



Waycroft Academy Newsletter - 15th
November 2024

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A Message from the Headteacher



I hope this message finds you well and that you had a restful and enjoyable break at the end of term 1. It has been great to see how settled the children have been at the start of term 2 and how much progress so many of them are suddenly starting to make in their learning. This week has been one with many themes and I thank you for the support you have given your child(ren) and us, in helping them to understand some of the key messages. We had remembrance day on Monday, with our school council visiting Whitchurch British Legion for their service; my assembly this week focused on 'Anti-Bullying' which clearly has a strong link to remembrance and the idea of 'Choose Respect', which was the key focus. The key messages I gave this week were:

-We will not accept bullying at Waycroft

-'Bullying' is when someone is being unkind to someone else and it is **targeted** (i.e. not just part of an argument/disagreement) and **persistent** (daily, weekly etc)

-Every child should be able to name at least three adults in school who they feel comfortable talking to, if anyone is being repeatedly unkind and targeting the same person

Thank you to everyone who came to one of our Reading 'Work-a-longs'; the children absolutely loved having you with them in school and general feedback we received was that

it was really useful in order to better understand how we teach reading, especially along with an understanding of how 'Accelerated Reader' is used.

There is now a busy but fun and festive term ahead! Tickets for the Christmas performances (Y1-6) have now closed and will be given out to children to bring home in due course; any remaining tickets will be reopened-you will receive a ParentMail if any further tickets are available for you to book.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who has donated to 'Children in Need' today; the children looked fantastic in their PJs, onesies and Pudsey gear and we have already raised over **£300** to support those in need. If anyone would still like to donate, please follow this [link](#).

I hope everyone has a super weekend!

Mr Smith













Mary Rose Nursery to become Mary Rose Pre-School!



To better reflect the age groups we cater for and to avoid any confusion between our 2-year-old and 3-year-old provisions, we have decided to rename Mary Rose Nursery to **Mary Rose Pre-school**.

This change will help us clearly distinguish between the different stages of early childhood education we offer and ensure that our communication with you is as clear and effective as possible. Please rest assured that this renaming will not change or affect the quality of care and education your children receive. Our dedicated team will continue to provide the same nurturing and supportive environment that you have come to expect. Please note that it will take some time for the signs to be changed!

Safeguarding



If your child is going to be collected at the end of the day by anyone who the teacher will not know/recognise, please can parents/carers ensure that the office are informed beforehand so that we are aware. Thank you!

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 - 14/10/2024

Whole school attendance - 93.58%

EYFS/KS1 class with highest attendance - Nina 96.74%

KS2 class with highest attendance - Endeavour 97.5%

Week commencing - 21/10/2024

Whole school attendance - 95.64%

EYFS/KS1 class with highest attendance - Matthew 98.93%

KS2 class with highest attendance - Britannia 98.57%

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

SEND and Mental Health



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Who are Special Friends Club?

Special Friends Club is a charity operating throughout the City and County of Bristol and the County of South Gloucestershire. The Charity was founded by and is run by parent volunteers. They are unique in providing support for families of children with special needs and disabilities by organising a wide range of weekend and School holiday activities that can be enjoyed by the whole family!

The club has a membership of 180 families who have at least one disabled child or young person aged between 3-25 years old. All have a diagnosed disability which inhibits them accessing mainstream activities and venues. The children and young people have a broad range of needs and disabilities including Profound and Multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), Severe learning difficulties (SLD), Cerebral palsy, physical disabilities, Autism, Down Syndrome and other genetic conditions.

The Club's guiding principle is to provide a safe, stimulating and supportive environment for all the members. The events and activities are chosen to be as accessible and inclusive as possible for all of the members.

Recent trips have included: Westonbirt Arboretum, Cattle Country, Avon Valley Country Park, Bowood, and The Wardrobe Theatre

For further information, please go to their website:

<http://specialfriendsclub.org.uk/>

Mindfulness for Bristol Parents of SEND Children



Pause•Soften•Connect•Be

A Mindfulness Course for parents and carers living in Bristol, which looks at how to be with the stress and worry that comes from being in the role of a parent or carer of a child with additional needs.

