

Newsletter 11 – Tuesday 7th May 2024

It is lovely to finally see some sunshine and warmer weather even if it is still regularly interrupted by rain and cloud!

Don't forget, as the weather turns sunnier and warmer, to provide your children with a sun hat and to apply sun cream before the start of the school day. Although the field is now pretty dry, it is still helpful to have a coat and welly boots in school every day just in case.

Goodbye and good luck to Father Stephen

We were all very sad to hear last week that Father Stephen was stepping down from his position here in Ewelme in order to move on to a new parish in Reading. The children have grown very fond of him and always enjoyed his weekly assemblies in church on a Tuesday morning.

All the children have contributed to a lovely leaving card for Stephen which will be presented to him before he leaves Ewelme. We all wish him the very best for the future and hope his time in Reading is as successful as his spell here in Ewelme.

Thank you to Marianna in Year 5 for her lovely picture illustrating the front of Stephen's card (pictured right).

Update regarding Ewelme Pre-School



On Wednesday 1st May, Ewelme Pre-School held an extraordinary general meeting to discuss and vote on the proposal to dissolve the pre-school charity and merge with the school as of September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Lyndsey Knight, as chair of the pre-school's committee, and myself, explained our reasons for proposing a merger between the pre-school and the primary school and answered questions from those in attendance. Jayde, pre-school manager, spoke briefly on behalf of herself and the staff team to explain the benefits from their perspective and to confirm that the staff team were supportive of the plan.

The two resolutions, firstly to dissolve the pre-school charity and transfer assets to the school, and secondly to approve a merger with the school, were both agreed unanimously by those in attendance.

We are keen to hear your thoughts and opinions on this proposal and will therefore be sending further information to parents/carers very soon as well as providing a platform for you to share questions and comments.



Meet Mr Blue-Elme!

As part of the OxTrail event, raising money for Sobell House, we were provided with a large white Ox to decorate ready for display amongst the 'herd' during the summer.

Mrs Rowley, as our art and design curriculum leader (and artist-in-residence!) co-ordinated the design and painting of the Ox, who has been christened Mr Blue-Elme.

Every child in school contributed to the painting and I am sure you'd agree that the finished effect is fantastic! Once the OxTrail has opened, a mobile app will be available showing people where the different Oxon can be found in our local area. Make sure to download this app once it becomes available so you can track down Mr Blue-Elme and his ox-y friends in the wild.

Years 3-5 Oratory School multi-skills sports club



Thank you to all those who have signed up to our Year 3-5 Multi-Skills sports club being run by the Director of Sport, Steve Tomlinson, at the Oratory School.

The children who went along for the first session

last week had a great time, trying out Real Tennis, Badminton and Cricket. The next session will be on Monday 13th May, with pick-up from the Oratory sports centre at 4.45pm. There are a limited number of spaces still available for this session, so please check the 'clubs' section of ParentPay to sign your child up if they are year 3, 4 or 5. There is no charge for this club and each booking includes transportation via minibus to the Oratory.



Chilterns - house point winners

Congratulations to Chilterns house who earned the most house points in term 4 and earned a non-school uniform and small prize each as a result.

They were also presented with certificates in our special celebration assembly.



New play equipment for the field



Thanks to a very generous donation from Friends of Ewelme School we have recently purchased an exciting new set of play equipment – heavy duty, hard-wearing wooden building blocks.

These are securely stored away on the field and used by a different class or year group each day for a wide range of imaginative and co-operative games. Year 2s recently spent their lunchtime using the blocks to build Hogwarts Castle and children in key stage 2 have constructed cars, ‘marble’ runs (for tennis balls) and obstacle courses.

Many thanks again, on behalf of the children, for your support of FOES, which make these sorts of purchases possible.

Forest School

I wanted to share with you some more photos of our amazing Forest School in action. As you can see the new shelter is looking fantastic and the children continue to have so much fun exploring the site, engaging with the activities set up by Rachael and experiencing lots of fresh air and sunshine in the great outdoors.



After school cricket club – term 6



We are delighted to be able to offer children in Key Stage 2 the opportunity to join an after school cricket club in term 6. It will be run by an ECB Chance to Shine coach who will also run sessions during the school day for each class as part of their PE learning. Each after-school session will cost £4 and can be booked and paid for via the 'clubs' section of ParentPay. The club will run **until 4.30pm on Friday afternoons**, starting on Friday 7th June and finishing on Friday 19th July.

Peace garden bug hotel – materials needed

As part of our ongoing project to improve and develop the peace garden as an enrichment and curricular resource for all the children, we are hoping to install a 'bug hotel' which will be both a benefit to the biodiversity of the space and a useful tool for bug hunts and other science activities.

If you have any of the materials listed on the right that could be donated to school for the purpose of constructing our bug hotel then please let me know. Wooden pallets and bricks would be especially welcome.

Dates for the diary:

Click here to see the school's online calendar:

<https://ewelmeprimaryschool.com/calendar/>

w/c 13th May – Y6 SATs assessments

Monday 20th May – Y5/6 visit to IMPS

Friday 24th May – 3:15pm: End of term 5

w/c Monday 27th May – Half term holidays

Monday 3rd June – 8.45am: Start of term 6

Tuesday 4th June – First Forest School session for Year 5/6

w/c 10th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Checks

Friday 21st June – Festival of Voices at Dorchester Abbey

Tuesday 2nd July – Chaucer trip to Odds Farm

Monday 8th July – Sports Day

Monday 15th July – Sports Day back-up

Wednesday 24th July – 12.15pm: End of term 6



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>