

Patronal Festival

On Sunday 5th December, some of our children and their parents attended the St. Nicholas Church Patronal Festival. The children took part in a workshop where they found out that St. Nicholas was a bishop on whom the character of our modern-day Father Christmas is based. They used craft materials to make different items that a bishop wears e.g. a cloak, a mitre, a crozier and then dressed up in their creations to show the congregation. Thank you to Mrs Portlock and those families who attended.



Bike ability

This week our Year 6 children took part in Bikeability cycle training. The training follows the national standard and helps give children the skills and experience they need to cycle safely and confidently. Cycling is not only fun but can be a great way of keeping physically fit. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting out and about in the village and rose to the challenge, despite the very wet and windy start to the week. They were successful in completing the course and the instructors were full of praise for the behaviour and focus shown by all. Well done Year 6!

Wickham Lights Switch On



It was a cold winter's evening but the Key Stage 1 singers soon warmed up Wickham Square on Sunday by singing their Christmas nativity songs to those who had come along for the Christmas lights switch on. The children were especially excited to see Anna and Elsa cheering them on as they spread the Christmas spirit. A big thank you to the Key Stage 2 children who joined us on stage to join in the festive fun and to Mrs Wilkie, Mrs Pickersgill and Mrs Proost for coming along to support.

Wickham Pre-School



Wickham Pre-School

We are pleased to be able to announce that Wickham Pre School will transfer to become part of Wickham Church of England Primary School in January 2022. The transfer process has been underway for some time now and we are confident that the transition will be a smooth one. Miss Emerson, our Early Years leader (and Year R teacher), will take on the strategic leadership of Wickham Pre-School, working very closely with the pre-school team to ensure that the care and education of the children continues to be of the highest quality. We are very excited about the new opportunities that this partnership will bring in enabling us to enhance children's pre-school experience and their transition into Year R.

Football Tournament

Last week our Year 5 and 6 girls football team competed against other local schools in the Swanmore cluster football event, hosted here on our all-weather pitch. The team played incredibly well and we were very proud of their efforts. They were also very excited to model our new kit to the rest of the school during our celebration worship on Friday.



Early Years Outdoor Play Area



As you will be aware, our early years outdoor area was recently refurbished with funding from a National Lottery grant. The company that designed and installed the equipment, Pentagon Play, have recently shared our project as a case study on their website. Please do take a look: <https://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/projects/wickham-primary-eyfs-outdoor-area>.

Staffing Update

We are very pleased to share that last week we successfully recruited a new sports coach, Mr Ben Davies, who will join our team in January. This will mean that we will be able to resume our after-school sports clubs next term along with some other clubs and activities, details of which will be provided shortly.

Next Week

The Christmas festivities will be 'hotting up' next week in school with lots of exciting events taking place.

- We remain hopeful that the nativity performances for Year R and Key Stage 1 will go ahead to a live audience. Parents of children taking part, please refer to the letter you have been sent today regarding the measures that will be in place to keep everyone safe. The rest of the school will be enjoying the dress rehearsal of the nativity today.
- Flick Drummond, MP for the Meon Valley, will be visiting school on Thursday to award prizes to three of our pupils who have been chosen as runners-up in her Christmas card competition. Watch this space for further details!
- Our Christmas lunch also takes place on Thursday, followed by a Christmas movie afternoon for each class. We are inviting all children to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper or festive-themed accessories if they wish to do so. Please note that it is not a non-school uniform day so usual trousers/dress/shoes etc should be worn with the jumper/accessories.
- The 'Book Flood' will also take place next week and we look forward to sending every child home with a gift on Friday. We are currently quite short on books - it is not too late to donate any new or used (very good condition) so please send these in early next week if possible. There is no need to wrap them up. Thank you!
- There may also be one or two other surprises next week. Our lips are sealed!

Staying Safe Online This Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching and with technology gifts being high on wish lists each year it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new devices. To help you over the holidays, we've set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online.

Learn your way around

Most devices have controls to ensure that children can't access content you don't want them to. These include settings for online searching, "in-app" purchases, as well as screen time allowances. Once you hand over devices on Christmas morning it can be hard to get them back, so it's great to have a go on any devices you buy before handing over on the morning of the 25th! This allows you to set up any restrictions in advance and learn your way around any settings and functionalities in case your child comes to you for help!

Setting-up your tablets in advance

Tablets are really popular with younger children and there are a wide range to choose from, including child-friendly and educational models. When it comes to setting up and using tablets, why not start slowly? Download games and apps you have checked out carefully. Sites such as Common Sense Media provide useful advice.

Top tips for phones or tablets over the holidays

Set boundaries - our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them. For example:

Apply Screen Time Limits - Agree a time limit or number of games beforehand, to avoid repeated disagreements around how long they can spend online.

Sleep comes first- We advise that phones or tablets stay out of the bedroom overnight to charge. This avoids those night time distractions.

Ask for access - If you're concerned about something happening or want to take a look at the games and apps they are on, ask them to allow you access to the device.

Monitoring vs having a conversation - It is possible to install software onto devices that monitors online activity on devices. This type of software is becoming increasingly popular, but while this might sound tempting, it does pose a number of issues around your child's right to privacy. Instead why not have a conversation about the types of things they are doing online, and create a family agreement to set out expected behaviour.

The best advice we can give is to talk to your child regularly and openly about behaviour and risk, so that they know they can come to you if something goes wrong.

Dates for your Diary

14 th December	Year R Nativity Performance
15 th & 16 th December	KS1 Nativity Performance
16 th December	Christmas Lunch
17 th December	Last Day of Term
4 th January	INSET Day
5 th January	First day of term