

Dear Parents and Friends



As we prepare to close for the well-earned Christmas break at the end of this week, it is an excellent opportunity to reflect on a busy and action filled term which has been full of wonderful teaching, learning and enrichment opportunities. We are, as always, very grateful for your engagement and enthusiasm in supporting our school.

Christmas Festivities

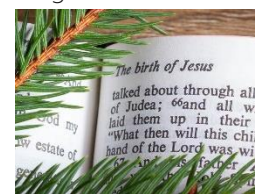
"Praise him, all His Angels praise him all His hosts" Psalm 148:2



Our children have shone brightly as they have shared the Christmas Story this year. Once again, we have filmed some very special Christmas story videos in Reception and Preschool. Reception had a messy church Christmas session in school on Monday, it was lovely that they were able to recycle, reuse and repurpose to celebrate the Christmas message in a sustainable way. Year 1 and Year 2 shared their Nativity in school with parents and grandparents last week – the story of The Sleepy Shepherd reminded us all of the importance of not forgetting what Christmas is truly all about. Key Stage 2 will share their Christmas Service at church on Thursday. We have carolled with the Wybunbury community at Carols around the tower – it was lovely to see so many people come out for the event. The children are really looking forward to a Christmas filled day on Wednesday with jumpers, panto and Christmas dinner! Friday we will finish with a party day!

In amongst all this Christmas celebration, it is important we remember the true meaning of Christmas – Christmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born.

His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child. Jesus Is the Reason for the Season! Rejoice!



We wish everyone a wonderful family Christmas sharing the Love, Hope, Peace and Joy of the Gift of Jesus Christ, the son of God and the Light of the World – the true gift of Christmas

Class worship It has been lovely to welcome parents and carers to class workshops across this term. Each class has focused on being one of the Fruits of the Spirit.

Reverend Alison is continuing to visit every fortnight and leads our worship.

Christmas Services 2023 at St. Chad's

Thursday 21st December: Carol Service at 7pm

Christmas Eve, 24th December : Crib Service, at 4pm.

Christmas Day, 24th December: Holy Communion at 11.30pm



Staffing Update:

We are all very sad that this week is Mr Dale's last at Wybunbury Delves. We wish him all the very best as he moves to a new role at a new school. He will be missed by staff, children and their families. We thank Mr Dale for all his hard work and dedication to our school over the past 7 years, we have been blessed to share this time with him. Mr Dale knows he will always be a part of our WD family – he takes away our sincere thank yous and best wishes!

As Mr Dale moves on, we welcome to our teaching team Miss Willis. She is working at one of the other CDAT schools at the moment and has been in to visit over the past few weeks. We look forward to welcoming her to our family properly in January.

We have welcomed Mrs Young to our TA team in the past few weeks, she is working in our Year 1 class.

Our Midday team has expanded over this past term – Brittany Townsend and Cherry Fong have joined our team.

Mrs Whittingham is training with us as a teacher apprentice. Next half term she will need to complete a short placement at another school as part of her training, we wish her all the best.

Our staffing structure from January is below:

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Senior Leadership Team 23-24					
Head Teacher	Mrs Chesters	Deputy Head	Miss McCurrie	Assistant Head	Mrs Burns
DSL	Miss McCurrie	SENDco	Miss Welch	SBM	Mrs Hughes
Early Years	Mrs Ward	Lower School	Miss McCurrie	Upper School	Mrs Burns
Preschool Supervisor	Helen Bracegirdle	Site Manager	Mr P Carter	OOSC Manager	Clare Cliffe
Teaching Staffing Structure 23-24					
	Teacher		Teaching Assistant		
Preschool	Helen Bracegirdle (Supervisor) Anna Lloyd (Deputy Supervisor) Kim Williams (Keyworker) Meg Critchley (Lunch cover)				
Reception	Mrs L Ward		Mrs F Wainwright		
Year 1	Miss A Willis		Miss N Holland; Mrs Young (SEN support); Mrs L Cross		
Year 2	Miss L Haynes		Mrs J Van-Russelt; Miss N Wilson (SEN support)		
Year 3	Miss N McCurrie + Mrs Pointon		Mrs J Parker		
Year 4	Miss A Welch + Mrs R Pointon		Miss M Roux		
Year 5	Miss L Pennance		Miss H Dunn		
Year 6	Mrs J Burns + Mrs S Whittingham		Mrs C Cliffe Miss M Critchley		
Support Staffing Structure 23-24					
	Lead Staff	Staff			
Admin	Mrs K Hughes (SBM)	Mrs A Lawlor; Miss J Beresford;			
Premises	Mr P Carter	Staff from Crystal Clean			
OOSC	Mrs C Cliffe	Miss M Roux; Miss D Moulson; Mrs L Cross; Mrs V Tomkinson; Mrs A Lloyd;			
Midday	Mrs C Cliffe; Mrs D Moulson; Mrs V Tomkinson; Miss B Townsend; Mrs C Fong				
PPA	Mrs S Whittingham; Miss N Holland				
Supply	Agency				
Forest School	Mr A Hadfield (Headintothewild)				

