



## Dates for next 2 weeks:

Date	Event	Who	Details
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming	Hedgehog	2.00pm @ Kings of Wessex
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting	All	The Swan 8.00pm
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church	All	St. Mary's Church 3.00-5.00pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kilve Residential – Parents Meeting	Owl class	5.00pm @ Wedmore School
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Swimming	Hedgehog	2.00pm @ Kings of Wessex
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Movie Night		3.30-5.00pm School Hall

Dear families

it's only the second week of term but I feel like we have achieved a lot already! The Inset days were packed, Governors joined as for some shared thinking about vision and values at Wedmore, subject leadership updates, discussions and agreements about homework expectations and meetings to look at the progress of children. A survey has been sent to you all asking about what information you would like and when is the best time to get together - if you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete this. I'm aware that many parents work and are unable to attend parent forums etc, we will be sharing the information after these sessions on the school website.

One of our shared priorities is to develop pupil voice - getting the children's perspective on things. With that in mind, each week, one of the children will share some "Good news" - anything they'd like to say about their experience at school. As always, if you have any questions or feedback, please either speak to me on the gate or email the office - we're keen to ensure parent voice forms part of our decision making process too.

### Good news

The playground markings are making a real difference. The PTA paid for this and we are really grateful. Before, we had to use two trees, a gutter pipe and a jumper as football goal posts but now we've got the markings on the playground. Now no one gets cold - on freezing days before we did rock, paper, scissors to decide who would take their jumper off. To make things even better, we would like to go on the field and in the forest more - my Robin class buddy would love that.

-Reuben

Best Wishes

Shelley Kent  
Headteacher

### Clubs this term

Recorder Club Mondays 3.30 – 4.15pm  
(Y2 – Y4)  
Hockey Club Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm  
(Y3 –Y4)  
Singing Thursdays 3.30 - 4.15pm  
(Y2 – Y4)  
Drum Club Friday 2.45 – 3.15pm  
(Y1 – Y4)

### Term Dates 2023/24

Term dates can be found [here](#)

### Absence Reporting

Please phone 01934 712643 (option 1) or email  
[office@wedmorefirstschool.org.uk](mailto:office@wedmorefirstschool.org.uk)  
before 9.15am  
(on each and every day of absence)

Wedmore First School Academy  
Blackford Road, Wedmore, Somerset BS28 4BS  
Main Office: 01934 712643  
Email: [office@wedmorefirstschool.org.uk](mailto:office@wedmorefirstschool.org.uk)

### A little nostalgia from schooldays past:

On the menu this term is a delicious dessert, which many of you may remember from your school days 'chocolate sponge and peppermint custard'. It has gone down a treat!



### School Communications Survey:

Thank you to those who have already completed the short online survey relation to the bulletin and parent forums. If you have not yet filled out the survey can we please encourage you to do so, the survey will close the end of school on Monday. Please click on the link <https://forms.office.com/e/yjHZRyMGHC>

### Year 4:

Please can we remind you to apply for a place for Year 5 for your children [click here](#) for information and application.

### PTA Committee:

Do you have duplicate or unwanted gifts from Christmas, or do you have a glut of chocolates, boxes of biscuits or wine that you can't find cupboard space for? The PTA are **collecting raffle prizes** for the upcoming quiz night on Saturday 3rd February! If you have anything that you would be willing to give, there is a **large box located by the door to the school office where donations can be left**. As ever, thank you so much for your support!

Want to know more about what the PTA is all about? Come along to our next meeting on Thursday 18th January at 8.00pm The Swan, for a glass of wine and an informal chat, and to agree what we will be fundraising for over the next term.

Can't come? Look out for regular updates in the school bulletin and our PTA social media pages, or speak to your Class Reps or PTA officers for more info!

**Fun Movie Night** – Friday 26th January. More details to follow next term.

**Quiz Night**- At Wedmore village hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February! Tickets can be purchased through your ParentPay account.

### Messy Church:

"Messy Church returns to St Mary's on Saturday 20th January 3 - 5pm: lots of craft tables, a bible story and songs followed by afternoon tea (any offers of a plate of something would be gratefully received). The theme is 'Noah and a New Start'"

All are welcome, under 12s must be accompanied by an adult."

### Free Open Day & Taster Session The Pauline Quirke Academy of Performing Arts:

This event is taking place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>, please see attached poster for further details.

### Burnham Book Festival:

Burnham Book Festival are running a **free writing competition** for short stories and poetry. There are cash prizes for all age groups and the best work will be published in an anthology. The closing date is **4 March**.

