



October Newsletter 2024

Welcome to our October newsletter. So much has happened at Windhill Primary in the 8 weeks since we returned after the summer break and we are keen to share these with you.

As always, the pupils have continued to work hard and enjoy their learning. A Local Authority advisor recently visited school to observe our reading curriculum, and made the following comment in her report: *"In all lessons pupils demonstrated good behaviours for learning. They were eager to show their learning and worked well with staff to engage with the reading curriculum. Their behaviour is a credit to school and is to be commended."*

We hope that you enjoy the half term break and look forward to seeing you all when school reopens on Tuesday 5th November - remember that Monday 4th is staff inset so school will not be open for pupils.

Mrs Howard

Curriculum learning



Early Years

Our youngest children have settled beautifully into school life. They have been focusing on settling into their new classes and as part of their 'All about me' topic, they have been getting to know each other and their school community. Children in Pre-school have been learning about their emotions and how they look when they are happy and sad. They are learning to play with one another and are starting to make new friends. In Nursery, children have been getting to know each other by bringing in their 'All about me bags' that contain items from home including things such as family photos. Children have taken turns to share their bags, with other children asking them questions all about them. In Reception, children also brought in their 'All about me bags', and have also been learning about their local community and finding where they live on a map. They have looked at Mexborough and the different places there are to visit. All children in Early Years are enjoying the 'Book of the Week'. They are also using their knowledge of the books and applying this to different areas of provision which is great to see!

Key Stage One

This half term, Key Stage One have shown a great interest in their history-based topic about castles. They have learnt why castles were first built by William the Conqueror by re-enacting the Battle of Hastings. They have learnt about Motte and Bailey castles and how they developed into medieval castles. After exploring the defence features of a medieval castle, Key Stage One went on a trip to Conisbrough Castle to consolidate this learning. They were given a tour of the castle and the keep, where they investigated the remains to identify key rooms and features of the castle. Then the children took part in an interactive workshop where they learnt about Lord Hamelin and Lady Isabel as well as the key workers needed to run the castle.

Lower Key Stage Two

Lower key stage two have had an exciting start to the term and have been enthralled with their 'Lost Lands' topic. Their 'hook' required children to think creatively - they were tasked with writing their initials using hieroglyphics whilst making an Egyptian cartouche out of clay. It was very messy work but the children thoroughly enjoyed it. They have since painted their cartouche using acrylics. Within English lessons, children have been using the graphic novel *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx* as inspiration for their writing. Over the course of the term, children have been developing their use of noun phrases in order to produce detailed character descriptions. They have just finished their first story write and have been encouraging to show how characters are feeling through their actions. This is something that they will continue to work on as the year progresses. Children have also loved the reading text - *Secrets of a Sun King* - which is an adventure story written by Emma Carroll. They will be continuing their 'Lost Lands' topic next half term and have something exciting planned for the first day back – an Egyptian mummification!

Upper Key Stage Two

This half term, Upper Key Stage Two have been focusing on The Ancient Maya. To launch this part of their topic, they had a visit from Past Productions, and a real Mayan Warrior, to deliver a workshop all about the ancient civilisation. Children were all very excited as they learnt how to say Mayan numbers, about their Gods and Goddesses, researched artefacts and took part in chocolate tasting!

Harvest Festival

Finally, 'Thank you' for all your donations towards our Harvest Festival. They will be given to the 'Community Kitchen' at the Baptist church next door to school, who provide free meals to local families.

The children shared the message of Harvest beautifully with their wonderful singing and clear, confident speaking.



































European Languages Day



On the 26th September, the children took part in Spanish themed activities as part of European Languages Day 2024. They all looked amazing dressed in their red & yellow outfits and Spanish costumes. As part of the school curriculum throughout the year, all children in Key Stage Two learn how to speak and understand words, phrases and conversations in the Spanish but on this day, everyone had a go at speaking the language. Older children learnt Spanish words and phrases for food and drink items, then practiced using these to role play ordering food in a café.

