

Newsletter 4 – Tuesday 14th November 2023

It has been a busy and fun start to the second autumn term here at Ewelme, with Year 2 starting their Forest School sessions, Key Stage 2 children visiting Dorchester Abbey for a remembrance service, De La Pole children and parents finding out more about their upcoming residential trip to Kilvrough Outdoor Education Centre and four girls from Year 6 representing us at the Primary School Cross Country race in Sonning Common.

Children in Need

This Friday is BBC Children in Need. The children are invited to wear non-school uniform for the day in exchange for a suggested donation of £2 per child that can be made via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ewelmeschool-childreninneed?newPage=true>

You may also want to dress your child in something spotty to be in keeping with Pudsey the Bear's fashion sense!

The children will learn more about the importance of Children in Need, what the money is raised for and have a go at some fun Pudsey themed activities on Friday.



Forest School



Year 2 have made a really positive start to their Forest School sessions with our leader, Rachael. Digging and the mud kitchen were particularly popular with the children as many of the parents may already have gathered from the state of their children's T-shirts on Tuesday evening!

They were even shown how to use a palm drill to thread wooden name badges they had made.



Remembrance



REMEMBRANCE DAY *Let's We Forget*

On Thursday 9th November, a group of Key Stage 2 children from service families attended a remembrance service at Dorchester Abbey organised by Steph Fawdrey, headteacher at RAF Benson Primary School. As well as ourselves and RAF Benson, the service was also attended by Benson C.E. and Wallingford School and included performances from RAF Benson Military Wives choir.

Each school were asked to prepare short readings for the service which included poems and prayers. The children from Ewelme wrote short reflections about why they are proud to be from service families and why remembrance is important to them. These were shared with the other children in our Key Stage 2 assembly on Wednesday morning. In our whole-school assembly yesterday morning (Monday) we talked about the activities, events and services that took place over the weekend, held a

two-minutes silence and watched a moving video published by the RAF featuring an RAF musician performing the Last Post in Westminster Abbey.

Many thanks to Emilia and Marianna in De La Pole class who volunteered to sell poppies and other Royal British Legion souvenirs on the playground after school last week.

Some of the children's reflections from last week's remembrance service are reproduced below:

"I am proud to be from a service family because my dad flies helicopters and goes to different countries around the world to defend us."

Remembrance Day is important to me because my great grandad fought in the war and I am grateful for that."

DARCY, Burghersh class

"Remembrance Day is important to me because it is a chance to say thank you to people who have helped protect us in the past."

AILA, Burghersh class

"I am proud to be from a service family because my great grandad was a paratrooper in the second world war. My dad helps and trains people."

Remembrance Day is important to me because I remember my great grandad and say thank you for protecting us."

EMELIA, De La Pole class

House points – term 1

Congratulations to Ridgeway, who earned the most house points in term 1 (between the summer holidays and October half-term). They had a celebration assembly, where they received a certificate and chose a small prize, and enjoyed a non-school uniform day yesterday (Monday).



Cross country

This afternoon, Orlaith, Lorna, Emilia and Lena from Year 6 represented the school at the South Oxfordshire Cross Country competition at Bishopswood Sports Ground in Sonning Common. They competed against children from all across South Oxfordshire and showed great sportsmanship and resilience despite the heavy rain and cold wind.



In a large field of at least 70 runners, Lorna finished 14th, Lena 48th, Emilia 51st and Orlaith 58th. A massive well done to all four girls.



Flu immunisations

Don't forget that this year's Flu Immunisations will be taking place in school this Thursday (16th November).

Parents are required to respond via the website below **even if you do not want their child/children to take part**:- <https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

To identify the school please use the code **OX123197**

Parking outside of school



Please ensure that you do not park on the yellow zig zags outside of school or on the gravel drive by the breakfast and after school club entrance. This is for the safety of children and families entering and leaving school. Children walking or cycling down the slope by the playground need a clear view of any oncoming traffic and this view is impeded by cars parked on the yellow zig zags. The gravel drive is used by staff who do not usually move their vehicles during busy pick up and

drop off times. Having cars pulling forwards or reversing off this drive during busy times is a safety hazard.

I know that the 'Keep Clear' markings have become faded and I will be asking the council if these can be repainted. There is parking available at the Cow Common car park and on Parsons Lane, as well as along the road through the village from the pre-school and Kings Pond.



Peripatetic piano lessons

A number of children across school take part in weekly 1:1 piano lessons with a visiting peripatetic teacher from MJ Music Services Oxford. If you are interested in signing your child up for piano lessons, you can register your interest and obtain a new starter's form by emailing MJmusicservicesOx@gmail.com.

FOES – a big thank you!



It was a pleasure to attend the Friends of Ewelme School Annual General Meeting last week to feedback to the committee about how their amazing fundraising and generous donations have benefited the children in school. As I said at the meeting, I have worked at a number of schools throughout my career, and been associated with others through my own children, and I can honestly say that FOES are, by a wide margin, the most effective and supportive PTA I have ever encountered. Ewelme would truly not be the school that it is without their amazing work.

FOES fundraising has, over the past 12 months, helped the school to:

- Establish and fund weekly Forest School sessions, run by a specialist Forest School lead;
- Redevelop our peace garden into a space where we have successfully grown beans, cucumbers, broccoli, pumpkins, tomatoes and a variety of herbs, which have been tasted by the children and used by our school kitchen;
- Purchase new desks and chairs and other furniture across the school;
- Buy a range of resources and subscriptions, including 'Spelling Tutor', 'Purple Mash' and 'Floppy's Phonics', which support the children's learning across the school.

A huge thank you, once again, from all the staff and pupils here at Ewelme to the amazing FOES!

Dates for the diary:

Further dates will be added as events are arranged and/or confirmed. *Click here to see the school's online calendar:* <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

w/c Monday 13th October – Parent-Teacher meetings

Thursday 16th November – Flu immunisations

Friday 17th November – Children in Need

Monday 20th November – School council meeting

Friday 24th November – Non-school uniform (in exchange for FOES tombola prizes)

Saturday 2nd December - Winter series Cross Country race 3 at MECE, 10am start

Thursday 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 7th December – last swimming session for Y5/6

Tuesday 12th December – Final Forest School session for Y2

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 14th December – Pantomime at Oxford Playhouse

Tuesday 19th December – 4pm: Christingle service in church, all parent/carers invited

Wednesday 20th December – Last day of term 2 for all, 12.15pm

Thursday 21st December – Monday 8th January – Christmas holiday

Monday 8th January – INSET day

Tuesday 9th December – Start of term 3 for children, 8.45am

Please visit the school website to view full term dates for 2023/24: <https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ewelme-Primary-School-term-dates-2023-24.pdf>