph text

Please find attached a 'Trust' activity sheet that we invite you to share at home if you would like to during the Christmas holidays.

TRUST

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value TRUST. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Trust

Trust is a really important value. It must be earned. If we do not **trust** someone it is very hard to build a good friendship with them.

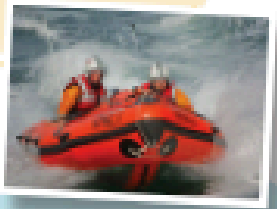
Talk together about:

- people who you know that are **trustworthy**
- practical ways that we can show others that we are **trustworthy**
- why it is important to be able to **trust** others when working together as a team

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Trusting** someone is like knowing you can jump and they will be there to catch you"

Anon



FASCINATING FACTS

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI)

When the crew and passengers of boats get into difficulty at sea, they can **trust** the lifeboat crews from RNLI to try their very best to rescue them. Many of the crew and coastguards are volunteers.

- There are over 230 lifeboat stations all around the coast of Britain & Ireland
- Crews are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They must be ready to drop what they are doing at a moments notice to go out on their lifeboat

READ TOGETHER... The Storm on the Lake

The disciples were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following Jesus, listening as he taught them about God's love and watching as he healed people who were ill. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his friends were, Jesus said, "Let's get in a boat and go over to the other side of the lake."

They rowed away from the shore while Jesus went to the front of the boat and lay down. The waves lapped gently against the side of the boat, lulling Jesus into a peaceful sleep.

Suddenly the wind began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The waves weren't so gentle anymore. The little boat began to pitch and rock. The men looked anxiously across the lake. But Jesus still lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

The wind blew stronger. Great gusts rocked the boat. Spray from the waves soaked everyone inside. But still Jesus lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

By the time they reached the centre of the lake, the wind had turned into an angry gale that whipped the waves so high that they washed right over the boat. Jesus' friends were terrified. They thought they might drown. But still Jesus slept on.

Finally, one of Jesus' friends went and shook him awake. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" Jesus looked around. He listened to the howling wind. He felt the cold, stinging spray of the waves. He saw the fear in the faces of his disciples.

Jesus stood, stretched out his arms to the wind and the waves, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!" At once the wind died down and the waves became completely calm. Turning to them, Jesus asked the disciples: "Why are you so afraid? Do you not **trust** me?"

Bible story based on Mark 4:35-41

QUIZ Crack the code

Answer the clues to find the letter corresponding to each number and then fill in the message.

Thrown in a board game | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Jam is stored in this | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Opposite of dark | 8 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

Used to carry money | 12 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 4 |

Break the code to discover the message in the story:

| 15 | 10 | 4 | | 3 | 2 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 14 |

| 11 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 4 | 1 | | 8 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 14 |

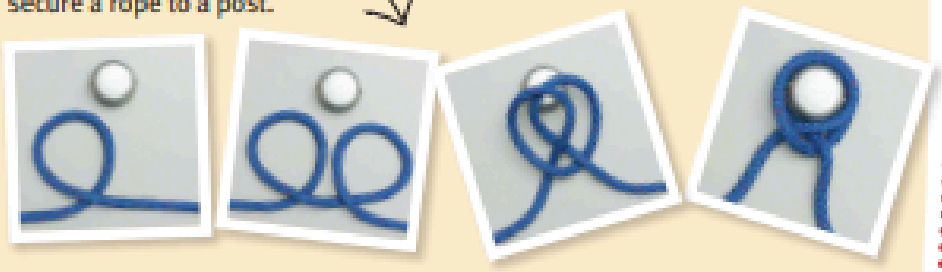
FAMILY FOCUS

Get Knotting

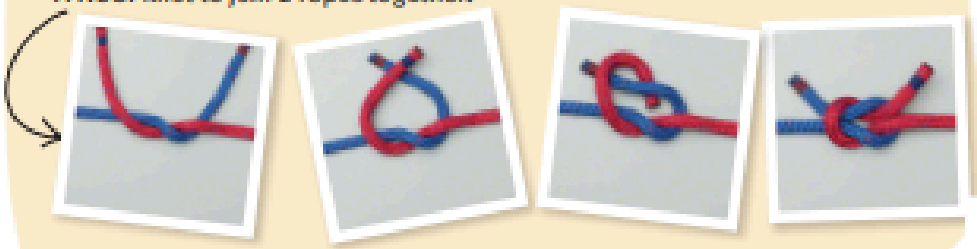
Knot tying is an important skill for every crew member on board a sailing ship. For the various parts of the sails and rigging different knots are used and the crew have to **trust** that the knots are tied properly and will hold.

We all use knots occasionally to hold something securely in place.
See if you can master these knots:

A Clove Hitch knot, to secure a rope to a post.



A Reef knot to join 2 ropes together.

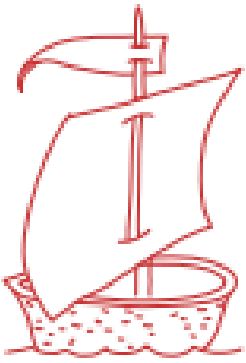


HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Build a Boat

This term's Home School Value has a watery theme. The challenge is to use scrap materials to construct a boat that floats and has a working sail.

Create a draught (eg by blowing or using a lilo pump) to check that the sail really does catch the wind and move the boat across the water.





HALL OF FAME

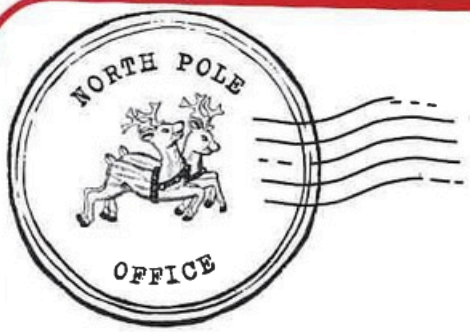
Ernest Shackleton

From the time that he was a small boy Ernest Shackleton longed to go to sea. At sixteen he got his chance and joined the crew of a ship sailing to and from the Far East and America. This was the start of an amazing life of daring and discovery.

