

October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we progress through this term, I am delighted to report that our school continues to thrive. The positive start we've experienced is a testament to the collective efforts of our children, staff, and you, our supportive parents and carers. Your ongoing commitment to our wonderful school is truly appreciated. With that in mind – this newsletter begins with lots of thanks to you all.

Culture day

Thank you so much for your continued support of this special event. It was wonderful to see so many children in their national dress/costumes and bringing in traditional dishes. The children had a wonderful day and those from Y2 to Y6 enjoyed Chinese dance workshops and Taekwondo. We had some lovely feedback from the Taekwondo Facilitator, who was most impressed by our children's behaviour during the sessions:

'They were all very controlled and looked after each other; they all worked well together and made sure they didn't hurt each other.' He was also really impressed by their energy!

Macmillan Cake sale

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Macmillan Cake sale – we raised £120.48 for this amazing charity.

Harvest Festival donations

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in donating items for the Food Bank. They have now all been collected by the Food Bank and will be used to support families in need.

Parent Governor elections

I am really pleased to announce that 2 new Parent Governors have now been successfully elected and will be joining our Governing Body. We warmly welcome Mr Tom Colvin and Mr Josh Swift. The Governing Board and I look forward to collaborating with them to further enhance our school's development.

Westbury Artist competition

Thank you to all of the children who entered the competition, 5 finalists were selected and their art work is currently on display at the Westbury Art Centre in Milton Keynes. The exhibition is on the 5th October and will be open for viewing between 10am and 4pm. We are currently awaiting the results of the competition.

Poetry Week

This week in school we have been celebrating National Poetry Week. I have been astounded by the incredible poetry our children have written this week, both in school and at home. You will be able to see a sample of some of these poems, particularly about Remembrance on our Facebook page and website.

Family Play has restarted

Every Monday at 9.30 – 10.45am our Family Play sessions take place in our school hall. We are fortunate to be supported by Saplings Children's Centre. Please join us with your babies and toddlers

for a session that includes play, songs and dance. There will be a healthy range of snacks available too. The session costs £1 and is open to child minders too.

Road Safety

There have been a few occasions reported to us recently, where we have had children and parents crossing the road in front of oncoming vehicles. We know that it becomes very congested at drop off and pick up times and as such, extra caution should be taken when crossing the roads near to the school. We do lots of work with our children in school about on road safety and would appreciate if you could also remind your children at home about how to cross the road safely too. This is particularly important if they are in Y5 and Y6, where they may be walking/cycling to and from school independently.

Nursery

Please note that if you have a child attending our Nursery, our morning session begins at 8.15am. The doors will open at 8.15am and close at 8.25am. If you arrive after this time, please go straight to the main school office to drop off your child.

New website

We have just relaunched our school website, we still have more photos and items to add, but the key information is there. Please also check our school Facebook page, where we will also put useful reminders, news and updates for you.

OPAL resources

As you know we implement the OPAL project for our playtimes. We have purchased lots of resources for the children to play with, however we need to supplement these with loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Wellies

Please bring any donated items into school next week, they will be very much appreciated.

Upcoming events: Please see the updated diary dates below – new additions are highlighted in yellow.

Flu Immunisations Tuesday 8th October

You have already been sent some information regarding this – please read it carefully and respond by the deadline of **Friday 4th October**.

The Book Fair is coming!! - Wednesday 23rd October or Thursday 24th October

We are happy to inform you that we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in school, which you will be able to attend when you come for your parent/carer consultation meeting on either Wednesday 23rd October or Thursday 24th October. There will be a QR code for you to scan to access the online payment system. We will not be accepting cash.

Residentials

We are really excited that we are able to have the following residentials this academic year. Information evenings for these have been held already, however should you have any questions regarding these, please contact the school office.

Year 4 – The Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough – Wednesday 5th March - Friday 7th March 2025

A two-night residential that includes outdoor and adventurous activities at the centre which is situated on the banks of the River Nene in Northamptonshire.

[Frontier Centre - Rock UK](#)

Year 5 – Ghyll Head Centre, Windermere, Cumbria - Monday 27th January – Friday 31st 2025

A four-night residential that includes outdoor and adventurous activities in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

<https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/south-lakeland/ghyll-head>

Year 6 – The Isle of Wight Experience (Island Riding Centre), Newport, Isle of Wight - Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July

A four-night residential that includes cultural experiences, day trips and explorations around the beautiful island.

<http://www.isleofwightexperience.co.uk/>

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support. We are looking forward to an extremely successful year ahead at Newton Leys.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

Tuesday 3rd September	INSET day
Wednesday 4th September	INSET day
Thursday 5th September	Children return to school
Tuesday 24th – Friday 27th September	Y2 Bikeability
Wednesday 25th September	2.00pm Reception Phonics learn alongside
Thursday 26th September	3.15pm – Y4 Residential Information Evening
Friday 27th September	Culture day 3.00pm Macmillan cake sale
Thursday 3rd October	Y6 Residential Information Evening
Saturday 5th October	Westbury Artists Competition Exhibition KS2 Cross Country Event - Emerson Valley Rugby Club
Monday 14th October	9.30am - Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025
Wednesday 23rd October	Parent/Carer consultation evening
Thursday 24th October	Individual and siblings School Photos Parent/Carer consultation evening
Friday 25th October	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 4th November	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 6th November	2.00pm Y1 Phonics Learn alongside

Sunday 10th November	10.30am meet at the school for Remembrance Sunday event at the Mound with St Joseph's and Vicar Ben.
Monday 11th November	World Nursery Rhyme week
Tuesday 12th November	9.30am Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025
Thursday 21st November	3.15pm KS2 Writing Information Evening
Wednesday 27th November	9.30am Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025
Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th November	Bikeability Y5
Monday 9th December	Choir visit to Lake View Care Home
Wednesday 11th December	3.15pm Christmas Carols
Thursday 12th December	2.00pm Y1 Christmas Singalong
Monday 16th December	2.00pm EYFS Christmas Show to parents
Tuesday 17th December	2.00pm Y2 Production to parents
Wednesday 18th December	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast Christmas Lunch
Friday 20th December	<i>Break up for Christmas holidays</i>
Monday 6th January 2025	<i>INSET day</i>
Tuesday 7th January 2025	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 15th January	Y2-Y6 Reading learn alongside
Monday 27th January – Friday 31st	Y5 Residential Visit to Lake District
Tuesday 4th February	Young Voices
Wednesday 12th February	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
Thursday 13th February	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
Friday 14th February	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 24th February	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 26th February	2.15pm Reception- Reading for pleasure
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 5th March-Friday 7th	Y4 Residential Visit to Irthlingborough
Monday 10th March	Science Week
Wednesday 2nd April	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast
Friday 4th April	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>
Monday 21st April	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday 22nd April	<i>Children return to school</i>
W/c 12th May	Y6 SATs week
Friday 23rd May	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 2nd June	<i>INSET day</i>
Tuesday 3rd June	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 11th June	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 12th June	KS2 Sports Day
Friday 27th June	3.15 – 5.00 Summer Fayre
Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July	Y6 Residential Visit Isle of Wight
Wednesday 9th July	Transition afternoon 3.15 – 5.00pm Meet the Teacher
Thursday 17th July	Y6 Production
Wednesday 16th July	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast
Monday 21st July	9.00am Y6 Leavers Assembly 2.30pm Nursery Graduation
Tuesday 22nd July	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>
Wednesday 23rd July	<i>INSET day</i>