

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of another productive half term, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to our dedicated teachers, staff and governors; our wonderful children and their families; and everyone who makes Wybunbury Delves the very special place it is. This term has seen remarkable growth, resilience, and accomplishments within our school community. I'm delighted to share some highlights with you in this edition of our school newsletter.

School Highlights

The school website class pages give information about the curriculum in each class and our weekly newsfeed keeps you up to date with all that has gone on across a week in class – please follow us on Facebook and like our news – helps us to know it is being read and a job worth doing! These are just a few of the highlights from across this half term.



Reception New Starters: Our new Reception class have settled in well to school rhythms and routines. It is hard for both the child and parents in the first few weeks but they are already lapping up their learning, asking questions and developing great learning behaviours. They LOVE their Year 6 buddies! It is lovely to see them spending time together as Year 6 help them to settle into school life. We are looking forward to formally welcoming our Reception families to our school family at our New Starter Service next half term.

Harvest: 'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his Love endures forever' 1 Chronicles 16: 34 This year our Year 1 and Year 2 started our Harvest celebrations with Messy Church sessions – it was lovely to invite our families to join the craft activities as we focused on the goodness of the world and say our 'thank you!' KS2 led a beautiful service at church touching on the harvest of the lands and seas; how God has given us the seeds to make a difference as we ripen our 'Fruits of the Spirit' and also how the world needs caring for –



especially in light of Global Warming. The children spoke and sang beautifully. A huge thank you for all the food donations, these were given to Nantwich Foodbank to support local families in need. They are very appreciative of all they receive.



Apples – we have lots of apples on our trees and it would be a great shame to waste them, please help yourself to all you can take.

*Father, as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving, we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment. Please grow in us a harvest for the world. Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness. Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community. May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.
Amen.*





Class Worships: Year 5 and Year 6 have so far ended our Fridays with a class worship. Year 5 encouraged us to think about the metaphor of dressing in the clothes that God gives us – the fruits of the spirit. They then focused on 'joy' and shared some of the wonderful things that make us happy. Year 6 chose Peace as their focus. They shared a story called 'The Three Little Trees' and thought about how Jesus found peace during these times in his life. Year 6 then considered what peace means to them and how it

shows in our lives. We look forward to Year 1 to Year 4 sharing over the coming weeks – dates are on our calendar.

Year 3 gathered up their Roman shields and took a Roman pledge to join the army! They thoroughly enjoyed a Roman march around Chester, including the amphitheatre and a visit to the Grosvenor museum. This was a great visit which really brought alive their Roman learning!



Forest Schools has been enjoyed by Year 4 and Year 5 this half term. Through our outdoor learning not only have we developed our survival skills and personal skills such as leadership, compromise, resilience and teamwork; but we have also applied and enhanced our curriculum knowledge for science and our history topics. Next half term Year 3 and Year 2 move onto Forest school sessions – teachers will provide information about what is needed.

Parents Evening: Earlier in the half term we offered a pastoral parent/carer evening which was the opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in their new class and meet their teacher – it was lovely to see so many of you attending. Strong parent partnership is key to helping your child to be successful in school, not just academically but flourishing as a growing individual. This week we have offered SEN appointments to discuss individual SEN plans.



Wider Personal Development: There are many activities across the week/term which develop your child beyond their academic achievements. Mindful activities are about paying more attention to the present moment – to your own thoughts and feelings, the world around you. Some people call mindfulness, 'awareness'. Its aim is to understand ourselves better. PHSE worship and activities develop Personal, Health and Social

awareness; how we live well together to be respectful, develop positive relationships, stay safe and healthy. Visitors such as PC Nick and the Fire Service regularly visit school to develop importance messages such as Stranger Danger and Fire Safety. Our children across school have roles and responsibilities, e.g. cloakroom monitor; fundraiser; friendship squad which help our children to have responsibility, team work and leadership. Through Christian Values, we look at what it is to be a good person – to be kind, gentle, show forgiveness, demonstrate self-control, joy, goodness, peace and LOVE.