We received some really great entries from local children last year and were delighted to help them see their work in print. Please see poster and competition information sheet attached.

### School Calendar Events Dates:

Please [click here](#) to view our Calendar Event Dates for the school year.

### Pupil Premium:

Just a remind you that the school receives funding for free school meals and more. This helps eligible children reach their full potential both academically and socially. If you think you may be entitled to this, please visit the following link and complete an application.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>

### Vacancies:

Please note we have a vacancy for a part-time HLTA at Wedmore First School, follow the link below for more details.

<https://wessexlearningtrust.co.uk/vacancies/>

### How to stay safe online:

We recommend the following links for advice on how to help your children stay safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

### Safeguarding:

Please [click here](#) for regular updates on the SCC safeguarding website

### WLT Attendance Policy 2023-2024:

Please [Click here](#) to read WLT Attendance Policy 2023 – 2024

### This Week in . . .

#### Duck Class:

We have launched into our new topic 'our amazing world – what's in Wedmore', our first week has consisted of looking at our school and visiting each of the wonderful classes! Many of the children are looking forward to growing up and attending 'big' school! Reading buddies has been the highlight of a Friday with the fantastic Hedgehogs reading us lots of stories. We have also been mark making circles and lines on paper, shaving foam and gloop. Finally we have been talking about the number 1 and seeing if we can do 1 clap/jump/turn around and also find 1 of certain objects. A great start to the new year!



#### Robin Class:

This week in Robin Class we have been learning our new story of The Billy Goats Gruff, finding out who the characters are and making up actions to go along with the story. We have also been working our physical development, building obstacle courses and practising our throwing and catching.



### Deer Class:

Deer Class have had a fantastic week back after half term! We began this week with a magic porridge pot arriving in our classroom! The children got to try the porridge and give their opinions on how it tasted! The children were then very excited to find out that our new story is The Magic Porridge Pot. In science, we undertook an experiment to see how much blubber protects animals in the Arctic. The children were given ice and had to see how long they could hold their hand on it and they then repeated this with a lump of lard in a bag (representing the 'blubber') which they then place their hand in. They were amazed to find out how much longer they could keep their hand on the ice when it was covered in a layer of fat! Deer Class were excellent scientists!

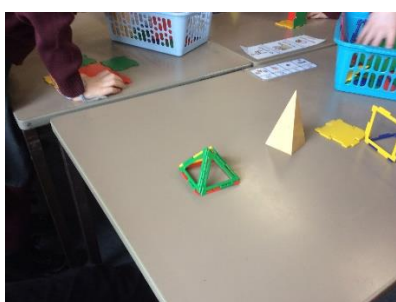
### Rabbit Class:

Rabbit class have had a full busy week. They're excited by our new topic 'castles, Knights and Dragons' and they have learnt so much already! please support your child by helping them explore this topic further. We've finally completed our Picasso style self portraits which will be on display for all to see in the main school. All children have been given their Numbots user names and passwords again for those who have mislaid them so that they can continue their maths skills and work through the different levels. In maths we have been learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.



### Fox Class:

This week in Fox class the children have been working hard in all areas of their learning! We have just started a unit on shape in maths, at the beginning we were looking at polygons and what made a shape a polygon, but now we are moving on to different types of 3D shapes. The children have been doing really well in being able to learn some of the 3D shape names. We have also started looking at why we have castles in History, and the children have been finding out all about the Normans from the Bayeux Tapestry. They've also been able to contribute some fantastic ideas and answer some questions about why they the Normans needed to build castles.



### Hedgehog:

Hedgehog class have had a great start to the week with the start of their swimming sessions. All the children did really well and are very excited about going again next week! We were also praised by several different adults about the behaviour and attitude of our class which is always lovely to hear. A special thank you to Catherine Smith (also known as Edith's mum) for being willing to come with us each week. Other than swimming, we have started learning about our new topic... The Ancient Greeks! So far we have done some time travelling, looked at how the past is organised on timelines and started learning all about myths in preparation for writing our own soon!

### Owl:

We have been learning all about the ancient Greeks in Owl class this week! We have been writing about mythical creatures for our writing topic and in history we have learnt who were the ancient Greeks? In maths we have been practicing our 7 times table, learning about the divisibility rules and square numbers. In science we have started our topic, states of matter and we discussed what solids, liquids and gases are. Great work Owls!

# MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



## Attendance: A top fact to know

### The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

1: The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK ([explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk))