



# WITCHAMPTON FIRST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2025



Dear families,

This half term and especially the past couple of weeks, have been a wonderful reminder of the boundless energy, resilience and love our children bring to everything they do. Their hard work and positivity never fail to amaze us and we feel incredibly proud of all their achievements this half term.

It has been a busy term of learning indoors and out and we have had plenty to celebrate not least the magical Christmas performances. Each year it feels like a Christmas miracle how these productions come together, but seeing the children perform is truly something special. My heartfelt thanks go to the staff who dedicate themselves so completely, often singing the songs in their sleep throughout December. Balancing this with teaching the essential curriculum is no small feat!

Autumn Term Two has been filled with celebrations of learning and the children have shone in their attitudes toward our values of Love, Courage and Inspiration. It has been particularly great to see the children recognising each other's achievements. Fridays are a time for celebration each week and we pack so much in as the children have so many achievements each week. Recently, I've noticed children congratulating each other as well. This display of kindness and friendship is a joy to witness.

Our School Council visit to the Wimborne Council meeting was another highlight, demonstrating just how mature and capable our children are.

We've also been working on reviewing our Church School offer this half term, ensuring it focuses on spirituality across the curriculum and offers the children a way of reflecting on themselves. Initio Learning Trust support us in bringing this to life in our schools, but you may have also noticed more visits to church and visitors from the church in school. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team around our church school.

This term also saw our incredible community come together for the Christmas celebrations in and around school. It never ceases to amaze me how our dedicated team of parents pull off such events with ease. Thank you for supporting us with these enrichment activities.

As we head into the holidays, I hope you all get a chance to unwind and enjoy the festive season. The children have worked so hard this term and deserve a well-earned break. I wish you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

The Spring Term for the children begins on Tuesday, 6th January, but let's not think about that just yet! For now, have a fabulous Christmas and enjoy the festivities!

*Sarah Fairman*



Witchampton First School



### **Exciting News from the Witchampton Playground: EPIC**

**Playtime is a Hit!** We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our new EPIC playtimes, which stand for Explore, Play, Imagine, and Create! In our first week, the children enthusiastically explored the new zones and equipment, including stilts, ball and cup, hoops, skipping ropes, balance boards, as well as enjoying football on the field and creative chalk play. It has been fantastic to see how brilliantly the children have been putting on their overalls and wellies from the shed, ready to engage in the different zones! Building on this success, we have now introduced our exciting bikes and trikes zone and the ever-popular fun of throwing the Howlers! A massive thank you also goes out for the fantastic donations for our small world areas; we have been busy setting these up and have now started to slowly open these imaginative zones for the children to enjoy. We look forward to many more weeks of EPIC fun, exploration, and creativity!

### **Curriculum update - Maths**

Our maths curriculum is taught through White Rose Maths, and we are delighted with the children's progress this term. We have started the school year with a focus on Fluency and ensuring the children know the key maths facts at speed to support their learning in wider Maths. Any opportunity you get to complete some quick-fire multiplication, addition and subtraction and counting in 2's, 5's and 10's - go for it!

## Class spotlight - Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have had a fantastic start to their school life. They have been enjoying so many activities in school and have become amazing learners at the same time. We are very proud of the friendships they have built with each other, and although we know they have been sharing colds as well as learning they have become a cherished part of our school.





Miss Murphy is our IT whiz and does a wonderful job of keeping the Facebook page up to date. She works her IT magic in school every day and is a great example to the children for using computers to support learning.

Mrs Plate and Mrs Blanden work so hard behind the scenes to support so many of our children; they hardly ever finish a whole cup of tea before being called away, but they would do anything to help our children. Thank you.

### Fresh air club

Fresh Air Paul has been back with us this half term. The children were really pleased to see him and enjoyed a variety of activities with his tuition. Paul is never disheartened by the weather and always has a smile.



### Safe-guarding

As a school, we receive information and updates from Dorset Police related to Safeguarding. Children are frequently targeted through social media platforms such as Roblox by abusers. If your child uses Roblox, I urge you to monitor their use of the platform alongside putting into place measures to safeguard them against harm. Click [here](#) for more support.



You can check your child's attendance on Arbor. Our school target is to reach 98% attendance across school. This term is always a challenge with all the bugs around but we have reached 97.5% which is great. Thank you for your support.

Please support us to continue to reach our target by being on time to school as any attendance after the registers have closed at 9:05am is considered absent.

Being late for school reduces learning time. If your child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year.

### **Community Shout-outs**

Thank you to Rev Marianne, who took our Christingle Service in the Church. The service was lovely and a moment among the madness to be thankful.

I met with Tim this month, who is Witchampton's Local Councillor. He is always thinking of ways to support the school and I wanted to thank him for his kindness.

### **Perspective students**

We held a very successful open evening at the end of November for prospective parents. We are so proud to share what happens at school. If you know anyone looking for a school place in any of our classes, please encourage them to give us a call. We would be happy to show them the joy of Witchampton First School.

### **Friends of Witchampton**

Thank you also to the wonderful team of helpers who organised, ran and helped out at the Christmas Craft event. What a lovely afternoon. A huge thank you to the organisers of the raffle and the people who gifted the prizes. We know the core group do so much work in the background and without you we would be lost.



### **Christmas in school**

What a joy it is to be in school at this time of year. Thank you for your contributions with Christmas, hunting out the Christmas Jumpers and for staying on the ball with all of our events. We know it can be a little overwhelming, but the children get so much from these events, so thank you