This ten-week course allows us to notice how we habitually react when under stress and how practising mindfulness techniques can help us to regulate our emotions more effectively, including becoming more resilient during stress. With practise, we become more able to pause, soften, connect with our breath and be with difficulties in the moment. As a result, we may find we are able to respond more calmly and skilfully.

Evidence shows that when under stress, parenting skills are found to collapse. With Mindfulness for Parents, it's the parents' own stress and suffering, that is the primary focus of the training rather than the problem behaviour of the child.

Mindfulness for Parents/Carers supports you to:

- Reduce stress
- Reduce harmful intergenerational patterns of stressed-out parenting
- Improve emotional regulation
- Improve family communication and relationships

Online Mindfulness for Bristol Parents of SEND Children:
Day: Tuesdays 9.30 am – 12 noon
Dates: 14th January 2025 – 25th March 2025 (Term time only)
Via: Online Zoom
Cost: FREE
Book: Call Claire-Louise on 07949399633
Contact: mcp.bristol@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.mcp.info>



EYFS



Admiral

The children returned after half term refreshed and ready to learn! We had fun celebrating Bonfire night, sharing our experiences and collecting sticks to build our own pretend bonfire. We learned about staying safe on Bonfire Night. This week we have been learning about poppies and Remembrance Day. We planted flower seeds and created a collaborative handprint wreath.

Mary-Rose

Mary Rose have had a wonderful couple of weeks back at Pre-School, and have all settled back into the routine amazingly! Last week we enjoyed learning all about bonfire night, and Diwali and made lovely artwork relating to these. Our home corner changed into a fire station and fire engine this week! We have loved seeing lots of imaginative play in there. This week we have been learning 'We're going on a bear hunt'. The children have all remembered this brilliantly, and have enjoyed recreating the story using actions, drawing story maps, sharing our amazing drawing skills, and exploring the bears cave in our outside area.

Reception

Term 2 has been off to a great start with our Bonfire and Diwali celebrations. We loved reading the story of 'Rama and Sita' and acting out the story together. The children are becoming so confident with story-telling and using props to show off their acting skills!

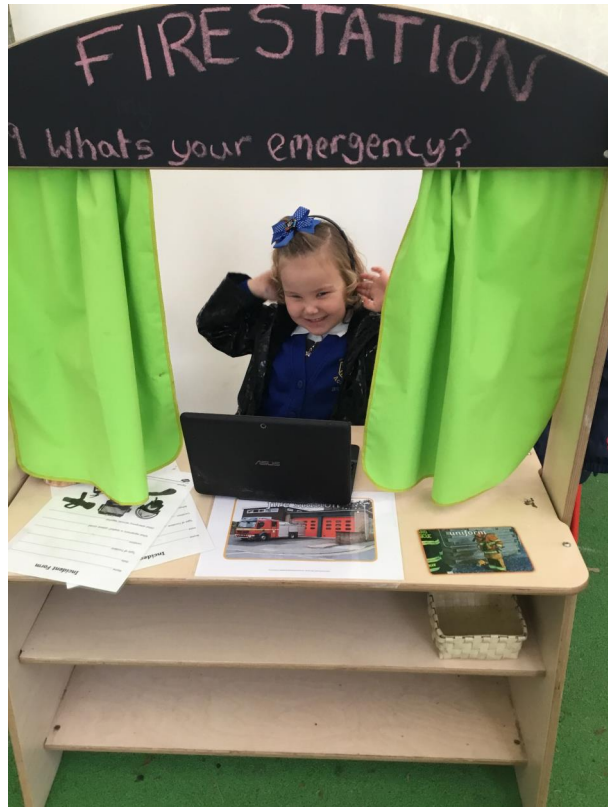
We are on Phase 3 phonics this term with lots of sounds and new common exception words coming our way. Ask your child what a digraph is at home! Keep encouraging home reading so your child can apply their phonics knowledge in their weekly phonics book.

In Maths, we have been exploring one more with loose parts and number lines. Maths is everywhere and the children are amazing at challenging themselves with counting and checking how many they have.

All the nativity characters have been chosen and shared with you on Tapestry last week. Please come and see a member of the team if you have any questions. We have already started singing practice together and can't wait to perform for you all in December.

