

4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents,

Here we are in November and back to school for the Christmas half of the Autumn term. Things get very exciting and the diary is bulging with learning and experiences for the children - many of which are age old traditions at the school.

It is hard to believe that this time last year we were already facing difficult decisions about whether we could host many of our events and even if we could keep the children in school, such was the lingering impact of COVID.

Families and school alike were all desperate for children to stay in school.

A year on and we have different attendance challenges and, in this Newsletter, I want to set out the implication of time away from school or persistent lateness.

To ensure that children catch up on their lost learning and parents fulfil their legal obligation to send their children to school, the government have set schools a target of achieving 96% attendance across the academic year.

To support schools in achieving this and parents in fulfilling their obligation, an agency called the Education Welfare Office will be working alongside all schools in Wokingham to ensure that they are striving for the best possible pupil attendance. This includes looking at the processes in place to follow up on poor attendance and what the school is doing to encourage and support parents in getting their children to school.

At the time of writing we have 97.06% attendance in the Infant School and at the Junior School it is 96.36% which is very encouraging.

We have always monitored attendance and worked with our school families to have children in school.

Nevertheless, COVID has had an impact and attendance is not as consistent now as it was in the years before the pandemic. There is a need therefore for the school to continue its focus on absenteeism as outlined below.

The leadership team look at attendance every fortnight. If a child drops below 96% attendance and there is not a plan already in place to support increased time in school, a letter will be issued advising of your child's attendance rate and encouraging you to avoid any further time off school.

Should there be no improvement at the next check point, a member of the leadership team will ring to see if there are any barriers to your child attending school and what we can do to help.

If this does not have the desired impact, you will be invited to a meeting facilitated by school and the Education Welfare Office to agree on a plan to increase your child's attendance.

Many families need a day or two away from school at some point in their child's time in education.

What you may not know is that five days of unauthorised absence, not necessarily consecutive, in a 10-week period, leads to Wokingham issuing a penalty notice of £60 per child per parent.

If a family meets this threshold three times at any stage during their child's education, they may be facing a £3,000 fine and, in exceptional cases, a criminal record.

Attending school late or leaving early on a regular basis has similar outcomes as the child has to be registered as having 'unauthorised absence'.

We all have a responsibility to our children - ensuring they access an education which sets them up for the rest of their life. We have all experienced the impact of missing even a few days of school and never more-so than during COVID and that is why we will be doing everything possible to support every child across both schools to be in, at the right time every day and flourishing at school.



Flourishing at school is the best way to describe the scenes at the Infant School this week as the children were able to play on the Adventure Playground once more. You can see from the pictures that they are delighted to be back climbing, dangling and swinging from the different apparatus.

A huge thank you to all that made this possible but especially Mr Roger Hiscoe who worked tirelessly throughout Half Term and ably assisted by Mrs Hiscoe to repair the playground.

Thank you too to Mr Matthew Tucker who co-ordinated the removal of the disused swimming pool at the Infant School. Old and in a state of disrepair, this needed to be demolished as a matter of urgency and Mr Tucker helped us make that happen.

There are so many wonderful adventures ahead for the children this term and I for one cannot wait to be caught up in all the excitement!

Yours sincerely

*Elaine L Hughes*

**ELAINE HUGHES**

**EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER**



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
04 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	School Disco	Junior School Hall	5:00pm Infants 6:15pm Years 3 & 4 7:30pm Years 5 & 6
8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Reindeer Visit	Infant School Playground	Families with pre-school children are welcome @ 9.40am to 10.20am
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Flu Immunisations	Both Schools	Morning
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Children In Need Pyjama Day	Both Schools	All Day
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Individual & sibling photos	Infant School	8.30am Junior & younger siblings
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Christmas Fayre	Junior School	1:00pm - 4:00pm
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	One Snowy Night Infant Pantomime	Norden Farm	During School morning
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	Tree Decorating Assembly	Infant School	Afternoon—pupils only
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Salvation Army Toy Assembly	Infant School	Morning—pupils only Please bring in toys that morning—details to follow
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Infant School Christingle	St Mary's Church	2:00pm - 2:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Infant Nativity Rehearsal	Infant School	9.30am For parents with toddlers & prams—restricted space
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Infant Nativity	Infant School	2:00pm 2 adults per child
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Carol Service Year 5&6	St Mary's Church	6:00pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Junior Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	Junior School	Lunchtime
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Infant Nativity	Infant School	9:30am 2 adults per child
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Infant Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	Infant School	Lunchtime
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Junior Christmas Play Years 3&4	Junior School	6:00pm
16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Jack & The Beanstalk Junior Pantomime	South Hill Park	During School morning
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	End of Term	Both Schools	Juniors end 1.30pm Infants end 1.40pm