PTA – they are doing a brilliant job at supporting our school and coming up with great ideas to engage our community and raise our school some money. A huge thank you to the PTA officers, committee and the volunteers who support. They are always looking for volunteers to help with events! We are very much looking forward to the Christmas events. You can keep up to date with all they are doing by following their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wybunburydelvespta/>

Reception Place 2024 Applications: The deadline for applications for Reception 2024 is January 15th. We have set up a new page on our website: <https://www.wybunburydelves.co.uk/our-school/joining-our-wybunbury-delves-family.html> with information and links to our YouTube channel for a virtual tour. We have an open event after half term on Thursday 2nd November between 4 and 6pm for families new to school to book in and have a look around. We are blessed with a beautiful school and grounds, if you know of families with children due to start school, please encourage them to visit!



After School Clubs: We thank the teachers for giving up their time after school to run after school clubs. These half term clubs finish as we close for half term. Young Voices club on a Wednesday will continue after half term. Mr Pascoe's Sports after school club will be a new offering. Watch this space for any others coming out!

Staffing: This week we say goodbye to Gill Vickers – Gill has been a cleaner and midday at WD for many years, she is well loved and will be missed by our WD family. We wish Gill all the very best and say a HUGE thank you for all her commitment to our school. Enjoy your retirement! We have been busy recruiting for middays and are very pleased to say we have some new faces joining our team after half term.



We have moved sports coaching companies and have welcomed Mr Pascoe to our team – he is from Kick Sports Coaching and is with us all day on a Thursday. The children have made great relationships with him and are benefitting from his expertise.

Recruitment for our Year 1 teacher position is underway, a further update will follow once this process is complete.

Like many schools we are struggling to secure cover in the absence of staff, we will always try to cover internally to provide a familiar face for your child but there are times when supply cover is necessary and if we cannot secure cover our only option is to put children together with the staff we have.

Christmas Worships and Nativities: This year we are already planning for our Christmas celebrations. Preschool



and Reception will be sharing virtually. We are planning a Messy Church session for Reception on 18th December – times to follow. Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing a Nativity in the hall. Booking will be required and there will be a limit of 3 bookings per child across the 2 dates (not 3 per date) – this is due to our fire risk assessment and the numbers we can accommodate in the hall; there will be a booking limit applied to both sessions. Dates are on our calendar. Young children will be welcome on Friday session – they will need to be sat on carer's knees and taken out if they become restless (they do not need a booking). KS2 will lead a service at St. Chad's on Thursday 21st December 9.30am – this service can be very busy and we do have very limited room, we ask that you limit attendance to one adult per child. Christmas dinner is booked in our diary for 20th December, a menu and booking will come out nearer the time. Our Christmas party day will be the last day of term – Friday 22nd December.



School Dinners: After half term a new menu will be in place from Monday 6th November (the first week back will be the existing menu). Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive meals through the universal free school meals scheme. Meals for children in KS2 (Year3-6) cost £2.50 a day and these are added to your ParentPay account. Please keep on top of paying for meals. Free School Meals / Pupil Premium: If you qualify for Free School Meals (FSM), regardless of whether you are in Reception, KS1 or KS2, there are benefits to be had both to yourselves and to school. Even if you find yourselves in a temporary situation of low income and at that point meet the Free School Meal criteria, school receives Pupil Premium for the period of receiving FSM and for 6 years afterwards. It is completely confidential if you do qualify. School can use Pupil Premium towards visits/visitors/part payment towards residential visits. It is only available to those who qualify. Pupil Premium is used in school to further resources and staffing, it cannot be used to subsidise OOSC.

Cheshire East website has further information of this very simple process of applying for FSM. 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. 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.

Attendance: It is expected that your child is in school every day and our attendance target is 96%. Well done to all of you who have managed 100% attendance this half term!

