

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our children in year 6 returned from their residential trip to Glasbury at the end of last week. It is great to have them back in school and to hear them talk with such enthusiasm about their experiences being away from home for the week. So many are proud of their achievements in overcoming a particular fear such as taking part in the caving expedition or simply being away from home. A huge thank you to Mrs Phillips for organising the residential visit and to Mrs Moran and Mrs Hambridge for giving up their time in order to accompany the children.

On Friday this week we will be having a non-uniform day, in exchange for a gift for our Christmas shopping day which will be held in the last week of term. Children should bring their gifts to their classrooms where they will be collected by members of the PTA.

A reminder from last week that Mrs White our computing co-ordinator has organised for you to attend a free online safety workshop which takes place today, joining details are below:

You are invited to attend a FREE Online Safety Webinar

Over the Christmas break children generally spend more time online and we'd like to help you keep them safe digitally by inviting you to an **Online Safety Webinar**.

Hosted by the online safety experts at Natterhub, this webinar is a great opportunity to pick up tips that you can easily apply at home.

Attendance is completely free, simply watch LIVE on YouTube using this link (no login required).

Tune in on **Thursday 1st December at 7pm** using the link <https://youtu.be/jyUj6zW55T8>

Best wishes Deborah Nind and The WF team

Our assembly theme for the month of December is Peace



Writer of the week – Poppy in Year 4

Mathematician of the week – Senay in Year 3

Reader of the week – Delcie in Year 3

School Value – The Children who went to Clip & Climb

BLP of the Week – Olivia in Year 6

Celebration of achievements

This week Charlotte, Milly & Ethan in Year 5 have been awarded their bronze merit arrows. Well done to them for successfully completing a range of activities to a high standard to be awarded their arrow badge.

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 75 nights of reading at home: Lilianna in Kingfishers. Chloe, Tilly, Osian & Freya in Nightingales. Tilly, Alfie, Oscar, Aiden & Oliver in Swallows. Arthur, Anelie, Georgia, Martha, Ben, Kieran, Harry & Joshua R in Kestrels. Zak & Annabel in Sky Larks. Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 50 nights of reading at home: Lucy, Rose & Daniel in Kingfishers. Niko & Isla in Nightingales. Everest in Swallows. Erin & Enid in Red Kites. Leah, Hollie & Toby V in Kestrels. Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 25 nights of reading at home: Dhyan in Nightingales. Jaxon in Swallows. Beatriz in Sky Larks.

Attendance

School starts at 8:45am, can you please make sure your child is in class by 8:45am.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Parents should avoid taking their children out of school during term time in order to go on holiday.

Class	Attendance for 21.11.22 – 25.11.22
Eagles	94.55%
Kestrel	96.30%
Kingfishers	95.71%
Nightingales	97.14%
Owls	92.61%
Peregrine Falcons	99.58%
Red Kites	92.59%
Sky Larks	99.09%
Swallows	96.97%
Wrens	72.50%
Total	93.44%

Christmas Play Dates

14.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 10am
14.12.2022	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.2022	Foundation Stage Christmas Play at 9.45am
15.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.2022	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 5.00pm

Children's Christmas Shopping Day

Each year we hold two non-uniform days on the Fridays leading up to Christmas to support this event.

1st Non-uniform Day: Friday 2nd December (in exchange for a male gift)

2nd Non-uniform Day: Friday 9th December (in exchange for a female gift)

On each of these non-uniform days we ask for the children to bring in a gift suitable for a parent, carer, sibling, grandparent or anyone they decide they want to buy for. We have asked for it to be male and female gifts however chocolates, biscuits and sweets are ideal! Other ideas include items such as toiletries, socks, mugs, gloves, games...anything you would like to receive. (no alcoholic gifts please!) These are to be brought into the classrooms and will then be checked, sorted and stored until the shopping event. Please can we ask that these are new, unopened and in date where applicable.

Shopping Day: Monday 19th December

On the actual shopping day, we ask for your child to bring in £2 and to hand to their teacher, please put it in an envelope with their name on if possible, to avoid cash handling. This allows them to buy 2 gifts for whoever they choose. They will choose their gifts from a class selection and they will then wrap and label their gifts to come home with them. We hope this answers some questions but if not please email williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com
The children thoroughly enjoy choosing the gifts themselves, the wrapping and the surprise for the recipients.

Key dates:

Friday 2nd December - non-uniform day in exchange for male gift

Friday 9th December - non-uniform day in exchange for a female gift

Friday 16th December - Christmas School Lunch

Monday 19th December - Christmas Shopping Day

Christmas Hockey Club

Williams Hockey Coaching are running a Christmas hockey camp from December 21st - 22nd at Oxford Hawks Hockey Club, for children aged 5 - 16 years. Please see attached for full details and below for registration form:

www.forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1psWpRy2xUS79XR1D31bwbqDBBEE2ddlrWQhabGgcShUOTVEVEoxNkZJWUo4WFE2VFZMVTZUMkhOUi4u

Christmas Tennis Club

Woodstock Tennis Club is running a two-day Christmas tennis camp on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd December 2022. Children aged 5+ of all abilities are welcome. Rackets can be borrowed for the sessions and children should come in trainers and comfortable clothing.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Fortyfifteentenniscoaching/Coaching/Camps>

PTA Update

This Friday 2nd December is the first of two non uniform days in exchange for a MALE gift for the Christmas Shopping Event.

On each of these non-uniform days we ask for the children to bring in a gift suitable for a parent, carer, sibling, grandparent or anyone they decide they want to buy for.

Ideas for gifts include chocolates, biscuits, sweets, toiletries, socks, mugs, gloves, games...anything you would like to receive. (No alcoholic gifts please)

These are to be brought into their classrooms on Friday morning, they will then be checked, sorted and stored until the shopping day.

Please can we ask that these are new, unopened and in date where applicable.

On Monday 5th December at 3pm in the school hall we will be holding our first Book Swap. This is an opportunity for you and your child to come along and choose a book to take home. The swapping will happen next time.

Any questions please email us williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com

Uniform Exchange

When is the next sale?

You can now drop off school uniform donations, including PE Kit, coats and shoes to the school office in the 'Uniform Exchange' Collection Bin or bring the clothes you wish to exchange to the next sale, after school - on Tuesday 6th December 2022. If it rains, we'll hold the sale in the hall.

How does it work?

- Donate uniform: any unused, outgrown uniform items, PE Kit, coats and shoes accepted
- Exchange uniform: swap your outgrown uniform for new bigger sizes

- Purchase uniform: For a small donation, get new pieces to mix and match with what you already have

The uniform exchange is not for profit but there is a suggested donation of 50p per item and we encourage you to exchange what you already have. Any profit goes to the PTA who feed that money straight back into the school. Thank you for your continued support and if you need anything email: ptauniformexchange@william-fletcher.oxon.sch.uk

Ignite After School Club Term 2

Ignite are running an after school sports club for children in Foundation to Year 6. If you would like your child to attend Ignite Sports Club for term 1, which will run every Thursday from 3pm to 4pm, starting on 3rd November, please complete the Parent Pay form. It is based on a first come first serve basis and will cost £4.50 per session (£31.50 for term 2).

Lego Club

Lego Club is now full, if you would like to go on the waiting list please email the school office at office.2354@william-fletcher.oxon.sch.uk

Friday cafe

Starting Friday 23rd September, 8.45am- 10.30am in the Howard Hillsdon Room.

Pop in, meet other parents and carers, everyone welcome. Information available at each session, including:

*Helping your child with maths *Healthy lunchbox ideas *Money matters *Reading with your child.

Tea, coffee and biscuits available and younger siblings always welcome. For more information, please contact: Clare Pink, Family Support Worker

clarepink@william-fletcher.gov.uk or, Karen Ariss: karen.ariss@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs every day from 07:30 – 08:45 in the Howard Hillsdon building (old playgroup). The children enjoy a range of breakfast cereals, fruit juices, yoghurts and toast, followed by the opportunity to play indoor games. The cost is £5.00 per child. If you would like your children to take part in breakfast club, **please see the staff in the office to book prior to attendance.**

Knitting For All

We have a knitting club at school run by Steph Radda on Tuesday's from 3pm - 4.15pm (term time only). If you would like your child to attend or for more information, please contact Steph on 07940564486 for further details.

Yarnton Brownies

Yarnton Brownies currently have spaces. Come and join the fun! Open to girls aged between 7-10. We run Wednesday's during term time from 6.30-8pm. Please

visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> for more information and to register interest. Alternatively call 07866122863 - Heather Kimber Moss for any additional help.

Forthcoming Dates

December 2022

02.12.22	Non-uniform day in exchange for male gift
09.12.22	Non-uniform day in exchange for female gift
14.12.22	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 10am

14.12.22	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.22	Foundation Stage Christmas Play at 9.45am
15.12.22	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.22	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 5.00pm
16.12.22	School Christmas Lunch
19.12.22	Christmas shopping day
20.12.22	School Carol Service
20.12.22	End of term 2

William Fletcher School Term Dates 2022/2023

Term 2

Monday 31st October to Tuesday 20th December
Friday 18th November INSET Day

Term 3

Wednesday 4th January to Thursday 9th February

Term 4

Monday 20th February to Friday 31st March
Friday 10th February INSET Day

Term 5

Monday 17th April to Friday 26th May

Term 6

Tuesday 6th June to Friday 21st July
Monday 5th June INSET

William Fletcher School Term Dates 2023/2024

Term 1

Tuesday 5th September to Friday 20th October
Friday 1st September INSET Day
Monday 4th September INSET Day

Term 2

Monday 30th October to Wednesday 20th December
Monday 27th November INSET Day

Term 3

Monday 8th January to Friday 9th February

Term 4

Tuesday 20th February to Thursday 28th March
Monday 19th February INSET

Term 5

Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May

Term 6

Tuesday 4th June to Wednesday 24th July
Monday 3rd June INSET



William Fletcher School PTA

Book Swap

William Fletcher School PTA is excited to announce that our new Book Swap for the children will be launching very soon, on:

- **Monday 5th December**, after school (3pm)
- In the school hall

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated books to get this up and running. If you still have any preloved (and still lovable) books for primary school aged children you'd like to donate, please do drop them off at the school reception.

How it will work

Children will be able to choose a book to take home from the book swap collection.

- They **do not** have to bring a book to swap in order to take home their first book.

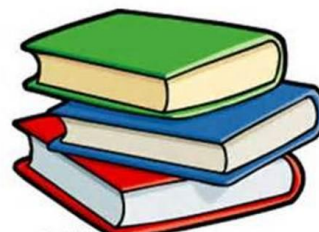
Books should be returned either at the next book swap event (date to be confirmed), or by swapping for a new book on our new bookshelves to be placed in the school reception.

If there is a book you would like to keep and not return at the next book swap, these can be purchased in exchange for a donation to the PTA. (Suggested donation of 50p per book).

We will also be offering the option of 'Book Swap' card which children can stamp each time they take home a book.

The aim is to give all our children access to more books and encourage their love of reading.

We hope to see you on the 5th December!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so entrails young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces. Involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



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