We hope everyone has a fabulous weekend!











KS1



Year 1

Year 1 have loved using the tablets to become digital artists! We looked at some famous work by Mark Rothko and then tried to recreate it. We loved seeing how we could change

the brush type, colour and thickness on the app to change how our art looked. We can't wait to look at other artists.

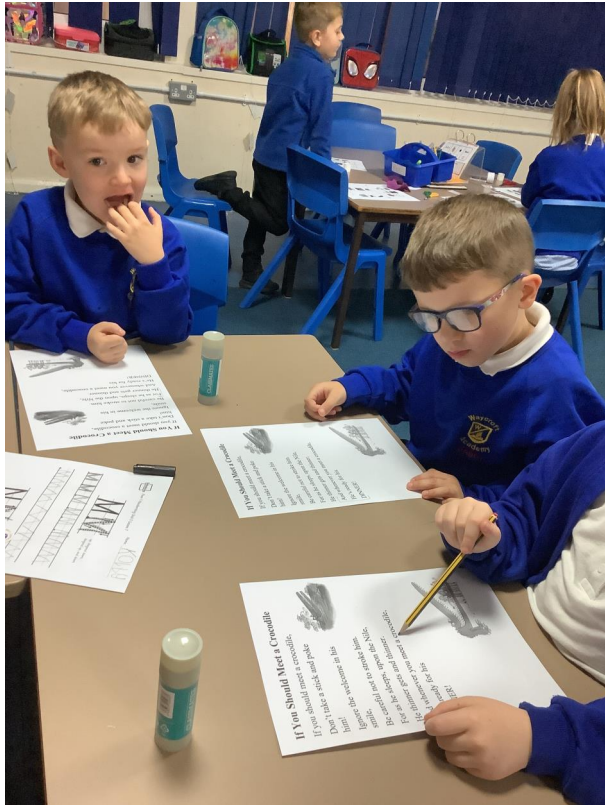
We also performed poetry together in groups thinking about rhymes and actions that we could do to help us remember the words. We took tips from Michael Rosen on how to perform using a loud voice that impresses the audience.

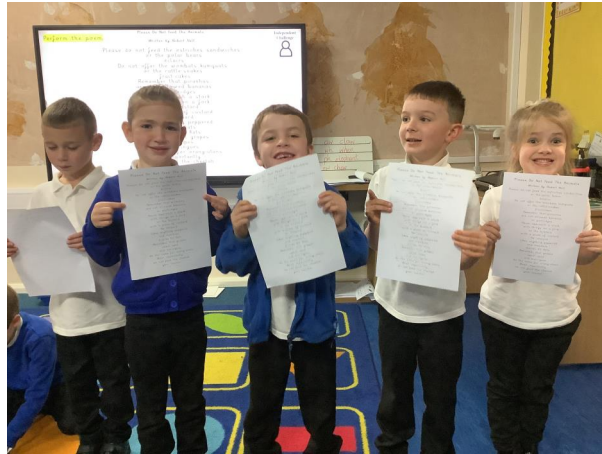
Year 2

Year 2 have been enjoying learning new gymnastic skills this week. They have been busy practising rolling skills.









LKS2



Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful time last Friday sharing their love of reading with their parents. In history, they have been learning about Tudor diseases and medicine. Who knew that the Tudors thought that wearing the hide of a donkey would cure you of gout? In DT, they have been thinking about what makes structures stable and will eventually make a free-standing picture frame. In English, they have been learning how to perform a poem in front of an audience. Miss Bowen and Mr Whitlock were impressed by everyone's willingness to perform in front of the class!

