

Wray Common Primary School Newsletter



Inspiring Lifelong Learning

TIME TO SPARKLE AND SHINE ...

IN OUR HOUSE FACTOR FINALS!

This week saw the culmination of weeks of hard work, rehearsals and auditions, as our four Houses; Diamonds, Emeralds, Sapphires and Rubies took each other on in the battle to be crowned the House with the 'House Factor'! Having made it through the tough selection process, four acts from each House showcased their talents in front of the whole school, as well as the strict judging panel!

"Yesterday, houses competed to receive the house cup on Friday. The competition was fierce as the acts varied from singing, dancing, magic and hilarious jokes, however, there had to be a winner. The judges, Mrs Young and Mr Fensom, couldn't decide between two houses, so therefore for the first time in Wray Common history it was a draw between Emeralds and Sapphires. Well done to all participants; you did incredibly well and it looks as though we have lots of aspiring performers!" Phoebe B (Emeralds House Captain) and Phoebe J (Sapphires House Captain)

Huge congratulations to those houses and to all who took part in the competition, the whole school were treated to a fantastic afternoon's entertainment. Everyone was truly bowled over by the dazzling array of skill and genius on show - it is safe to say that Wray Common certainly does have the WOW factor!



REPTILE ENCOUNTERS!

Yesterday, Year 1 were treated to a visit by a number of friendly reptiles, as part of their learning on "The Enormous Crocodile". Cali the bearded dragon, Cosmo the corn snake, Sultana the African spirty tortoise, Nebil the blue tongue skink, Beatrice the dumeril boa and the extremely long (!) Houdini the Burmese python all came along to meet Year 1. Mr Savedra and Miss Williams were so proud of how every child either held or stroked each animal. Wow, what an experience Year 1! Unfortunately, the enormous crocodile himself was a little bit poorly, so couldn't come along but he will be paying Year 1 a visit in the Spring when he is feeling better. Year 1 can't wait to meet him and wish him a speedy recovery!



FESTIVE FUN AT THE FAYRE

The Christmas Fair raised a fantastic £2,000 - money which will be spent on our children. Thank you for all your support and to organiser, Sophie Swann and her team of volunteers who helped on the night. It has boosted our fundraising total to £8,000 for the academic year so far. With your continued support we'd love to reach our £20,000 target in 2020.

If you would like to hear about what events the Friends of Wray Common will be running next year and how you can get involved, the next Friends meeting will be on 15th January at 7:30 p.m. in the staff room.



GEOGRAPHY THE WRAY COMMON WAY!

At Wray Common, we are passionate about developing curious geographers who have a broad knowledge base to draw from and who are equipped with the investigative skills needed to find out more. We do this through interesting geographical studies. To ensure lessons are as practical and engaging as possible, we immerse children in topics which support their place and locational knowledge, a range of natural and physical features and develop their field work skills. Each year children revisit and enhance their learning, applying taught knowledge to new and engaging areas of the world. Mapping is embedded into our Geography curriculum with digital mapping, Digimaps software, used across the school. Progressive mapping skills are developed in all year groups. Children learn to interpret, create and use a range of maps.

Geography learning begins in Reception as part of 'Understanding the World'. Children are given the opportunity to explore resources through play. Role play 'enhancement boxes' encourage the children to take journeys and develop an understanding of geography specific language. Children explore their local school environment with seasonal walks to support their knowledge of growth and change.



In Years 1 and 2, the children are expected to develop a greater sense of their local environment, broadening their knowledge of place names and locations of the UK, Europe, Oceans and Continents. They develop an understanding of human and physical features and begin to explore how they interact with each other as well as beginning to compare and contrast using their geographical knowledge. Children learn to use Beebots to support their navigational skills.



During Years 3 and 4, the children learn a greater number of geography specific words, following topic led enquiries of a range of geographical features across the globe. Children create fact sheets about extreme weathers, developing independent research skills. They learn names of rivers, mountains and volcanoes and, intertwined with scientific investigations, explore how they are formed and erupt. Children learn how lives are similar and different around the globe. They further learn to appreciate how these can be celebrated. Children develop an understanding of climates, population and natural disasters.



In Years 5 and 6, the children further develop their knowledge of the world, its people and the interlinking relationship. The Year 5 residential trip focuses on their river studies and provides them with the opportunity to see each stage of a river. They enhance their fieldwork skills and are encouraged to seek their own learning investigation opportunities. Children further enhance their map making and interpretation skills using keys, a range of scales and views confidently.



At Wray Common, Geography is woven into our topic based approach to teaching. Children are given the opportunity to gain knowledge from a range of real and fictional visitors such as the Year 5 water talk with the local water company, 'explorers' and 'conservationists' in Reception and Key Stage 1 and messages from 'Tesco' who want to build on our school field in Key Stage 2. Each year a team take part in a geography quiz hosted by another school.



The children's knowledge of the world is seen as vital to supporting the growth of values within the school. Children are respectful of similarities and differences because they have an understanding of global issues and the locational knowledge to support their understanding. They recognise the importance of protecting their environment and make positive changes to the world around them such as the 'Eco-Market' and the development of an Eco-Council.



Our commitment to Geography and skill in embedding excellence and innovation throughout the school has been recognised by The Geography Association, who awarded our school the Primary Gold Award in September 2019.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Don't forget that our Christmas Lunch is next Thursday, so if your child normally has a packed lunch and you have signed them up for a Christmas dinner, there is no need to pack a lunch that day! Please note, however, that if you have not signed your child up for a Christmas dinner and they don't normally have a school dinner on a Thursday, there will not be a Christmas dinner available for them. Therefore, you must send them in with a home packed lunch. Thank you for your understanding.

