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Weekly Newsletter: wb 2nd November 2026

Welcome back to school. We hope you had a relaxing half-term and the children are looking forward to coming back to school. We have a very busy 7 weeks ahead of us but it'll be Christmas in no time!

Dates

A reminder of some key dates for this half-term is below. These dates can also be found on our website here: https://www.wharncliffeside.org.uk/calendar

- 31st Oct: Deadline for Y6 parents to submit applications for secondary school (please get in touch ASAP if you have missed this!)
- 11th Nov: Parents' Evening (3:30 – 5:30pm) – further details to come out later this week.
- 17th Nov: Flu vac in school
- 1st Dec: Rocksteady concert
- 9th Dec: Foundation Stage show
- 10th Dec: Christmas jumper day
- 14th Dec: KS2 show
- 16th Dec: KS1 show
- 17th Dec: Party day

Roadworks

If you live locally, you may have noticed some roadworks on Brightholmlee Lane during half-term. They were due to be completed before we returned to school but, at the time of writing, they are still there. Please allow extra time for your journey, ensure children are crossing roads safely and (if driving) consider where you can park. Hopefully they will be finished soon.

Attendance

Our overall attendance for Autumn 1 was 95.5%. This is exactly 1% better than this time last year but still a little short of our target of **97%.** Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Every day matters; both for learning and for children's social, emotional and personal development. With this in mind, could be please ask parents to try to organise routine medical / dental appointments out of school time to minimise absences? For non-routine appointments (e.g. hospital visits), please consider whether a full day's absence is really necessary (i.e. could they come to school before / after?). As the children may have told you, we have introduced a new half-termly prize draw – children receive a virtual raffle ticket for every week they get 100% (so 7 weeks = 7 tickets) and we draw it in the final assembly. Congratulations to Kovie, Vaughn and Eser who each won a **£10 gift voucher** before half-term. Well done also to the 65 children who are still on 100% for the year (nearly half of the school). You can read more about our attendance policy here: https://www.wharncliffeside.org.uk/attendance.

Poppies

Poppies and other items will be available to purchase before and after school up until Friday 13th November (while stock lasts). Suggested donations range from 20p for a paper copy to £2 for other items. All proceeds go to the Royal British Legion. Thank you for your support.

WSDA

Wharncliffe Side Development Association (WSDA) have produced a handy guide here to show all the events they have planned for the Christmas period.

Co-parenting

As parents we all want the best for our children, that is why positive co-parenting is so important for the whole family but at times can be challenging. Sheffield Parent Hub run a number of courses that can help with this – see attached flyer for more information.

Mr Gaughan

Nurturing confidence, nurturing potential, nurturing success.

Celebrating Achievement

Well done to the following children:

- ☆ **Bronze:** Annabelle, Liam (Ash); Oscar B, Theo R, Ted (Willow); George, Alfie, Sienna, Maisie (Rowan); Ruby, Cameron, Mazikeen (Sycamore); Gray, Skyla-Grey, Brody, Evie (Oak)
- ☆ **Silver:** Henry A (Willow)
  (I wonder who will win our first **gold** certificate of the year?)
- ☆ **Nursery Stars of the Week:** Tommy & Felicity (Seedlings); Thea & Woody (Saplings)
- ☆ **Attendance winners:** Attendance was 94.6% overall during the last week of half-term (4 days). The winning classes were Willow (95.1%) and Rowan (97.8%).
- ☆ **House Point winners:** Asia won the house point trophy in the last week; whilst Americas won for the whole half-term.
- ☆ **Superdog Superstars:** We entered Sumdog's Yorkshire & Humberside Maths Contest before half-term. Sycamore Class finished 13th out of over 200 classes taking part; whilst Astrid J finished 31st amongst over 1000 pupils! Meanwhile, well done to Frankie-Lola and Harvey for answering the most questions during half-term!

- ☆ Well done to all the children who represented us at the **KS2 Ballskills** event during the last week – you did a brilliant job!
- ☆ Lindy has been very impressed with the effort and attitude of all the children attending Art Club – with special mentions for Abigail, Roscoe, Penny & Felicity.



This week's birthdays:

Lacey (9), Theo R (6), Maisie (9)

This week's 'School Standard' is:

Show respect for others

What's Happening?

Little Seedlings will be reading some traditional tales & Saplings will be exploring patterns.

Ash will be starting the story 'The Magic Porridge Pot'

Willow will be writing a recount of their trip to the theatre.

Children in The Learning Zone will be practising a performance of the poem 'Hairy, Scary Castle'.

Rowan are learning about conjunctions and how to use them in English.

Sycamore are learning how to use and punctuate direct speech in English.

Oak have coaches from Sheffield Eagles coming in to do some tag rugby with them.

Wharncliffe Side Primary School is part of Peak Edge, which is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with company number 11650747