Newsletter

Friday 24th January (No. 18)

Message from Miss Fisher

On Monday, the children (and adults!) had a very exciting day. We spent the whole day learning about the author Julia Donaldson and participated in many activities linked to her stories.

KS1 looked at 4 different stories and participated in such fun activities such as making potions; creating wooden spoon story characters; sculpting clay fish and even painting spaceships.

KS2 studied the book 'Zog' and had a whole day themed around dragons. It was fiercely fun! We designed our very own dragons; planned and drew our own dragon animations and then finished the day getting messy making dragon eyes.

What was impressive was the way in which the children worked together and supported each other. We talk about kindness every day at Newtown because it really is the most important skill in life. The children were mixed up into different year groups and worked with younger/ older children that they wouldn't normally get to learn with – they were incredible and gave each other encouragement and help when needed. A big thankyou to the teachers and teaching assistants who made this day happen (we are looking forward to planning another day like this in the near future!).

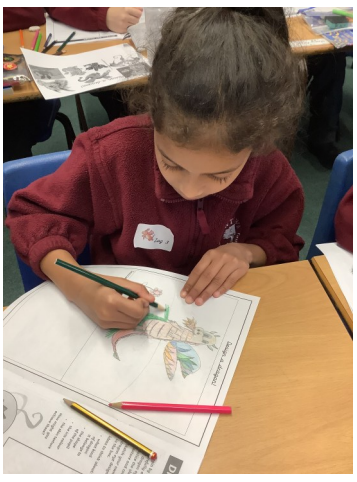












Safeguarding

Healthy eating

Recently, we have noticed that children's packed lunches are including chocolate bars and sweets. Please can we ask you not to include these items in your child's packed lunch, but to save them as an occasional treat to have at home. Similarly, children should only be bringing fruit or vegetables to have as their snack at morning break time.

Whether squeezing it in before the school run in the morning or before bed on busy midweek evenings, preparing your child's lunchbox can seem like just another thing on the list. School meals are a great choice, but if you do make a packed lunch for your child, then why not have a look at the healthier lunchbox ideas and tips below.



Keep them fuller for longer

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



DIY lunches

Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



Mix your slices

If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



Ever green

Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



Cheesy does it...

Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



Add bite-sized fruit

Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



Tinned fruit counts too

A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



Swap the fruit bars

Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.

Free School Meals

Please take a look at the list of entitlement criteria for applying for free school meals. If you are entitled to any of the items in the list, you should put in your application to Wiltshire Council:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals

If you think you are eligible, you should put in a claim even if your child currently gets Universal free school meals because they are in Years R - Y2. This is because there are other benefits that can be claimed, for example supermarket vouchers for the holidays and discounts for residential trips, etc. You can still register for free school meals even if your child doesn't want a meal every day!

- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (Not contribution based JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (Not contribution based ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999—National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (you must not be entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 (April 2012)
- Working Taz Credit 'Run On' - payment you receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more that £7,400 as assessed by earning from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

If you currently receive Working Tax Credit (other than 'Run On') you are not eligible to claim.

Tax Free Childcare for working parents

If you use our Breakfast Club and / or Wraparound Care, or are considering using it in the future, you may be eligible for the government Tax Free Childcare scheme.

Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK

Other schemes are also available to help reduce childcare costs. The find out which ones are suitable to your situation, click on the calculator below.

Check what help you could get with childcare costs - GOV.UK

Attendance



156 children had 100% attendance in the last week, you are awesome!

Chestnut class were the best at being in & on time every day last week.

Well done Chestnut Class!

7 Penalty Notice Applications have been made so far this academic year.

Absence line 01225 752678 option 1



Looking for SEND Information?

Are you looking for information to support you to help your child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

This **free to attend** event is for parent carers of children with SEND, and those who work with them. It could be just what you are looking for to help you find out more about some of the services and support in Wiltshire.

The aim of the event is to provide a range of information to help illustrate some of the choices and options available for children/young people, showcase elements of the Local Offer in an accessible and interactive format, and provide a comfortable space and opportunities to facilitate networking opportunities for both parent carers and professionals alike.

Other reasons to attend include: -

- Free workshop
- Information from over different services and providers
- Free tea, coffee and cakes
- Meet and talk to other parent carers and a range of professionals and practitioners

See our virtual pre-event pack for lots more information

You can book using this QR code

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council

Friday 7th February 2025

Civic Centre
Trowbridge
BA14 8AH

Registration from 9.30am

Event Runs from 10am to 2pm

Parent carers will be able to claim travel & childcare expenses from the WPCC

(Contact us to discuss childcare claims before the event)

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

You can book online

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SENDISFeb25

Alternatively

Phone: 01225 764647 (option 1)

Email: reception@wiltspcc.co.uk

Booking closes 5pm on 31st January 2025

wym

Wiltshire Young Musicians

Steel Pans

THURSDAYS
5.15 - 6.15
WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

ALL AGES WELCOME

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

INFO@WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK



Superstars



Anastasia, Otis,
Ash, Khaleesi,
Winnie,
Libby & Ola

Dates for Diary

28.01.2025	Beech & Cedar Class swimming
14.02.2025	Last day of term
24.02.2025	First day of term 4-children back to school
01.05.2025	Beech & Cedar Carymoor trip