A highlight of the day for many was sampling a continental breakfast. Croissants, pan au chocolate and Greek yogurt with honey were some of the favourites, along with feta cheese and baguettes, and various continental meats.





School & Eco councillors

At the beginning of the term, each class elected their class representatives for the School and Eco Councils. The councillors play a key role in school, ensuring pupil voice is heard in some important discussions and decisions.

They enjoyed meeting Ed Miliband in September, who visited Windhill Primary to swear Isla into her new role as Pupil Prime Minister.





Sporting Achievements

Firstly, we are thrilled to share some good news with you - the school has been awarded the *Platinum Schools Games Award* this year. This recognises the school's commitment to ensuring all children have access to a well-rounded sports curriculum, which is supported by a range of extra-curricular opportunities, as well as the involvement in local tournaments. Well done everyone!



Those local tournaments have already started again this year!

Our boy's football team took part in the Totty Cup quarter finals in September, playing against other Mexborough schools. Second place earned them a place in the Barlow-Salmon's competition. Despite giving it their all and drawing the game 2-2, the team sadly missed out on a semi-final place when they lost 3-1 on penalties.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations for the Macmillan coffee morning. The children all enjoyed a bun and milkshake in the morning, and we were delighted to welcome so many of you to our afternoon event. In total, an amazing £377.83 was raised for the charity.





Attendance

Attendance remains high priority in school and nationally.

There will be prizes and other incentives for good attendance throughout the year so keep an eye out for these on Class Dojo.

For those children with 100% attendance at the end of the year, an extra-special prize will be given.

We understand that children catch lots of colds and other illnesses, particularly around this time of the year. If you are unsure whether to send your child to school, good advice can be found on: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

	Attendance figure this term
Butterflies (Miss Courtney)	94.2%
Bumblebees (Miss Troughton/ Mrs Rudram)	91.8%
Leopards (Miss Ramskill)	91.4%
Panther (Miss Allen)	88.9%
Lions (Mrs Jepson)	96.7%
Tigers (Miss Lerner)	95.3%
Turtles (Miss Bailey)	94%
Penguins (Miss Woodrow/ Mrs Hicks)	92.8%
Whales (Mr Hedar)	96.1%
Eagles (Mr McDonald)	91.6%
Macaws (Mrs Neesome/ Miss Whitehouse)	93.2%
Owls (Miss Woodward)	93.4%

Our 1st 100% Attendance Prize Draw!

*If your child has 100% attendance from 5th November up to 29th November, they will be entered into a prize draw to win **Christmas Advent Calendars** for the whole family, including a Molton Brown calendar worth over £200.*

You need to make sure your child attends every day and arrives before registration closes at 8.50am to be entered into the draw.

Good luck everyone!



Class Dojo

Could we politely remind everyone that if you need to contact a member of staff about any concerns or questions regarding your child, please **ring the main office** (01709 586949) rather than sending a message through Class Dojo. Staff are not expected to monitor these messages so important information is likely to be missed.



Diary Dates

- 7th Nov Photographer in school
- 11th Nov Anti-bullying week
- 15th Nov Children in Need day (non-uniform)
- 4th Dec 9.30am: Nursery nativity
- 5th & 6th Dec 9.30am: Reception nativity

10th & 11th Dec 9.30am: Key Stage One Christmas concert
12th & 13th Dec 9.30am & 2pm: Key Stage Two Christmas concert
17th Dec Christmas dinner & jumper day
18th Dec Whole school Christmas party day
19th Dec School closes for Christmas break @ 3.15pm
20th Dec Staff Inset - **school closed for pupils**
6th Jan Spring term starts
14th Feb Staff Inset - **school closed for pupils**

Please also see the calendar on the school website for up-to-date information: [Windhill Website](#)
[School Calendar](#)

Enjoy half term - see you on Tuesday 5th November!