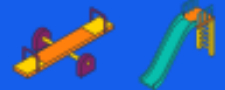
ROBERT PIGGOTT  
PTA



# November 2022



## ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND REOPENS!



The Infant School grounds are looking wonderful, with the Adventure Playground filled with fresh bark, re-fenced, and open again to the children. The kids were so excited to use the playground, they were queuing up! The fencing behind the playground, and the unused swimming pool behind it, have been demolished and the ground is now level. The shelter has also been reroofed and is looking great. Many thanks to Matt Tucker (Dad of Issy, Y1) for the hard work on the playground & pool demolition. Thanks also to Roger Hiscoe for all the hard work getting the playground reopen. And thanks also to Paul Kelly (Dad of Finn, Y5; Liam, Y3; Emily, Y1 & Isla, Y1) and Luke Wootton (Dad of Imogen, Y2 & Matilda, Doves) for reroofing the shelter.

This academic year alone, parents have volunteered hundreds of hours of their time, and have delivered a savings of thousands of pounds for the school. Thank you, parents, for your time & effort on behalf of the school and our children!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER



#### 4th: Children's Disco (Junior School)

£2 entry, £1 sweets, 50p face painting (all cash). Please bring signed consent form. Under 5's to be accompanied by an adult.

- Reception/Y1/Y2: 5-6pm
- Y3/Y4: 6.15pm-7.15pm
- Y5/Y6: 7.30pm-8.30pm



#### 18th: Cake Sale (After School)

- Cherry Class (Junior School)
- Turtle Doves (Infant School)



#### 26th: Christmas Fayre

- 1-4pm (Junior School)

## CAKE SALES

Each class will be asked to arrange a cake sale this academic year. **All the money taken from the cake sales will be given directly to that class.**

Dates for each class will be given in advance. First will be Cherry (Juniors) and Turtle Doves (Infants) on Friday 18th November after school. Your class reps will be in contact with more information nearer the time.



## Get Involved



Find us on Facebook at "Robert Piggott PTA"



Join us on the "PTA Helping Hands" WhatsApp group. Please ask your class rep or a PTA member for the invite link.

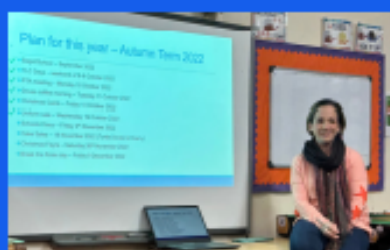


# November 2022

## PTA AGM

Our PTA Annual General Meeting was held on 2 November, and was a productive meeting during which we discussed our previous fundraising efforts, this year's fundraising goals, and the various projects we hope to support. This year's PTA committee (Liz Kelly, Alice Tucker, Rowena Clark and Anjali Bonner Hughes, Co-Chairs; Sam Hood, Deputy Chair; Debbie Archibald, Secretary; and Eva Eriksson Knight, Treasurer) was also formally elected.

A huge thank you to Katie Nwaeke, outgoing PTA Chair, for all your hard work and excellent leadership last year! Big thanks also to Paul Dent, our outgoing Treasurer, and Sarah Lloyd, our outgoing Secretary.



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE



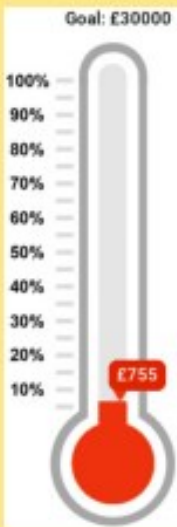
The RP PTA Christmas Fayre will be held on **Saturday, 26 November from 1-4pm.**

This is historically our **biggest fundraiser of the year**, and we are so excited to be able to hold it again, in-person. Get ready for lots of amazing stalls, delicious cakes, mince pies and other sweet treats, and fun for the whole family!