PTA A huge THANK YOU to our PTA for all their hard work this half term. The Christmas Fair was a lovely night, it was so lovely to see so many of our families supporting. A big thank to Santa and his Elf for joining us too! These events take a dedicated team of volunteers to both organise, run and tidy away afterwards! We all send a huge thank you to everyone who is involved in the PTA, both committee members and their volunteers! Please consider helping them in the future! They meet monthly, watch out for information in the new year.

EasyFundRaising – we are signed up to benefit from Easyfundraising .org.uk Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Wybunbury Delves Primary with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 4,400 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wybunburydelves/?invite=452OSO%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt
Thank you to everyone who is thinking about us when you are doing your Christmas Online Shopping! I am receiving daily emails at the moment telling me the contributions made.

Operation Christmas Child A huge thank you to everyone who has brought a shoe box into school for Operation Christmas Child, your gifts have been collected and are now on their way to bring Christmas Joy to a child somewhere in the world. We have acted as a local collection point this year and there were over 50 shoeboxes in total collected, plus monetary donations and some spare gifts to fill up other shoeboxes at the distribution centre.

Reception Place 2024 Applications

The deadline for applications for Reception 2024 is now fast approaching, January 15th. We welcome visits and enquiries from prospective parents. If you know families with children due to start school next September, please encourage them to come and visit to find out what a special place Wybunbury Delves is! We have a brilliant new virtual tour – a huge thank you to James Du Pavey Independent Estate Agents for organising this for us. It gives you the brilliant opportunity to walk through school: <https://www.wybunburydelves.co.uk/our-school/virtual-tour.html>

Preschool Vacancies

Our preschool can take children in the term before they turn 3. We take admissions into the setting in September, January and April. Sessions for the spring term have been agreed with parents and we are now taking prospective bookings for the summer term and 2024/25 entry. For more details please contact the office.

Our Governors

A big thank you to our Local Governing Board. Our Team of governors meet every half term to help ensure our children are getting the very best. It is a voluntary role but it is very much appreciated by school and the Trust that this team give the time to the role and want to be involved in our school. Thank you! We currently have one vacancy for a foundation governor, if you are interested – please contact the office for further information and the relevant forms.

School Dinner Costs

We notified you earlier this half term that from 1st January the cost of school meals is rising to £2.75 a day – whilst none of us like a rise in price, I am sure you can understand that catering costs have risen and there have been no price rises in the last few years.

School Payments

We thank families for keeping on top of any monies owed to school through using ParentPay.

Our extended school services are run as businesses outside of the school budget. They have to meet their running costs and any profit is used to enhance the services and school resources. We have to monitor non-payment of services and take action if outstanding payments reach a threshold. This will be defined as:

- £25 per child for school dinners debt *or*
- £75 per child for OOSC *or*
- Preschool invoice not paid within 4 weeks *or*
- Total debts to school services (Dinners/OOSC/Preschool) exceed £100 per child

Once the threshold has been reached, school will contact you regarding the outstanding payment. Non-payment towards services used could lead to the use of them being withdrawn for your child.

Please can you check your ParentPay accounts and settle any outstanding Autumn term payments in readiness for the new term. Thank you.

OOSC

Please ensure you have made your bookings, or confirmed your bookings are to continue with Clare for Spring term before/after school club sessions! All bookings for OOSC should be made through their email address, oosc@wybunburydelves.co.uk directly to Clare please. There is a limit on places at OOSC due to the size of the room. Thank you for all the positive comments about our Out of School Club provision and changes this term.

Income related free school meals (IRFSM)

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

We suggest you do make a claim for free school meals even if your child is in key stage 1 as the school can claim additional funding (pupil premium) for new equipment and resources. It would also allow you access to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme currently in place in Cheshire East.

You can apply for nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or an Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school – this includes us at Wybunbury Delves.

