

WHADDON NEWS

Autumn Term 2 2021

Merry Christmas everyone!!!

Wow, what an end to the term. A huge thankyou to everyone for helping to minimise the spread of the dreaded Covid virus. On the last day of term, we were down to 25 children, 3 members of teaching staff, one office staff member and a partridge in a pear tree!

If you are one of the unlucky ones who are poorly, please take care and we wish you a speedy recovery. Let's hope next year is a healthier one for us all!

Staffing

As we end 2021 and move to 2022, we say a sad goodbye and good luck to staff who are leaving: Mrs Kajal Wright, Mrs Claire Darnley and Miss Sarah Worsley move on to new careers in January. We will miss them very much and hope they come back and see us soon.

Mrs Lucy Gyau-Awuah has now been at Whaddon CE School for 10 years. Lucy is a vital member of the team and much valued, and loved by all. Thank you Lucy for your hard work and dedication during these 10 years. Here's to the next 10!

We welcome two new teaching assistants in January: Mrs Laura Wheeler and Ms Becca Abery will be joining us and are excited to begin supporting the children and becoming a part of school life.

We are also fortunate to have a trainee teacher for the spring term. She is an experienced PGCE student from Oxford Brookes university and she will be working with Mrs Helen Simpson for the term, who will be her mentor. We will introduce you to her properly when she begins.

FOWS

We are so grateful to our amazing Friends of Whaddon School! They have helped us to ensure, despite the nationwide current situation, that our children still manage to have a lovely Christmas experience this term. Thank you very much, to each and every one of you!

The Lost Sheep (plural)

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 did an absolutely outstanding job of performing 'The Lost Sheep (Plural)' to their adults last week. They had been working incredibly hard over the previous three weeks: learning lines, acting, singing, sitting still when needed and showing endurance to ensure they became better, and better, and better as the weeks went on. The Year 2 children had missed Nativity last year, but took everything in their stride as fantastic narrators, sheep and shepherds (they all had a **lot** of lines to learn). The Year 1 and Reception children had never performed a nativity at school before but were equally fantastic with their singing and acting.

It was lovely to have parents in the hall again for the performance. The children were clearly so proud of themselves and will remember their nativity for many years to come.



The Cake Sale



What a bake sale!

The grand total of money raised for Children in Need was £213.40

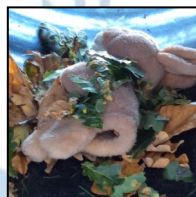
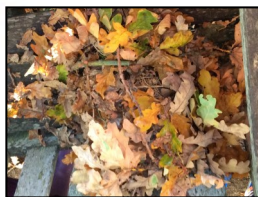
Both the wear bright and cake sale managed over £100 each so amazing support from everyone. And a very delicious way to end the term.

Forest School



Creating animal homes.

As part of our Percy the Park Keeper mantle, Hedgehog class had the challenge of rehoming some animals. Thanks to the great storm that tore through the park, the children found themselves with some injured hedgehogs, squirrels, rabbits and foxes to care for. Once they had recovered, the animals needed rehoming. The children learnt about the different homes the animals lived in and went out onto the field to create them some new homes. Can you spot the animals in their warrens, dreys, nests and dens?



Y2/3/4 LOtC sessions

This term the children have been studying what plants need to survive. This took our learning outside to look at healthy plants. Squirrels identified the fact that the soil was moist and contained nutrients. They also considered how a plants exposure to sunlight and the impact of the temperature of their environment were important. To understand how plants absorbed water from the soil, Squirrels simulated how plants absorb water from the ground by experimenting outside using a bowl of water, sponges (roots), syringes (stem), and towelling material (leaves).



Mantle of the Expert

Percy's Park Keepers finish their work.

After several weeks of helping Percy the Park Keepers, the Hedgehog team's work is done. They have done an excellent job of learning about and caring for the mammals, birds and amphibians of the park and recently managed to catch a gruffalo that was roaming free. It took a lot of planning to do this: making traps, laying them in the park with mice to tempt the gruffalo, and waiting patiently for their plan to work. However, eventually the gruffalo was caught and the park keepers had to decide what to do with it. They voted to allow it to stay in the park, on the condition that it would stop eating all the mice. They made it a cosy cave to live in. Our final episode saw the children becoming visitors to the park, using their cameras to take photos of the animals and therefore to create lots of memories of Percy's Park.

The Ancient Oak Tree.

In Squirrel Class this half-term the children became a team of Arboriculturists. They are passionate about an ancient oak tree and the animals that shared their habitats with it. Unfortunately, there was a terrible storm which affected the tree and its inhabitants greatly. Sadly, following the storm, the Mayor of the village declared the tree as a health and safety concern and has insisted the tree be cut down. The villagers (Squirrel class) were outraged by this and are doing everything in their powers to prevent it. Thanks to the research, care and consideration of the arboriculturists the tree may be saved and the animals may survive. There are particular concerns for Scaredy Squirrel who is currently stuck at the top of an unsafe tree with no food. Thankfully the Squirrels managed to design a pulley system, to hoist fresh acorns up to Scaredy Squirrel. The story will continue in November.

Roman Legionaries.

