



Witchampton CofE First School News

WIMBORNE
Academy Trust

November 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carers,

The Autumn Term has been a busy and exciting time for Witchampton CofE First School and the children have continued to make me feel very proud of them all.

I would like to thank you for your continued generosity this term especially in supporting three national appeals including one of the children's chosen charities ; the Shoebox Appeal, the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need. We appreciate that we have asked you for a lot in a short period of time, but your response has been amazing – THANK YOU. The response this year to the Poppy appeal was fantastic. We raised £86.28 and the local Honorary Organiser has sent his thanks to us all and is hugely appreciative of your effort. Last week the school turned its attention to Anti-Bullying Week and we explored why it is important to choose respect over bullying. Last Friday, we asked pupils to wear odd socks in support of this campaign and to show that everyone should be proud to be different.



We also raised money for Children in Need on this day and raised £61.50. We collected a total of 39 shoes boxes for FSCI (Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion) which is fantastic and these were collected yesterday. We know these will be really appreciated when they are received by those less fortunate than ourselves.

The Friends of Witchampton have also been extremely busy over the last few weeks. The children enjoyed film night and the November Fair was a big success. A huge thank you to all those who helped or came to support on the day. A grand total of £1400 was raised.

We are now moving into a very exciting time at school. The nativity is already under way and I am sure some of you are already becoming familiar with the songs that the children are learning as they sing them at home. We are planning a number of events as we approach Christmas. These include a Christmas bedtime story evening, a decoration afternoon and, of course, the traditional Christmas play. Our youngest children in school will also be choosing and collecting our Christmas Tree from Rosemore Farm. We will end our term with a Christingle service in the church on 21st December at 2.00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you at these events. Please remember to look at our class pages on our website to keep up to date with all the exciting learning the children are doing at school.

Mrs Jo Hancock

Head of School

Dorset Fire Service



The Dorset Fire Service came to visit Hedgehogs and Badgers on Thursday with their fire engine. The children had lots of fun learning about fire safety and looking at all the tools inside a fire engine. All the children had the opportunity to have a go with the hose and Mrs Saberton even dressed up in the uniform!



Important Reminders and dates:

Decoration afternoon: On Friday 30th November at 1.30 p.m the children will be making a variety of Christmas decorations. If you would like to help please let your child's class teacher know.

Wonderful Workshare: On Tuesday December 4th we will be holding a wonderful workshare from 8.50a.m until 9.20 a.m. This will be an opportunity for you to celebrate your child's learning with them. It would be lovely to see you there. If your child is attending Early Birds on this day we will arrange for their work to be available for you to see at the earlier time.

Bedtime story evening: On Wednesday 5th December the children are invited back to school for Christmas bedtime story evening from 5-6 p.m. (A letter will be following shortly)



Salisbury Cathedral Christingle: On 6th December the Foxes will be going to Salisbury for a Christingle service to celebrate with many other church schools from the Diocese.

Christmas Performance: The Whole School Nativity 'Born in a Barn' will be performed on Wednesday 12th December at 9.30 a.m. and then again at 2.00pm in the village hall. A dress rehearsal will take place the previous day on Tuesday 11th at 1.30 p.m. for any parent/carer/grandparent who is unable to attend on the Wednesday. (More information will follow shortly)

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 14th December is Christmas Jumper day. If your child has a Christmas jumper they are more than welcome to wear it with their school uniform instead of their school jumper/cardigan. This is in aid of Save the Children. All donations welcome.

Chartwells Christmas Meal: Friday 14th December. Foxes will need to book a meal on this day if they would like a Christmas meal. If they would prefer to bring their own they may bring a special Christmas lunchbox.

Christmas party afternoon: Thursday 20th December. (More information to come)

Christingle Service: This will take place at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 21st December in the church. Everybody is welcome to attend.



Coats!

As we head into winter and the weather starts to deteriorate, please can you ensure that children wear/bring their coats to school. It may seem lovely weather when you leave your home, but quite often by break time, it's a very different situation.

Clothing Bank

Thank you to all who are using the clothing bank located in front of the school office. The quicker it is filled each month the more money we are raising for the school. So please spread the word to all friends and family etc as anyone can use it.

Farm animals wanted!

The Hedgehog class would love to replenish their toy farm with some more plastic/wooden farm animals. If you have any at home that are not played with anymore and are looking for a new home the Hedgehogs would love to receive them.

If you have any other small world toys that you would like to donate these would also be gratefully received!

Attendance Really Matters

Promoting good attendance and punctuality is a **key priority** of the school as we believe that it is essential for all children to attend school on time and regularly. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these children at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career.

We expect learners to maintain a minimum attendance figure of 96.1% across the academic year.

School: 97 %

National (2016): 96.1%

Hedgehogs: 99.1%

Year 1: 96.2%

Year 2: 95.4%

Year3: 97.2%

Year4: 97.6%

Parking

Please continue to be considerate to others when collecting your children from school. It is much appreciated that parents/carers are generally not parking opposite the school or on the hatchings which makes it far safer for the children coming into school and going home.

Important Contacts

These are the contacts for these important areas:

Designated Safeguard Lead – Mrs Hancock

Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Jenkinson and Mrs Saberton

Inclusion Leader – Mrs Pond