Reception 98% Year 1 95% Year 2 99% Year 3 98% Year 4 97% Year 5 96% Year 6 96%

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



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 produced 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 it remains unpaid it will be progressed 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.

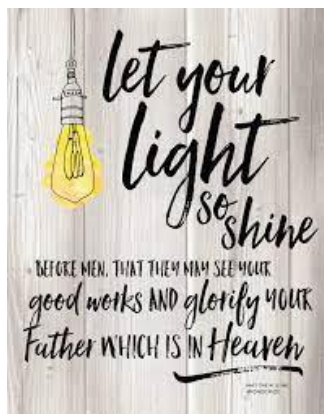
OOSC: Is extremely popular and busy this term – with some sessions at capacity. Clare manages booking, you can contact her via email: oosc@wybunburydelves.co.uk

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal - It's shoe-box time again!! Last year around 10.5 million boxes were delivered across the world to spread joy to children who live in the midst of war and extreme poverty - thank you everyone. Every single box filled puts a smile on a child's face and is probably the only gift they will receive. Here is a useful link which explains about the organisation, process, how to pack a shoe box and what to put in it. <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> Collection week for the boxes is the week beginning Monday 13th November so if you wish to participate it would be wonderful if you could start to put items together for your shoebox. We have shoe boxes available for a small donation if you would like one.





Poppy Appeal: Poppies, snap bands, wrist bands, zip pulls and button loops are available for purchase from now until Remembrance Day on behalf of the Royal British Legion. We suggest £1 for wrist/snap bands and a 50p donation for the zip pulls/button loop with a 20p minimum for a poppy. Thank you.



Easyfundraising. As the name suggests, this is easy to do! It costs you no additional money, but it does mean your online purchases can generate cash for school. Thank you to those of you who have been totting up the donations over time for us! Over 4,300 shops and sites (including Amazon and Booking.com) will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wyburnburydelves/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

Car parking: We have had several grumbles and complaints about the parking at school, both on the road and on the car park this week. Please park responsibly and use the car park – both parts (the original and the extension)! Please do not queue down the middle waiting for the extension to open, we are unable to open the gates earlier due to lessons taking place and we do not have the staff to supervise the car park. Please ensure you park wholly within a marked bay, not blocking the middle section. Whilst part of the road has no road markings, parking here is dangerous for our children and other road users – please use the car park. We take no responsibility for damage and accidents on our carpark. If you do damage another car, please leave your details.

Hand over times: Please ensure your child(ren) are with you at all times and you know where they are. We ask that you monitor their behaviour and respect for our grounds. The children are not allowed to climb on the playground bars, sit/stand on tables or climb the basketball posts during school time and we ask that you do not allow them to when they are in your care too. Balls and equipment inevitably get left out or the children know where it is! Again we ask that it isn't used at drop off/collection times – the playground is very busy and there are people and small children present who can easily get hurt by an unexpected ball coming their way. We ask that our outdoor equipment such as the Fort and Adventure Trail are not used at drop off and collection times.

School Holiday dates: These holiday dates are in line with Cheshire East School Holiday dates and may not be the same as other schools such as the high schools – if you have children in more than one school please check all holiday dates for each individual school, do not assume they will be the same.

Term Dates for 2023-2024

Holiday Period	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Summer 2023	Thursday 20th July 2023	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Autumn Half Term 2023	Friday 20th October 2023	Monday 30th October 2023
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):

- Monday 4th September; Friday 16th February; Friday 24th May; Monday 22nd July; Tuesday 23rd July

Term Dates for 2024-2025

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*
- *Monday 21st July*
- *Tuesday 22nd July*

Plus one further INSET day to accommodate a Trust wide INSET day

Please have a well-earned rest over half term and enjoy the family time together.

I would like to thank the whole school community, staff, children, governors, CDAT, parents, carers and families for their support this half term, Wybunbury Delves is an amazing community!

Enjoy half term!

Mrs Chesters and the Wybunbury Delves Team