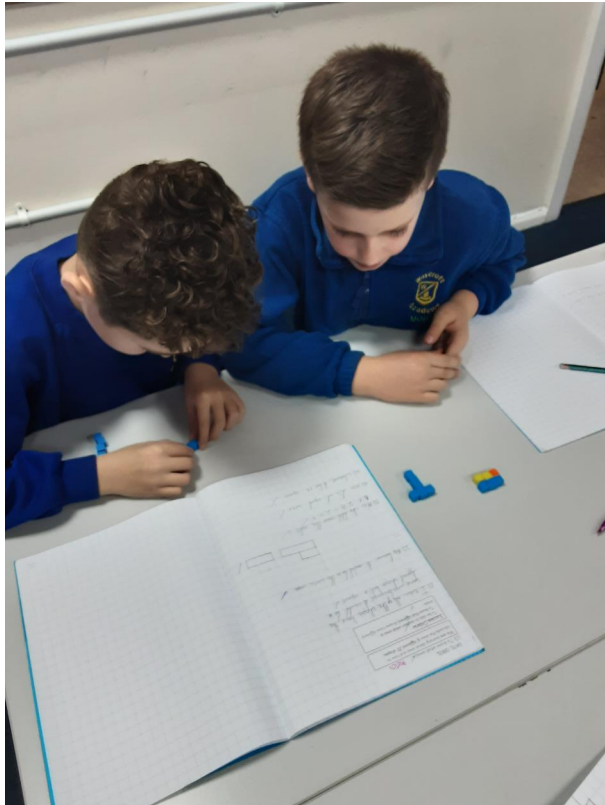
Year 4

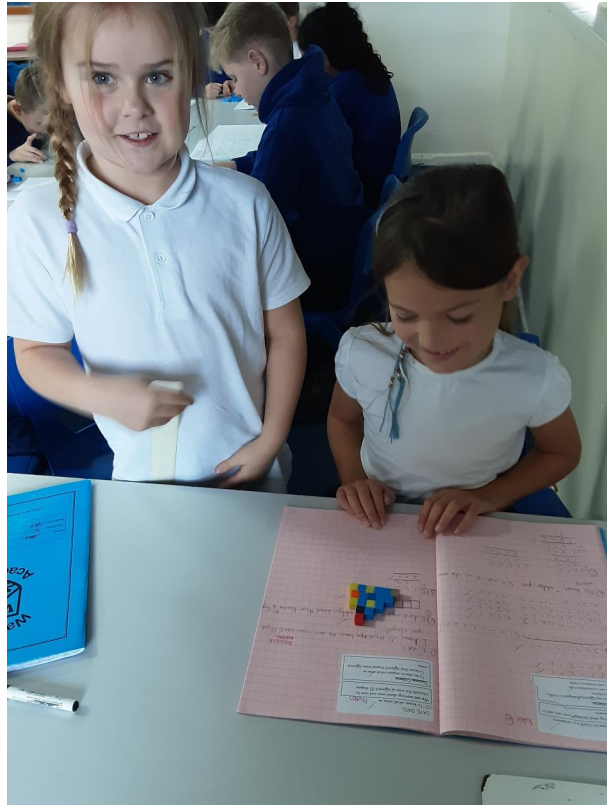
Year 4 have been working really hard. They have been writing informal persuasive letters as if they are Little Red Riding Hood, trying to convince their mum NOT to send them through the deep, dark woods to Granny's house! Year 4 have also worked hard at the beginning of our new area topic in maths, learning how to count the squares inside a shape.