Phone 0300 123 5012 for further information and help.

Holidays Activities and Food Programme 2023 is available for children on the income related free school meal list. Food voucher codes have been emailed out last week and if families would like to find activity sessions over the Christmas break, more information can be found here: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf.aspx>

Attendance: It is expected that your child is in school every day and our attendance target is 97%. Well done to all of you who have managed 100% attendance this half term!

Reception 96% Year 1 94% Year 2 98% Year 3 97% Year 4 96%
Year 5 95% Year 6 95%

Well done to **Year 2 who are our top attenders this half term!**

Attendance Matters – it has been big news in the media. School have to monitor attendance and will send out emails to those children who fall below 90% – this is ‘attendance of concern’; below 85% is ‘serious concerns’. Everyone who meets this threshold is discussed with Cheshire East termly. Without a good medical reason or documentation, children who fall into this category will not have absence for illness authorised. School attendance of 90-95% still means a significant amount of school is missing and needs to improve.

We ask that medical appointments are, as far as possible, made outside of school hours. If they cannot be arranged at this time, please provide school with a copy of the medical appointment letter for our records. If you take a sibling out of school to attend their brother/sister’s appointment, this is an unauthorised absence as the appointment does not relate to them and should only happen if you genuinely have no alternative. Sometimes when your child is ill it is difficult to decide whether or not to send your child into school, especially in the current times, the NHS have produce this useful guide:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?tabname=self-help-tips>

Fixed Penalty Notices apply to all types of unauthorised absence, not just those accrued through holidays in term time. Holidays within term time cannot be authorised by school.

If 10 or more unauthorised absences (1 absence = ½ day) are accrued over two consecutive terms then school will consult the LA on the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The cost of which is £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days increasing to £120 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days if remains unpaid will be processed to Court for prosecution. These Fixed Penalty Notices have been introduced as part of the government’s drive to improve attendance. Please see our attendance policy on the website.

Please do not phone your child in as ill if you have gone away on holiday or out for the day – the children do tell us where they have been or are going to go! If this happens we will record the absence as unauthorised holiday.

Fixed penalty notices can be issued for unauthorised absences which are not holidays when the threshold of 10 sessions has been met.

Contact details It is vitally important we hold up to date contact information for you. We should have on record at least two emergency contacts who can attend school to collect your child. New addresses, phone numbers and email addresses need to be emailed to the office so that our systems can be updated.

Thank You

I would like to thank the whole Wybunbury Delves Team. Our team has so many faces: our site manager and cleaners; our middays and kitchen staff; our admin; the governors; Out of School club; Our Preschool team; the teaching staff and our TAs. Their hard work, enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to go the extra mile makes Wybunbury a special place to be. As we bring the term to a close, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school and our team.

On behalf of everyone at Wybunbury Delves, I would like to wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to seeing all the children in school on **Monday 8th January 2024!**

Kind regards

Mrs Chesters and the Wybunbury Delves Team



Term Dates for 2023-2024 *These holiday dates are in line with Cheshire East School Holiday dates.*

Holiday Period	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Christmas 2023/2024	Friday 22nd December 2023	Monday 8th January 2024
Spring Half Term 2024	Thursday 15th February 2024	Monday 26th February 2024
Easter 2024	Thursday 28th March 2024	Monday 15th April 2024
May Day 2024	Friday 3rd May 2024	Tuesday 7th May 2024
Summer Half Term 2024	Thursday 23rd May 2024	Monday 3rd June 2024
Summer 2024	Friday 19th July 2024	

INSET DAYS (Included):

- Friday 16th February
- Friday 24th May
- Monday 22nd July
- Tuesday 23rd July

Term Dates for 2024-2025 *These holiday dates are in line with Cheshire East School Holiday dates.*

Holiday Period	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Summer 2024	Friday 19th July 2024	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Autumn Half Term 2024	Friday 25th October 2024	Monday 4th November 2024
Christmas 2024/2025	Friday 20th December 2024	Monday 6th January 2025
Spring Half Term 2025	Thursday 13th February 2025	Monday 24th February 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 4th April 2025	Monday 24th April 2025
May Day 2025	Friday 2nd May 2025	Tuesday 6th May 2025
Summer Half Term 2025	Friday 23rd May 2025	Monday 2nd June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday 18th July 2025	

INSET DAYS (Included):

- Monday 2nd September
- Friday 14th February
- Friday 17th July
- Monday 21st July
- Tuesday 22nd July