

Winsham Primary School and Pre-school



February 2023

As we enter into March it feels like we can finally say goodbye to winter and hello to spring. The days are finally getting longer and we start to see the beautiful spring flowers burst into bloom. January and February have been eventful months at our schools and we are excited by all the activities and events planned for March and beyond.

Firstly, we have the second public speaking event next week for representatives of our 10 schools, sharing their views on the very important topic of "We are all equally entitled to human rights without discrimination" - How can children promote this?" This follows on from the successful first public speaking debate before Christmas addressing the impact children can make on the environment. We are looking forward to hearing the children's presentations and their views on human rights.

Secondly, on the 23 March all schools across TRLP will be collaborating in the second performing arts festival, on a professional stage at The Brewhouse Theatre (Taunton). This is an exciting opportunity for the children to showcase performing arts from their school as well as participating in workshops with specialist teachers. The day includes; dance and singing workshops, stage time and a performing arts show finale in front of a full audience.

As part of this event there is a special Diversity themed Art Competition for the children. The winners will be chosen by Suzanne Flack (CEO of TRLP), Ethne Staniland (Subject Leader of Art for TRLP) and Susan Browning (Somerset artist). The top three winning children from each year group will have their artwork exhibited in the Brewhouse theatre foyer for two weeks and will be invited to attend an artist workshop for the day. In addition, 1st prize from each year group will receive a £10 Waterstone's voucher.

Finally, we would like to share that Stockland C of E Primary Academy and the Diocese of Exeter officially welcomed Beccy Bendall with a commissioning service at St. Michael and All Angels church. The service was an opportunity for the parish, staff, parents and pupils to welcome and affirm Beccy Bendall in her role as Head of School. The service was both a celebration and a commitment from Beccy and the school community to offer their support as she takes on her role as Head of School. The service was a delightful event with readings delivered by a number of pupils from Stockland Primary Academy, prayers, the presentation of gifts and some outstanding singing. The children of Stockland were impeccably behaved and did themselves proud and congratulations to Beccy.

Beth Souster - Communications & Development Manager



The Photo of the Week



This school is part of the The Redstart Learning Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust of primary schools in Somerset.

Dates for your Diary

- 8th March Public speaking Event KS2 pupils to go to Hatch Beauchamp Primary School
- 23rd March KS2 Performing Arts at The Brew House in Taunton.
- 30th March "Break the Rules Day" Winsham PFA
- 31st March Easter Bake Sale, Winsham PFA
- 31st March Last day of Term
- 17th April Inset Day
- 18th April Return to School

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A Message from the Head: Mrs Emma Johns

The children and staff of Winsham School continue to keep themselves busy – working and playing hard! I had the pleasure of carrying out some lovely playground duties this month, in the winter sunshine and as I watched the children at play, felt particularly blessed. They all play together so well – showing patience and kindness to one another at all times – even when the KS2 boys were trying to enjoy a game of football and a foundation stage child chose to lay down on the pitch, not a single cross word was uttered. A visitor from the Trust's central team commented on how peaceful and happy the school seemed and was particularly impressed with the way in which the children engage with our newly introduced 'dinner party topic of conversation' when enjoying their lunches.

Recently, we have all been discussing joining in with the village and twinning our toilets! The children have learned plenty from assemblies led by Colette and we have started to think of fundraising ideas. Our first may well be a sponsored walk up to Forde Abbey – another chance to enjoy that winter sunshine! Watch this space for our other ideas as the school year progresses.

We have had to postpone our Small Schools Hub Experience Day due to illness and will inform you of the new date as soon as we have confirmed this. Forthcoming events are another KS2 Public Speaking Event on March 8 th and the KS2 Performing Arts Festival on the 23 rd – details to follow. On March 30 th the PFA have arranged a 'Break the Rules' day and on the 31 st , an Easter Bake Sale – again, more details will follow!

You will now all have received and read the letter regarding the update from Trust Board. As stated in the letter, there will be a 'listening exercise' and in the meantime please do feel able to approach or contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Leaving us at the end of this month, I am sad to share, is Miss. King. I know for many this will be sad but everyone wishes Miss. King well for whatever new ventures and opportunities are ahead for her. Everyone knows that she will be fantastic, whatever she does.

Emma Johns
Head of School

Attendance Breakdown: (for this month)

KS1 - 85.78%

KS2 - 92.5%

Preschool - 89.37%

Whole School - 89.74%

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Winsham Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) is Caroline Lancey and our Deputy Safeguarding lead (DDSL) is Joanne Crocker.

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:
www.winshamprimaryschool.co.uk/1213/safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

Contact Information

If you change any of your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is imperative that we have up to date details at all times.

