



Waycroft Academy Newsletter - 11th
October 2024

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A Message from the Headteacher



Firstly, I would just like to say a massive thank you on behalf of Counterslip Foodbank to everyone for our harvest donations; as a community we will really be making a difference to peoples' lives by ensuring they have the essentials in their cupboards. There were even more donations than shown in the photo below!

This week my assembly with the whole school focused on 'Black History Month', the theme for which is 'Reclaiming Narratives'. I shared some images of famous black people and was really impressed that a group of Year 3 children immediately recognised Kamala Harris! Throughout the rest of this term, teachers will be sharing some stories about black people through history, during their reading time with the children. During assembly, I read some short biographies for Barack and Michelle Obama...if anyone is struggling for a Christmas present then I can highly recommend the series of 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls' and 'Stories for Boys who Dare to be Different' (pictures below). They have short, one-page biographies which are easy to share with younger children and quick for older children to read. We are going to buy a set of these for our school and will be using them throughout the year.

You should be aware that parents' evenings are coming up soon; please ensure you have booked a slot via ParentMail and read the letter about the changes we have made to the evenings this year. During the evenings there will be a book fayre that you can explore (please note this is card payment only!) and we are also hoping to have some food samples from our school kitchen so you can taste what is on offer during our lunchtimes.

We are still getting a lot of lost property, please ensure all items have full names on them so they can be returned. If you did not already know, we have two lost property boxes at the front of the school (black with yellow handles). If you do look in the box, please ensure that the lid is replaced and secured to ensure the rain doesn't get in!

If you are a current Year 6 parent, please note that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place is 31st October!

I look forward to seeing you during parents' evenings.

Mr Smith

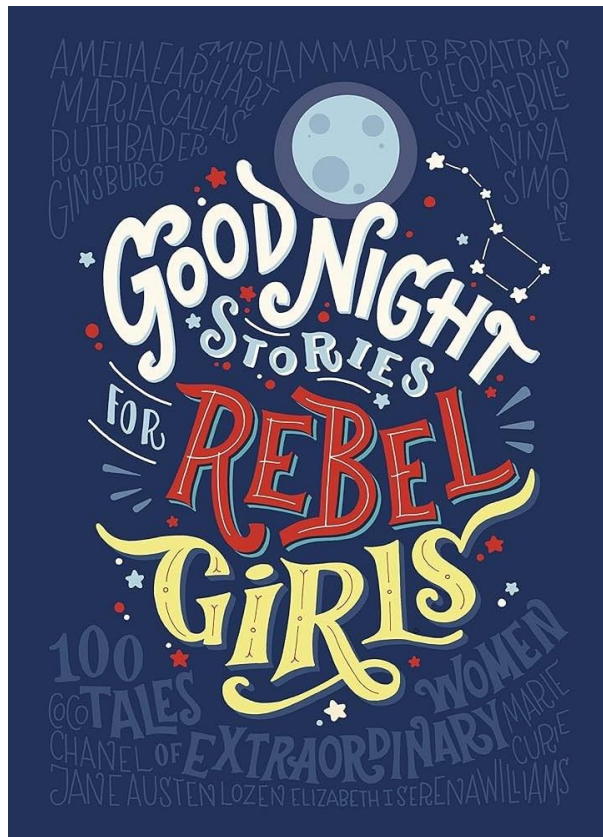


THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER

STORIES FOR BOYS Who DARE -TO BE- DIFFERENT

TRUE TALES OF AMAZING BOYS WHO CHANGED
THE WORLD WITHOUT KILLING DRAGONS

Ben Brooks



Health and Safety



- Please make sure that your child wears a warm coat to school every day through the autumn and winter months. Children will not be allowed outside if they do not have a coat and it is cold or wet.
- If your child rides a bike or scooter on their own to school, please check in with them to make sure they are staying safe as we have seen some near misses with children riding scooters down the road recently.

School Meals

Aspens



Since our school meals have been provided by Aspens, there has been a few changes in the main cook. Gemma (in the centre of the photo below) who will now be the substantive cook, well supported by the rest of the kitchen staff.

- We strongly urge parents of children in Years R, 1 and 2 to take up on the **FREE** meal that your child can have every day in school!
- For children in Years 3 - 6, meals are £2.40 and represent really good value.

Mr Smith and Aspens will be meeting with the school council (and others) soon to discuss any changes to the menu which the children would like to suggest.

The photos of fish fingers and chips today don't show off the quality of the cooking that is happening on a daily basis. However, it is very popular with the children on Fridays!