SCHOOL DINNERS NEXT TERM

If your child will be having school dinners next year, the cost for the first half term will be £65.80. If payments could be made via Tucasi before the start of the next term it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

WHOLE SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

For any parents/carers who have kindly offered to help with the walk to and from St. Matthew's Church on Monday, please meet at Main Reception at 12:40 p.m. ready for a briefing from Mrs Shevel before going to the classrooms to help with the children. If you have any form of high visibility clothing (cycling jacket, vest, sash etc), please wear it for the walk. If you don't have any such clothing, please don't go out and buy anything new, we will lend you something from school. Thank you in advance for your help - we couldn't do it without you.

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

Please join us from 5:30 p.m. for minced pies and mulled wine before our 'Carols Round The Tree' concert on Monday evening, 16th Dec. 'Curtain up' time will be 6 p.m. with the Choir performing festive songs and carols, as well as poetry recitals and readings from pupils. All children participating in the concert are asked to wear Christmas jumpers, festive hats and/or hair accessories, with their school uniform underneath. If your child is performing in the concert, please make sure that you have completed and returned their permission slip. We look forward to seeing you there for a good, old, festive sing song!



SPREADING A LITTLE FESTIVE CHEER

Please be reminded that children in Year 4 (from the Choir) will be singing at Wray Common Residential and Nursing Home on Tuesday 17th December during school time. Children must wear their school uniform but are invited to bring in Christmas hair accessories or hats to wear for the visit and help spread a little Christmas joy.

2019 POPPY APPEAL

We are delighted to announce that Wray Common raised a massive £275.19 for this very deserving cause. Well done Wray Common citizens and thank you to the School Council for running this charity event.



SCHOOL REPORTS



School reports will be coming home on Wednesday 18th December. Included in your child's report will be their attendance figure. Please note that these figures were run on 25th November, therefore, some of the children's attendance figures may look particularly low at this point but as the year continues (subject to your child having no further absences) this figure will improve as the proportion of time they have been absent diminishes.

Should you wish to discuss your child's report, please arrange a time to meet with your child's teacher directly.

SCHOOL LED CLUBS

Now that clubs have been allocated for next term (you will have received e-mail confirmation of your child's place last week), please be reminded that permission slips and payment are required by Friday 20th December, in order to confirm your child's place. Without this, their place may be offered to another child. Thank you.

CALLING ALL DIY/ HANDY PEOPLE!

We are planning some alterations to classrooms and cloakrooms which we would ideally like to complete in the Christmas holidays. There is too much for Mr Fensom to do on his own so we wondered if there are any handy people/DIY enthusiasts who could give him a much needed hand - jobs such as boxing in areas under sinks, installing cupboards, removing worktops and shelving, general painting and decorating. We're happy to pay for your services - please contact Nick Fensom or Julie Newton if you are able to help us. Any help you can give would be very gratefully received.



FAREWELL, SO LONG!

After 7 years at Wray Common School, we are very sad to say that Mrs Palmer will be leaving us at Christmas, to go and work with her husband. During her time here, Mrs Palmer has worn many 'hats', from Office lady, to Lord Carnarvon, to Inga the Crocodile Expert, to Professor Tess the Paleontologist, to Performing Arts Teacher and much more in between! It is safe to say that Mrs Palmer will be sorely missed but we all wish her the very best, wearing her next 'hat' in her new role in the corporate world!



MUSIC PROVISION NEXT TERM



We will notify you of our plans for music provision and Choir in the New Year.



DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

Tues 17th Final Nasal Flu Immunisation





WE'RE COUNTING DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Day	Time	Notes
Mon 16 th Dec	a.m.	Reception & Year 1 Nativity Dress Rehearsals
	1:45 p.m.	Whole School Carol Service (children and staff only) at St Matthew's Church. The children will be walking down from 1:00p.m. This is for ALL children (unless we have your slip returned withdrawing your child for religious reasons—in which case those children remain at school for their own activity). Warm coats, hats and gloves please! As we are walking down, we would be most grateful for any parents/carers who could walk with us, to and from the church. (Please let the office know if you can help).
	6:00 p.m.	Family Carols Around the Tree - join us from 5:30 p.m. for mulled wine and mince pies before the concert at 6:00 p.m. Please park considerately and keep our local roads clear for emergency vehicles.
Tues 17 th Dec	9:20 a.m.	Reception Nativity Performance in the Large Hall <i>Coffee will be available before the performance</i>
	2:10 p.m.	Year 1 Nativity Performance in the Large Hall Children will return to class to change after their performance in time to go home at normal pick-up time. Please park considerately and keep our local roads clear for emergency vehicles.
	p.m.	Year 4 Choir members to sing at Wray Common Residential and Nursing Home (during school time - normal pick-up time from school)
Wed 18 th Dec	9:20 a.m.	Year 1 Nativity Performance in the Large Hall <i>Coffee will be available before the performance</i>
	2:15 p.m.	Reception Nativity Performance in the Large Hall Children will return to class to change after their performance in time to go home at normal pick-up time. Please park considerately and keep our local roads clear for emergency vehicles.
Thurs 19 th Dec	From 11:30	School Christmas Lunch—for those children who normally have a school hot meal and for those who have paid for this special Christmas lunch. The staff will join the children for lunch promoting a festive, family atmosphere!
Fri 20 th Dec	Doors open 12:40 p.m.	LAST DAY OF TERM Celebration Medals Assembly
	1:35 p.m.	End of Day for Reception, Year 1 and 2
	1:40 p.m.	End of Day for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6