We are still looking for **donations** of good quality teddies, complete jigsaws, games, dressing up costumes, Christmas jumpers, and books of all ages. Please drop off at the school office or with **Jennifer Wootton** (mum of Imogen, Y2 and Matilda, Doves) at **07811 767716**. Please also contact Jennifer, a member of the PTA, or one of your Class Reps if you'd like to volunteer or get involved. The more the merrier! **Ho Ho Ho!**



## FUNDRAISING



We are off to a strong start this year, and have already raised £755 for the school!

We have more great projects & events in the pipeline which we are excited to share with you soon.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES

Please contact Omaira (mum of Teagan Y1 and Amber Y3) if you would like to donate any RP branded, pre-loved uniform items for future Second Hand Uniform Sales.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES**  
**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

CONTACT OMAIRA TO ARRANGE DONATION OF RP BRANDED PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

WHATSAPP: 07585228110  
EMAIL: OMAIRAFALC@ICLOUD.COM

Join the **Sheeplands Friends Club** to receive 10% off in the Cafe & Members Only Offers. 5% of your spend will be donated to the PTA.

Thank you, Sheeplands!

**SHEEPLANDS**  
GARDEN CENTRE COFFEE SHOP FARM SHOP

Join our **'Friends Club'** & support your school PTA

Mention Robert Piggott PTA when you join & we will **donate 5% of your spend to the PTA** every time you shop. Membership is free, benefits include: 10% OFF in the Cafe & members only offers.

**£5** to your PTA for each real Christmas tree you purchase too!

[www.harehatchsheeplands.co.uk](http://www.harehatchsheeplands.co.uk)  
0118 9401600

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Robert Piggott Schools PTA  
**School Disco!**

Friday 4 November 2022

5-6pm Infants  
6.30-7.30pm Y3 & 4  
7.30-8.30pm -Y5&6

Contact Gemma Dwyer, your Class Rep or one of the PTA to find out more.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Robert Piggott Schools PTA  
**CAKE SALES!**

18 November 2022  
After school

Turtle Doves (Infants) & Cherry Class (Juniors)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Robert Piggott Schools PTA  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE!**

Saturday 26 November 2022  
1.00-4.00pm

Volunteers and donations needed!

Contact Jennifer Wootton, your Class Rep or one of the PTA to find out more.



# Street Dance Classes



**ROBERT PIGGOTT  
INFANT SCHOOL**

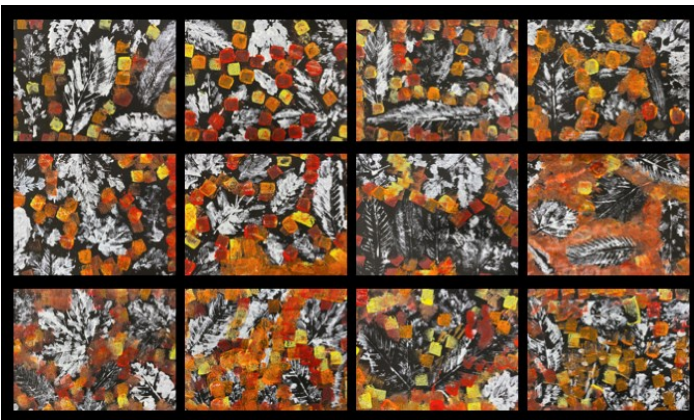
**WEDNESDAY'S**  
5:00-6:00pm - ages 4-8  
6:00-7:00pm - ages 9-12



**FREE CLASS  
with this  
flyer!**

**Quote: FREEBIE  
when emailing  
info@avenuedancecompany.co.uk  
to attend a class for FREE!**

[www.avenuedancecompany.co.uk](http://www.avenuedancecompany.co.uk)



**ROBERT PIGGOTT CE FEDERATION**

From Early Years to 11 years old

**PROSPECTIVE  
PARENT TOURS**

Rated Good by Ofsted

Come along to our tours on Wednesdays 9.30-10.30am

21st & 28th September, 12th & 19th October, 23rd November  
and 11th January

Or our open evening Wednesday 2nd November 7.00pm

Book your parent tour place today

0118 940 2414

admin@robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk

[www.robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.robertpiggott.wokingham.sch.uk)