UKS2



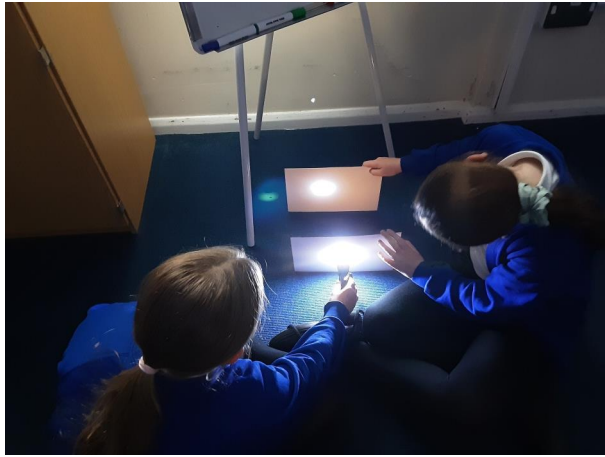
Year 5

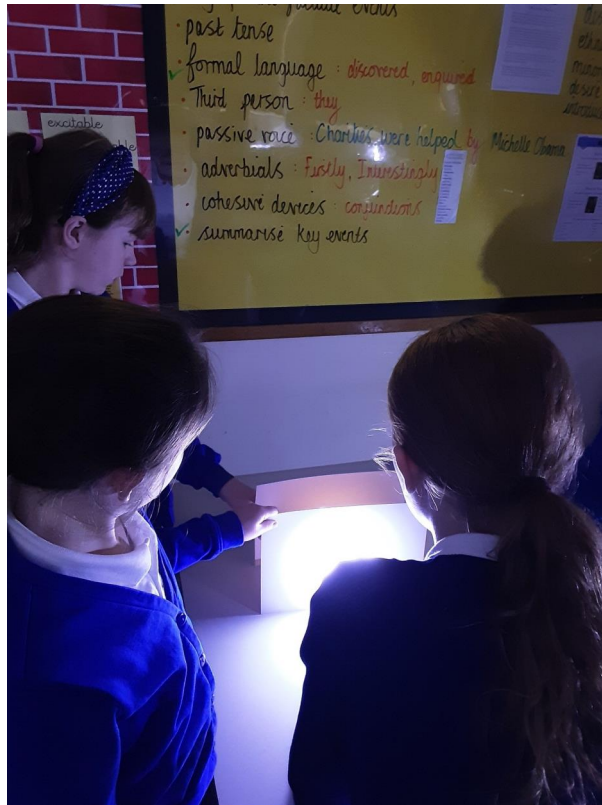
What a fantastic first two weeks back, the Y5 children have settled into their learning well. For the past two weeks, the children have been diving into the world of persuasive writing, so parents, get ready for some lively discussions at home. The children have been busy writing letters to the government, urging them to take action against plastic pollution. In Science, we've been having fun with Newton-metres as we explore different forces. Meanwhile, our History lessons have transported us back to ancient Rome, where we've been uncovering what life was like for the Romans. It's been an exciting start to the term!

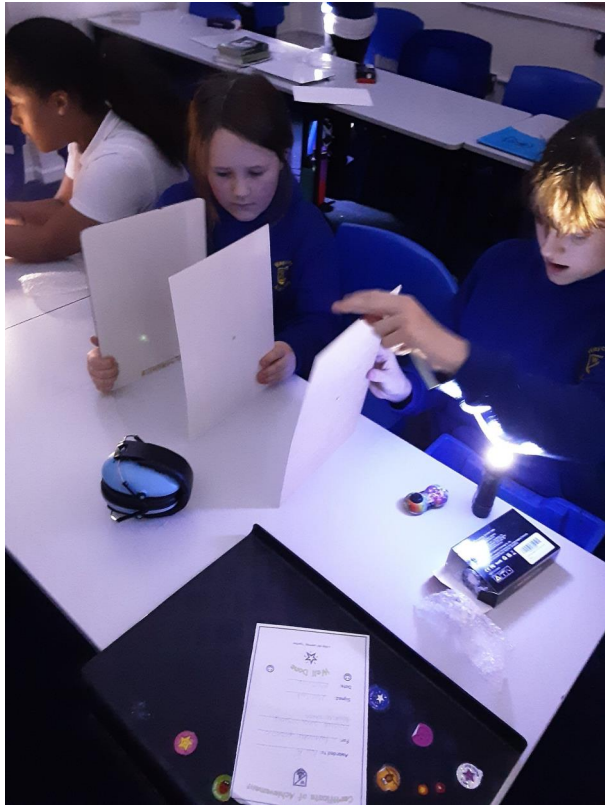
Year 6

The year 6 children have had a brilliant few weeks back after half term. In English, we are writing biographies based on the inspiring Simone Biles, focusing on the use of the passive voice and making our cohesive by using a range of adverbials. In maths, we have started our unit on fractions where they've been using their times table skills to find the lowest common denominator for adding, subtracting and ordering fractions – and they're doing so well! For art the children have started to look into the collages and the works Kurt Schwitters, while in Geography, both classes have been putting their map skills to the test by locating places on OS maps using 4 and 6 figure grid references. Finally, in Science, we've started our new unit on light, where the children carried out an investigation to prove that light travels in a straight line.