Attendance



Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

The Primary Mental Health Specialist for South Bristol has recommended the following webinar for any parents who find that their child is avoiding school due to anxiety. There is a webinar on Tuesday 3rd December 7pm or Wednesday 4th December 10am. 'KoothTalks' for **families**, please click on [this link](#)

Week commencing - 30/09/2024

Whole school attendance - 95.1%

EYFS/KS1 class with highest attendance - Pinta 97.3 %

KS2 class with highest attendance - Cutty Sark 99.3 %

Week commencing - 07/10/2024

Whole school attendance - 95.5 %

EYFS/KS1 class with highest attendance - Mary Rose 30 Hours 99%

KS2 class with highest attendance - Cutty Sark 99.3%

Penalty Notices

- If a child has at least 10 (10 or more) sessions of unauthorised absence in 10 school weeks, their parent/carer(s) may receive a penalty notice (a morning or afternoon is one session; a whole school day is two sessions.)
- The first time a penalty is issued within a three-year rolling period, it is £80 (per parent/carer, per child) payable within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days. (If the fine is not paid, the parent/carer may be prosecuted for the child's unauthorised absence.
- The second time a penalty notice is issued to the same parent/carer for the same child the amount will be £160 per parent/carer, per child (if paid within 28 days). There is no reduction in the amount if the penalty is paid early. (Again, if the fine is not paid, the parent/carer may be prosecuted.)
- Fines per parent/carer will be capped to two fines within any 3-year period. Once this limit has been reached, a prosecution will be considered. Prosecution may result in fines of up to £2,500 per parent/carer, per child.

School attendance: Is your child missing out?

| | In a week means missing ... | Over a year means missing... | Over the seven years of primary school means missing... |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 100% attendance | No days | No weeks | No learning at all! |
| 90% attendance | Half a day | Almost four weeks | Over four terms |
| 80% attendance | One day | Over seven weeks | One school year and two terms |
| 70% attendance | One and a half days | Eleven weeks | More than two years |
| 60% attendance | Two days | Over fifteen weeks | Two years and four terms |
| 50% attendance | Two and a half days | Almost twenty weeks | Three and a half years |



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

We were delighted to welcome a new visitor to our school who will be coming in to meet some of our children each week; Simba is a trained therapy dog and we are really grateful to Sadie Palmer (a parent) for offering to bring him in. Various children will be invited to get to know Simba and read to him during the year. If your child is invited then you will receive a letter notifying you beforehand.



EYFS



Admiral

We have been enjoying the story of "the tiger who came to tea", wondering if we would open the door to a tiger. Most of us said no! As well as exploring tiger stripe patterns we have created speckles and drips using pipettes, inspired by the nursery rhyme "5 speckled frogs" and our artist of the term, Jackson Pollock. We wondered "what is a speckle anyway?" We continue to revisit our favourite songs, stories and rhymes such as "5 little firemen" and "5 little ducks".

Mary-Rose

We have had a fun filled 2 weeks in Mary-Rose Nursery, last week we enjoyed becoming superheroes, and thought about how we can all become superheroes if we are kind, brave and helpful! We also enjoyed a superhero day and completing our Hero Training Camp. This week we have loved learning about Handa's Surprise and naming different fruits we can see in the story! We were so excited to taste fruit and the children were very brave trying new flavours. We did fruit printing, and used our senses to describe different and unusual fruits. Thank you so much again for your kind donations. Lots of sorting has happened this week too. The children were great at sorting healthy and non-healthy foods together. During number time this week, we have been counting to 3 and building structures with cups and blocks. Well done Nursery!

Reception

We have loved reading 'The Little Red Hen' this week. The children have enjoyed role-playing the story together with masks and puppets. We created our very own dough to play with too. In Maths, we have been exploring 'heavy' and 'light' by choosing objects to weigh. The children were very careful weighing loose parts and exploring ways to balance the scales. In Phonics, we have continued

to learn phase 2 sounds and we're improving on our blending skills every day. The children have been excited to take home their new phase 2 books this weekend. Enjoy reading everyone!







KS1



Year 1

Year 1 have written the story of Mr Tickle. We tried to use all of the Y1 writing skills that we have learned so far this year. Capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and adjectives. We have enjoyed reading lots of different Mr Men and Little Miss books over the past 2 weeks.

In science we have been looking at the different senses. We recently looked at our sense of touch and how our skin helps us feel things. We used a blindfold sack to describe things we could feel to the rest of the children. We can't wait to investigate our sense of taste and how we see.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been retelling the story of Little Red Riding Hood. They have worked incredibly hard to entertain their reader by using expanded noun phrases and extending their sentences using conjunctions.