We finished ensuring the Roman Legion and Celts were reconciled and then Badger class have been working hard on preparing for their first Readings and Christingle service. This has been achieved by practicing their spoken parts, playing an accompaniment to Silent Night and thinking about stage directions and how to move on a stage! A lot of time was spent designing, creating, decorating and evaluating prototype Advent statues for the stable scene, sadly they didn't make it to the finished production. We are looking forward to a new Mantle in January where we will need our science heads on!

First Aid Workshop

Year 3 and 4 took part in a First Aid Workshop where they learnt key skills to help them recognise and know how to deal with an emergency. The children learnt how to put someone into the recovery position and had a go at CPR on a model. "It was I



nteresting" said one Year 4. "It will help us to know what to do in an emergency" said another. The children also identified signs to help them recognise low blood sugar symptoms in a diabetic person.



Writers of the Week

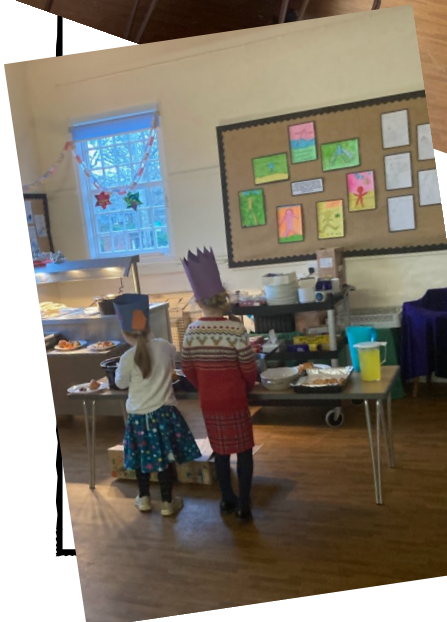
This term we introduced a 'Writer of the Week' award for Year 1 upwards. To be awarded 'Writer of the Week' children need to produce an excellent piece of writing, put 100% effort into it and take care with their presentation. An award is presented per class. So far, our writers of the week have been...

Hedgehog Class: **Tori and Dhvani**

Squirrel Class: **Henry and Teddy**

Badger Class: **Indy and Isla**

Christmas Celebrations



Super Squirrels

Shout-Outs!

Arlo - for his interesting contributions in class.

Arrany - for always being a kind and smiley friend.

Beau - for learning a lot of new things.

Callie - for being a positive role model.

Elena - for her positive attitude to learning.

Given - for being a supportive class member.

Hattie - for great contributions during SPaG.

Henry - for always challenging himself.

Hope - for remembering to use her dictionary!

Izzy - for her super attitude to learning.

Jack - for super contributions to Mantle.

Nyah - for being a kind and thoughtful friend.

Olivia - for having a positive outlook.

Romily - for developing independence in maths.

Rene - for showing great endurance in learning.

Seb - for his interesting contributions in class.

Sienna - for showing great endurance in learning.

Taylor - for her great attitude to learning.

Teddy - for taking responsibility for his learning.

William E - for his super work building a hoist.

William W - for his super speedy maths facts.

News from the Hedgehog Burrow

Joshua has been doing some interesting pieces of writing.

Erica has done some wonderful drama as part of our Mantle of the Expert story.

Emily did an incredible job of being an angel, a donkey AND another donkey for our nativity!

Rupert has been a very good role model to others with his excellent manners, effort and behaviour

Ewan has been teaching other children about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores

Rosie has been learning to write independently.

Blake has been sharing a lot of interesting ideas during or Mantle of the Expert sessions.

Jemima can almost write her whole name without missing any letters!

Jacob has been incredibly enthusiastic about his reading

Karam has been doing a great job of doing his shoes and coat more independently

Beatrix always, always tries her best.

Sariah has been smiley and helpful around the classroom

Brilliant Badgers Shout Out

Well done to Archie who has shown excellent enthusiasm for our Mantle of the Expert work.

Indy has wowed me with her wonderful story writing which has a great sense of humour and style in it.

Archiejack has worked really hard on his reading and comprehension skills, fantastic!

Isla's enthusiasm for using her maths skills is brilliant and she is always happy to share her knowledge of times tables that she knows.

Henry has shown lots of willing and interest in our Mantle work too—he has created some fantastic story writing to go alongside it!

Well done Mercy on your great enquiry skills that have helped you with your fact finding in Mantle and writing about the Celts!

Elizabeth has been a brilliant learner in Maths and French, showing her skills at understanding the French number system! Bravo!

Thank you to all of the Badgers for continuing to check on me and make sure that I am safe and healthy!

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2021/2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021	Wednesday 1 September	Friday 22 October
	Monday 1 November	Friday 17 December
SPRING TERM 2022	Monday 3 January	Friday 18 February
	Monday 28 February	Friday 8 April
SUMMER TERM 2022	Monday 25 April	Friday 27 May
	Monday 6 June	Thursday 21 July

TERM TIME BANK

HOLIDAYS 2021/2022

Monday 3rd January 2022

Monday 2nd May 2022

INSET DAYS 2021/2022

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Monday 18th July 2022

Tuesday 19th July 2022

Wednesday 20th July 2022