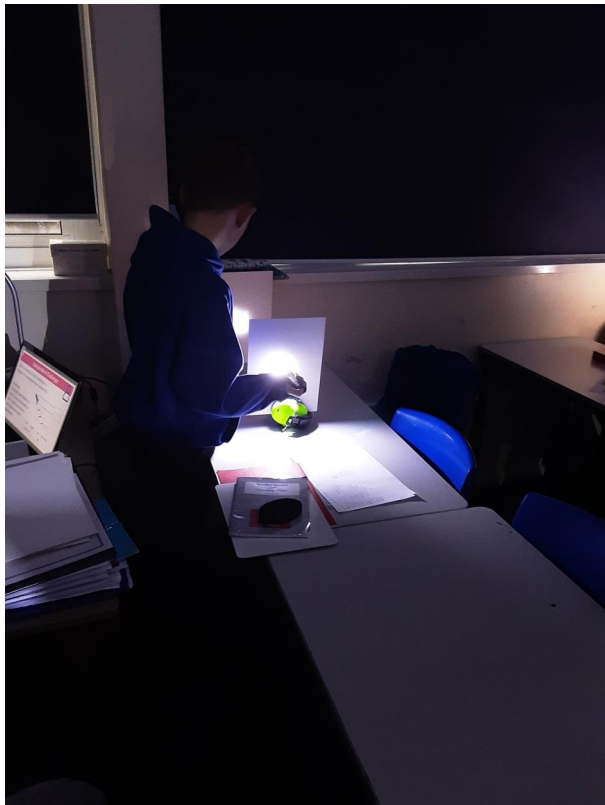




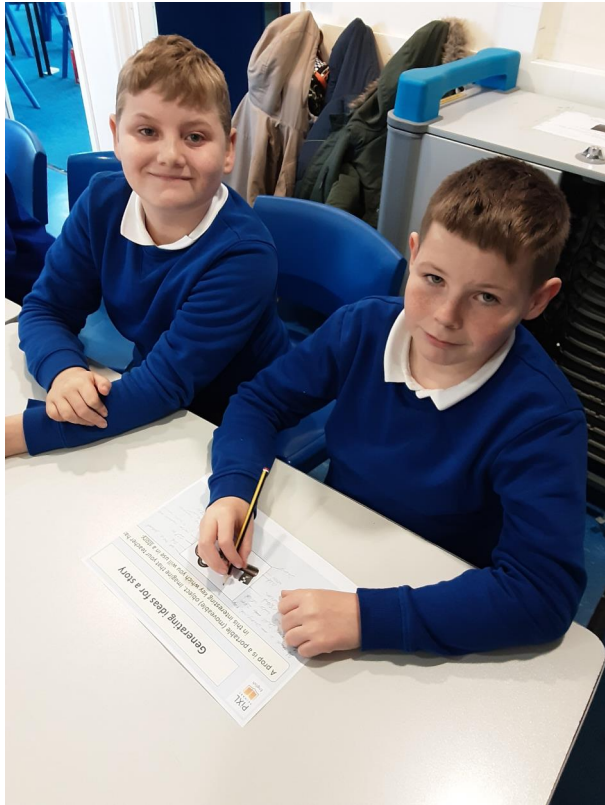
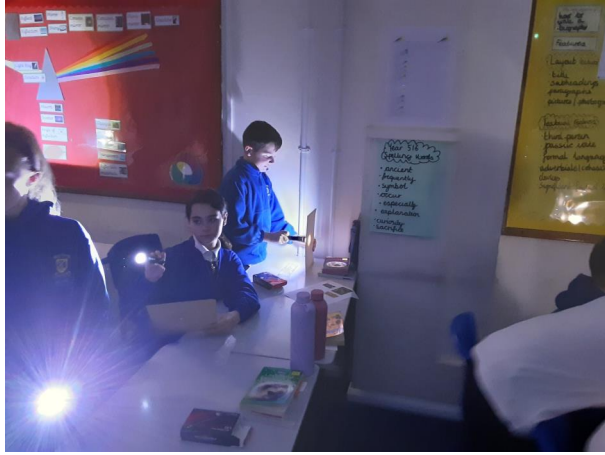