LKS2



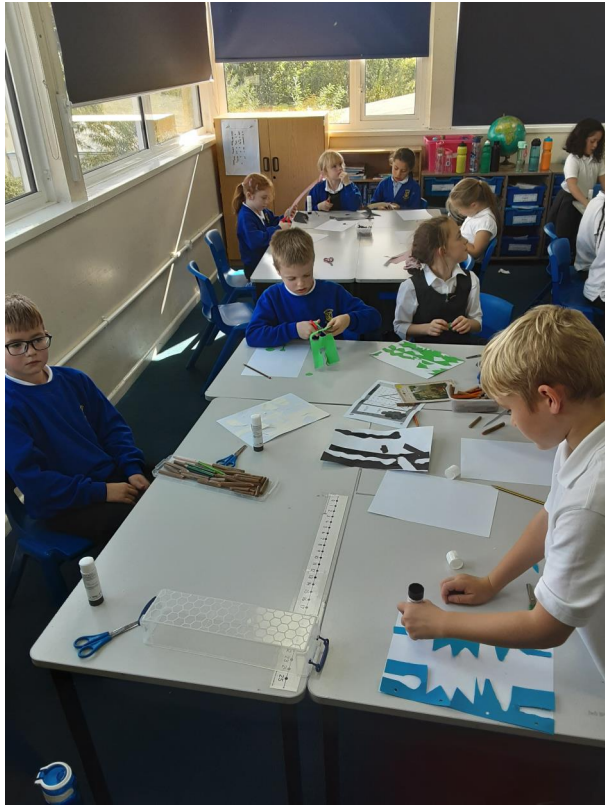
Year 3

Year 3 have been continuing their learning on the Tudors. Over the past two weeks, they have learned about 'Bloody' Mary I and Elizabeth I and compared similarities and differences between the two of them. In science, they learned that not all metals are magnetic by testing objects around the classroom using a magnet. In English, they wrote fact files about themselves using the features of non-fiction writing. Mr Whitlock and Miss Bowen have been impressed with the resilience they all demonstrated during their assessments the past 2 weeks. The pictures show Year 3 creating a collage inspired by Henri Matisse and creating a soundscape by experimenting with dynamics.

Year 4

Year 4 had a lovely time on camp. Now they are back, they are working really hard on all aspects of learning. They have finished their maths unit on place value and are moving on to addition and subtraction this week.







UKS2



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic week 6! They started the week with their scientist hats on, each class carried out and planned and carried out a group investigation into dissolving substances. In art, the children have been showing their creative side by adding the finishing touches to their Giacometti 3D figure. In PE, they have focused on our passing skills in rugby. In English, they children have started a new unit based on the poem The Highwayman. The children have created some brilliantly tense and atmospheric settings. Well done Year 5!

Year 6

Year 6 have had another brilliant few weeks, in maths both classes have been working hard to apply their knowledge of timetables to help them solve long multiplication problems. In English, the children have been looking at the layout and text features of a non-chronological report, focuses on writing using technical and formal language to write factual multi-clause third person sentences. Over the next week and half, the children will be planning and writing their own non-chronological report linked to our history topic of The Stone Age. In art, the children have been put the finishing touches to their masks, they have crafted and painted some fantastic masks this year, the Y6 team have been amazed by the wonderfully detailed 3D structures!

















Celebration Assembly



We had some great definitions given for some of the Year 4 science retrieval, displayed on the screen this morning; Children across the school were able to give some definitions for 'pitch', 'vibration' and someone also explained how we hear sound via the ear drum and cochlea. Well done to everyone who was awarded a certificate for a variety of reasons!





Save the Dates for terms 1 and 2

Save the Date

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 15th October-School nurse team in to administer nasal flu vaccinations

Tuesday 22nd October-**Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm** (please see separate letter and book slots via ParentMail)

Wednesday 23rd October-**Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm**

Wednesday 23rd October-**Last day of Term 1**

Wednesday 23rd October -**Friends of Waycroft Non-uniform day. Please donate sweets/chocolate for the Christmas Fayre**

Thursday 31st October-**Deadline for Year 6 parents to apply for a secondary school place**

Monday 4th November-**Start of Term 2**

Tuesday 5th November-**Year 2 parent reading work-a-long 9.15-10.15am**

Wednesday 6th November-**Year 3 and Year 4 parent reading work-a-long 9.15-10.15am**

Thursday 7th November-**Year 5 and Year 6 parent reading work-a-long 9.15-10.15am**

Wednesday 13th November-**Individual photo day**

Friday 13th December - **Year 6 Create Centre Trip**

Saturday 14th December -**Friends of Waycroft Christmas Fayre**

Inset Dates 2024/2025

Thursday 24th October 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 4th July 2025

Monday 7th July 2025

Payment Reminders



Year 2 camp - If you have not paid the deposit or spoken to the office, we have not included your child numbers. The suggested payment plan is £25 due 29th November 2024, £25 due 31st January 2025, £25 due 28th February 2025 with final balance of £25 due by 30th April 2025.

Year 2 camp Pupil Premium - If you have not paid the deposit or spoken to the office, we have not included your child numbers. The suggested payment plan is £10 due 29th November 2024, £10 due 31st January 2025, £10 due 28th February 2025 with final balance of £10 due by 30th April 2025.

Year 6 Simonsbath camp - £50 deposit due 25th October 2024. With the suggested payment plan of £90 due 31st December 2024, £90 due 28th February 2025, £90 due 25th April 2025 with final balance of £89.58 due by 30th May 2025.

Year 6 Simonsbath camp Pupil Premium - £50 deposit due 25th October 2024. With the suggested payment plan of £40 due 31st December 2024, £40 due 28th February 2025, £40 due 25th April 2025 with final balance of £34.79 due by 30th May 2025.

Year 6 Create Centre - £13.27 due by Friday 22nd November 2024

Community Notices



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MICHAEL MORPURGO *COBWEB*. £7.99

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Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books.

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk (pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu).
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £3.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

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