Heron Class

After a restful half term the children have come back ready to learn and full of wonderful ideas.

In English we have started a new topic around a short film called "The Catch" where we have been looking at sequencing and expanded noun phrases. Maths has been exploring either Fractions or Multiplication and Division facts. Our topic is still South America and in geography we have been exploring the differences and similarities between a village in Brazil and the village of Winsham.

This last week we have been reading and reflecting on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and the children have been looking at the emotions that come with sacrificing something for 40 days and with forgiveness.

We are looking at gears and levers in Design Technology which complements the Science theme of Forces and Magnets. The children will soon start to design a toy with gears and levers which I am sure they will all enjoy.

Thank you for the wonderful Pick and Mix homework. I am looking forward to reading them all this weekend and seeing what the children have researched.

Woodpecker Class

We finished the half term with a Pirate Day and much fun was had by all – once we had recovered from seeing Ms. Johns in character. The children made ship's biscuits, using dead flies (!) and mixed some interesting grog to sip as they supped! Last week, the children were shown some magic beans that I had swapped for a loaf of bread...we have planted them and are rather excited to see what grows. As you can guess, our focus in English this term is the story of Jack & the Beanstalk and we have been looking at other versions of the tale. The children will be writing stories about all those other beans that were tossed out of the window...only one grew into a beanstalk, so what became of the others?! The children have been learning about this time in the Christian calendar that leads us up to Easter; this, of course, involved making and eating pancakes. Miss. Hilton managed to take photos of the making stage but the pancakes were so quickly consumed that there is no evidence of the eating! Apparently, they tasted delicious. We are also learning about plants in Science as well as making and tasting soup in DT – plenty of fun filled learning to be had.

Emma Johns



Winsham Little Chicks Pre-School

This month we have been noticing signs of Spring and enjoying our outdoor environment. The children have been curious about the bulbs beginning to peep up through the ground. We have explored and investigated, finding out what happens to bulbs and how to care for them. This has encouraged lots of new vocabulary and widened their knowledge about the world around us.

The children have also noticed that the birds have been singing beautiful songs lately, they were keen to spot a few through handmade binoculars. We used factual books to learn some of the different types of birds and talked about what they need in order to survive. We made bird feeders and placed them around our garden area, the children made a tent to hide in and watch for the birds using the feeders, together we made up a rhyme about 'tip-toeing around the garden'.

The children have explored the mirror balls outside, talking about what they could see reflecting in it. They made comparisons to different surfaces of materials such as shiny, hard, soft, spikey etc. within the environment. Often the children choose to build a marble run using the loose parts indoors, they work together and use different skills and ideas to build and construct the run. This week some of the children took it outside on a larger scale using the larger loose parts such as guttering and pipes, they used the marbles to run down the run, but also explored with different objects, working out which ones went faster. They discussed between themselves which ones worked best, they were able to share these interesting findings with an adult and tell us why they thought the roll of sellotape went faster and further than the tennis ball. One child made comparisons to his Hot Wheels track at home, and he introduced discussing different forces to 'launch' the objects off the top of the guttering.

At Forest School we used the willow and various materials to create heart shaped wands, the children enjoying singing and dancing with them. Some of them made fishing rods and went on a fishing trip together catching all sorts of delights!

We have also been busy mark making with paint, the children have explored colour mixing and texture. Some of the children are beginning to form recognisable letters from their name or write their name. We have shared music and rhymes with the Reception children, it's wonderful to see the children learning and having fun with the older children.



Forest School

In Forest School the children have been busy helping to reweave the willow den and move the willow which has been cut for drying. The children have helped push some old willow into the ground to make a fence to separate the vegetable garden from the main field.

The children have been noticing changes in the environment from the snowdrops and crocuses (which we did not know we had) flowering to the new buds appearing on the trees. They are being careful not to stand on the daffodils that have started to appear in the field in random places! With all this new growth the children have been exploring life cycles of plants and the importance of allowing the plants to grow fully and why we do not pick, eat or touch some plants.

The polytunnel is now in the sunniest position the children could find in the field, and the children have begun sowing seeds to see what they can grow! We have planted sunflowers, courgettes and spinach. We are hoping to make some raised beds for our seedlings in the coming weeks. Any donations of spare flowers or seeds would be gratefully received.

In risky play, the children have been developing their strength mixing mud, pushing the tyres and building dens, they have been practicing their balance on the child made swing and climbing the tree. The children are building relationships with those younger / older than them encouraging interaction and friendships.

Please could we remind parents that all children should come prepared with waterproofs, wellies and a hat for every Forest School session. This ensures the children are suitably dressed for the elements and can enjoy the sessions to the fullest.



World Book Day 2023

