

# Autumn 2 Newsletter

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and fun half-term break. As we return to school, we're excited for the busy and joyful weeks ahead leading up to the Christmas period.

This term will be filled with wonderful learning opportunities and festive activities. Children will continue to build on their progress in class, and we have some exciting events planned to celebrate the season, including craft projects, performances, and opportunities for families to join in the fun.

Please keep an eye on upcoming dates and announcements so you don't miss any of the special moments. Thank you for your continued support in making this time of year magical for our school

## Changes to the close of register

The school gate will continue to be open until 8:55, any children arriving after this will have to enter the school via the school office. Any children arriving between 9:00 and 9:10 will be marked as late, any children arriving **after** 9:10 will be given an unauthorised absence. Please note that a pattern of unauthorised absences may result in a fine from the Local Authority.

We kindly ask that all medical appointments are arranged **outside of school hours** whenever possible, to minimize disruption to learning. If an appointment during school time cannot be avoided, please provide **medical evidence** (such as an appointment card or letter). Without this evidence, the absence will be recorded as **unauthorised** in line with our attendance policy.



## DIARY DATES

### November

5<sup>th</sup> C3 Forest School

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening

14<sup>th</sup> Children in Need

19<sup>th</sup> C3 Forest School

21<sup>st</sup> Y5 DNA Art Day

26<sup>th</sup> C3 Forest School

### December

3<sup>rd</sup> C3 Forest School

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> C1 & 2 Nativity

15<sup>th</sup> KS1 Disco

17<sup>th</sup> Carols at the Station, Christmas dinner and jumper day

18<sup>th</sup> KS2 Disco

19<sup>th</sup> Break up

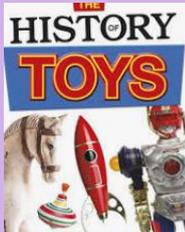
We are excited to share the learning journey planned for this half term. Our curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity, build essential skills, and encourage creativity across all subjects.

Class 1 and 2 will be learning all about the history of Toys and how this has changed over time. In English they will be completing the Place Value of Punctuation, where they will explore the core grammatical concepts of the English language.

In Class 3 the children will be learning about The Windrush Generation, they will explore this through their History lessons and will use a supporting text in English to further develop their understanding. In Science they will be using their scientific knowledge and understanding to explore food waste and rocks.

The children in Class 4 will be learning all about how crime and punishment has changed over time in, helping children understand the development of laws, justice systems, and societal values. They will be using the book Dick Turpin as their core text and will be visiting the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham.

Class 5 will delve into the history of the USA, focusing on the Wild West, and will use the beautiful text of Little Birds Landing, which is set in this era. In RE they will be considering the question ' Why doesn't Christianity always look the same?'



## Why We Are No Longer Doing Traditional Spelling Tests

We want to share the reasons behind our decision to move away from weekly spelling tests:

1. **Focus on Real Learning, Not Memorization**  
Spelling tests often encourage short-term memorization rather than long-term understanding. Children may learn words for the test but quickly forget them afterward.
2. **Applying Spelling in Context**  
Our goal is for children to use correct spelling in their everyday writing, not just on a test. By practicing spelling through stories, projects, and real writing tasks, they learn how to apply words meaningfully.
3. **Reducing Stress and Increasing Engagement**  
Tests can create unnecessary pressure for some children. Instead, we use fun, interactive activities and personalized word lists to make spelling enjoyable and relevant.
4. **Modern Approaches Work Better**  
Research shows that teaching spelling patterns, phonics, and word families helps children spell new words more effectively than memorizing isolated lists.

---

## What We Are Doing Instead

- **Word study activities** that explore patterns and sounds.
- **Spelling in context** through writing tasks.
- **Games and interactive learning** to make spelling fun.

Thank you for supporting this approach. It helps children become confident writers and lifelong learners

### Parents' Evening Arrangements

We kindly ask that children do not attend the parent evening consultations, so that discussions can remain focused and uninterrupted.

Mrs. Kealy will be available in the school hall to supervise children. There will be a range of **table-top activities** provided to keep them engaged while you attend your appointment.

Thank you for your understanding and support in making Parents' Evening a productive experience for everyone.



Please can you ensure that **ALL clothing (including hats, scarves, and PE kit) are clearly labelled with your child's name.**





## Our School Journey

Since our last Ofsted inspection we have worked incredibly hard on the areas of development, especially in relation to our curriculum. Our curriculum is designed to **inspire children**, nurture their **academic potential**, and prepare them for **life in modern Britain**. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that:

- Encourages **curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking**.
- Embeds **retrieval practice** to strengthen long-term learning.
- Promotes **respect and understanding** through the exploration of **different faiths, cultures, and perspectives**.
- Utilises **high-quality texts** to enrich learning and develop a love of reading.
- Equips children with the **knowledge, skills, and values** they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

This year are three main targets for the school improvement plan are:



- *To develop and implement a robust system for monitoring the quality and impact of the non-core curriculum (e.g., History, Geography, Art, Music, PE, RE, Computing, DT) on pupil engagement, knowledge retention, and skill development across all key stages.*
- *To evaluate and refine the writing curriculum across all key stages to ensure alignment with the DfE Writing Framework, with the aim of improving pupil outcomes in composition, transcription, and writing stamina*
- *To enhance children's understanding and embodiment of British Values across the curriculum and school life*

I AM DELIGHTED TO INFORM YOU THAT ROB GREEN HAS BEEN VOTED IN AS CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, AND NICK GRIFFIN WILL BE TAKING ON THE ROLE AS VICE CHAIR. WE ARE STILL LOOKING TO RECRUIT MORE GOVERNORS AND IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT MRS KEALY.

**⚠ Warning: Dangerous Driving & Parking Near School ⚠**

We are increasingly concerned about **unsafe driving and parking** outside our school. This poses a serious risk to the safety of our children, families, and staff.

**Please be reminded:**

- **Speeding near the school is unacceptable**
- **Parking on zigzag lines, pavements, or near crossings endangers lives**
- **Blocking driveways or double parking causes congestion and hazards**

**⚡ Children's safety must come first.**

We urge all parents and carers to drive and park responsibly. Let's work together to keep our school community safe.

Please note that parking is available at the village hall and the social club.

**SAFEGUARDING**

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Mrs. Kealy Designated Safeguarding lead or Mrs Fisher : Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Tel: 01773 83289 Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board—01629 533190. Please look at our Safeguarding page for more information.



**South Wingfield Primary School**

**WINGS - Wonder Integrity Nurture Grow Shine**