In December, 1914, Shackleton set out on perhaps his most famous voyage. It was his third expedition to Antarctica. His ship was called the "Endurance" and his mission to travel 1500 miles across Antartica. Just 5 weeks later, "Endurance" became frozen in pack ice, unable to move. After being stuck for months the boat began to buckle, crushed by the ice. The crew was forced to abandon ship. They set up camp on an ice floe, but this was too dangerous so Shackleton and his men set out in three lifeboats. After six days, the men reached an isolated, uninhabited spot called Elephant Island.

Shackleton knew that for his men to survive, he must fetch help from a whaling station. It was 800 miles away but it was their only hope! Putting their complete **trust** in him and knowing their leader would return if it was humanly possible, the men watched as Shackleton and four others rowed away. Six long months followed before Shackleton was finally able to rescue his men 126 days later, after a journey of nearly 1600 miles.

Shackleton's courage and the **trust** he inspired in his men live on in legend.



A COLD FARM

A COLD FARM A FROZEN HAY STACK.

A COLD FARM TRACTORS AS STIFF AS ROCK.

A COLD FARM FIELDS IN THE DISTANCE PEARL WHITE SNOW .

A COLD FARM ANIMALS COVERED IN SNOW .

A COLD FARM HOUSE THE FIRE CRACKLING.

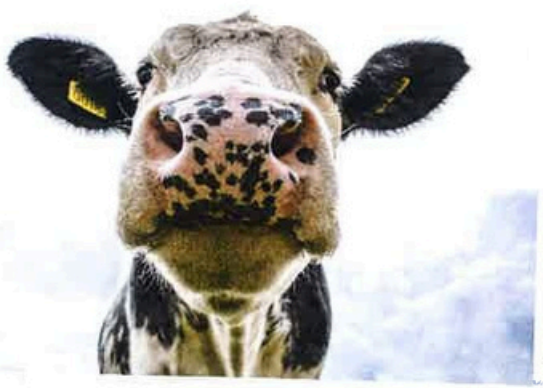
A COLD FARM SILENT AS A MOON.











Choose your line you are going to repeat at the start of each verse:

In the silence

Write your free verse poem about Christmas or Winter!



In the silence

In the silence, ~~&~~ crystal patterns form on the frosty windows.
No horizon to the white world. In a fairytale world

In the silence, blanketing ~~the~~ the little village. Snow fell like tiny pieces of lace and sprinkled the ground like a white dust.

In the silence, children build snowmen and have ~~snow~~ snowball fights.
Icicles hang from ~~the~~ the trees like crystal earrings, whilst the snow made a crisp carpet beneath my feet.

In the silence, the frost glittered like a diamond ~~on~~ necklace on the ~~spider's~~ spider's web. The village looked wild and strange under the snow, ~~which~~ which blanketed the fields and buildings and lay in piles on the dark road.

Christmas is here

Christmas is here again,
I can smell pine needles and cinnamon waft around
like a ghost haunting the house,
Christmas lights and paper decorations are hung up
in every corner,
A big,bushy Christmas tree sits quietly guarding the
packages and letters that lay underneath.

Christmas is here again,
Everyone is bustling around preparing for Aunts and
Uncles, Cousins and Grandparents to come,
Above me, clouds like cotton balls let out shimmering
snowflakes that fluttered to the ground.

Christmas is here again,
The trees outside were ice sculptures with branches
like daggers,
Tinsel littered the house,
Christmas songs could be heard from everywhere,
The loud bangs of
Christmas crackers and rustling of paper hats filled
the air with joy.

Christmas is here again,
Handmade Christingles light up the church with a
warm, welcoming glow,
Streets are blanketed with tiny, sparkling ice crystals,
Long, pointy icicles hang from every windowsill and
rooftop.

Joseph Year 4 Witchampton

In a winter wonderland,
Crystal patterns frosted the early morning
Snow and ice layered the glistening houses.

In a winter wonderland,
Laughter and joy filled the town of
Snow,
Snowmen were built and ice rings were filled.

In a winter wonderland,
Snow fell majestically like tiny pieces of lace sprinkled the
Ground with white fairy dust,
I woke up to a fairytale world cloaked in winter.

In a winter wonderland,
The children eager to play outside
Was a contrast of a cold ten
Nagging parents for on and on.



In a winter wonderland,
A crisp casper beneath my
Feet would make numb
a part of my body

In a ~~wintercland~~ winter wonderland,
I heard the crunch of my footsteps
As I tiptoed over to my cloaked house
To see by the burning fire as it
Crackled like a evil witch.
Sparks flew out like glittering stars in
the



This term the Friends of Witchampton have raised over £1.5k for our lovely little school! We have also made amazing progress on the Outdoor Explorers project and have started work on the SEN room - the Nest!

A massive THANK YOU to all who have organised and attended the film night, wreath making, pocket money sale, school raffle and Christmas, cake and craft events! - Special thanks need to go to Bryony Butcher, Mandy Steele, Steph Jevons, Hayley Fazley, Gabby Stone and Mrs Jenkinson.

The money is already being utilised for trips, visitors and presents from Santa which all help to make our school the exceptional place it is!

We are very pleased to announce that our Grand Christmas Raffle raised an incredible £895!! The money raised will help provide extra resources for our children, so thank you very much to everyone who bought and sold tickets and of course a HUGE THANK YOU to our very generous donators. We are very grateful and couldn't have done it without you!

Merry Christmas from Friends of Witchampton School