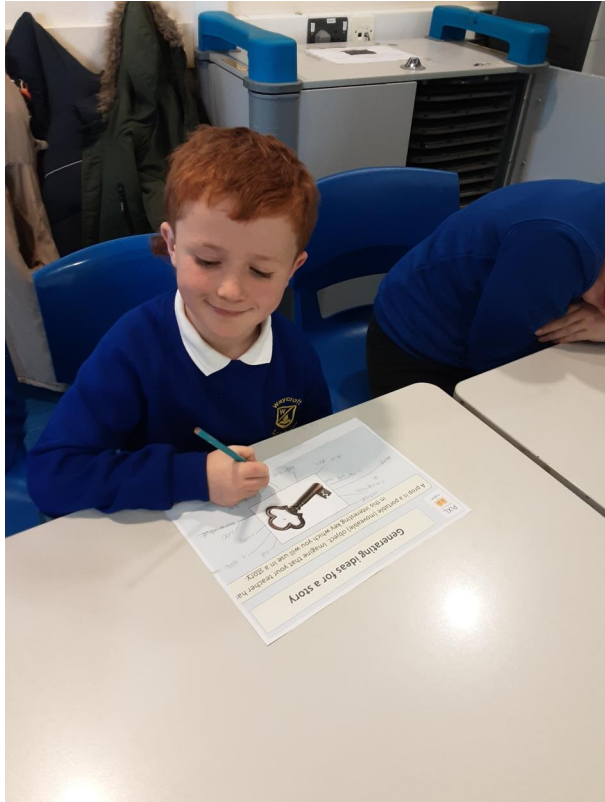














Christmas Dinner



FOOD FESTIVAL
of Ansonia

FESTIVE FUN

Wednesday 18th December

Roast Turkey Breast and Stuffing
OR
Cheesy Cauliflower & Leek Puff Pastry Wreath 

WITH

Roasties, Vegetable Medley, Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding

AND

Snowy White Chocolate Blondie
OR
Mince Pie Crumble Bar



1 - Please ensure you have booked this by Friday 29th November. There will not be the option to choose this afterwards or have a jacket potato on the day so you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch instead.

Celebration Assembly



Well done to all the children who received a certificate in assembly this week. Our house captains did a good job of reading certificates for Years 5 and 6 and all children who came out said a clear 'thank you'.





Save the Dates for terms 1 and 2

Save the Date

Monday 9th December at 2.30pm-3pm - **Mary-Rose Nursery** songs around the **Christmas Tree**

Wednesday 11th December at 1.30pm-2pm - **Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance**

Wednesday 11th December at 2.30pm-3pm - **Mary-Rose Nursery songs around the Christmas Tree**

Thursday 12th December at 1.30-2pm - **Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance**

Thursday 12th December at 2.30pm-3pm - **Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance**

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

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

Monday 16th December at 9.15am-9.45am - **Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance**

Monday 16th December at 2.15pm-2.45pm - **Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance**

Tuesday 17th December at 9.15am-9.45pm - **Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance**

Wednesday 18th December at 9.15am-9.45am - **Reception Nativity**

Wednesday 18th December - **Christmas dinner day (This must be prebooked otherwise children will need a packed lunch)**

Wednesday 18th December at 2.30pm-3pm - **Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance**

Thursday 19th December at 9.15am-9.45pm - **Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance**

Thursday 19th December at 1.15pm-1.45pm - **Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance**

Thursday 19th December at 2.15pm-2.45pm - **Reception Nativity**

Inset Dates 2024/2025

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

Anti-bullying week



To mark this year's anti-bullying week, we have the following FREE webinar sessions available to all primary parents/carers which you are most welcome to cascade amongst your school community.

Unique Voice Anti-Bullying Parent / Carer Session

Wednesday 20th November

1.30 - 2pm or 4-4.30pm

In this workshop the Unique Voice facilitators will explore the following with parents/carers;

- Support in understanding the risks of bullying situations and identifying signs and symptoms.
- Empower you to build upon your role as your child's trusted adult.
- Give practical and creative tools you need to recognise, report and resolve bullying situations. [To attend the event please register FREE here.](#) (All registered attendees will be sent a Zoom link closer to the time)

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at <https://waycroftacademy.clf.uk/>