



# Minety

C of E Primary School

*together, we flourish*

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 - November 2023

### From the Head Teacher

Dear Families,

Well, I think just one word can describe the past two weeks – WET! I'm not sure I've seen this much rain in a long time. It did provide me with the opportunity to talk to some children about rivers and how water always seeks the lowest point as I ensured the runoff from the field ended up in the right place. I am aware that we still have the puddle issue at the bottom of the path, Wiltshire Council came and fixed a soak-away drain last year, which appears not to have solved this issue. When we have a dry spell we will look to get the path re-laid in hopes that it will resolve the issue.\*

Although it seems a long time away now, I do hope that all families managed to get some time together, while Mrs Howard was busy working at her school, my children and I were lucky to get a couple of weeks of sun. A nice bit of rest and relaxation, although losing the number of games of Uno and Goat Lords I did to my children, made it not as relaxing as I would have hoped!

We have a few exciting events coming up over the next two weeks. Monday is the last day of our book fair, thank you to everyone who has visited so far, as I write this we've sold over £300 of books and for every book we sell the school takes a commission which we can use to buy books for the library. We also have Children in Need next Friday – more information about this will be coming out soon. Have a wonderful couple of weeks and until the next Newsletter make sure you stay safe.

Warmest regards Mr Howard

*\* For anyone who saw me on the gate on Friday, this had already been written before I spent the morning drop-off standing in a puddle! ☺*

VALUE OF THE TERM

# RESPECT

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### Upcoming dates

**9<sup>th</sup> November**

*Individual School Photos*

**8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November**

*Book Fair*

**16<sup>th</sup> November**

*Flu Spray Day*

**17<sup>th</sup> November**

*Children in Need*

**22<sup>nd</sup> November**

*Cross Country Y4/5/6*

**24<sup>th</sup> November**

*School Disco*

**20<sup>th</sup> December**

*Last day of term – 1.15pm finish*

### House Points



**232**



**238**



**274**



**190**

## School Website

Hopefully, by now, you've all made your way to check out the new school website. It's been wonderful to be able to share once again what has been going on within classes, sharing comments written by teachers for the Golden Book and booking school clubs through it. However, any eagle-eyed user will have noticed that we've not updated it recently. Unfortunately, as with many upgrades, it hasn't worked out as well as we would have liked and we are currently in the process of moving our website to a more stable platform. Once we have completed the move we will once again be able to use the website to share learning, golden book, clubs and more. Thank you for your understanding in the meantime.

## Office Opening Times

Due to some rearrangement of staffing over our lunchtimes after half term, the office will be closed between 12 pm and 1 pm. If you phone the school at this time your call may not be answered, however, you will be able to leave a message and the administration team will get back to you. If you require to drop off or collect a child please do so at a time around this. Thank you for your understanding in this.

## PE Uniform

PE Uniforms should be worn on days when children have PE. If a child has an after-school sports club, which they would wear their PE Uniform, they may also wear their PE Uniform on that day.

Black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or gym skirt (where possible please ensure these are non-branded, or where they are the branding is kept small)

Royal blue t-shirt (with or without logo)

Navy sweatshirts/cardigan/fleece (can just be the school jumper - with or without logo)

Plimsolls or lightweight dark trainers for outside use

Please for safety reasons – hoodies should not be worn

No football kits should be worn.

## PE Days Term 2 2023 – NO CHANGES

Station Class	Monday	Wednesday
Sawyers Class	Wednesday	Thursday
Hornbury Class	Wednesday	Friday
Oakleaze Class	Tuesday	Friday
Silver Class	Monday	Tuesday

# OPAL Update

Last Friday saw us introduce, in our first play assembly, the first stage of OPAL to the children. We introduced the 'Small World' play zone and to say it was a hit, might be an understatement! The children came up with wonderful suggestions and ideas around how we can ensure that we play respectfully and with integrity. They showed a sense of aspiration around wanting to make sure that playtimes were successful.



We had children from across the school play with building blocks, large vehicles, the farm yard and dominoes – to name just a few. It has been wonderful to stand back and watch children, who in the past may not have had much to do at lunchtime, other than run around, actively involved in play. After their first OPAL Small World playtime, some children were heard saying that it had been the best playtime ever!

We're happy with the introduction of the Small World Zone so far, which does include more frequent use of the Trim Trail, however, we are learning every day about how we can support the children with their play.

Ultimately we are aiming to get to a stage where the Small World Zone is comprised of a range of different play toys for every day to ensure that children remain engaged and looking forward to their next successful playtime. As such, we are still in need of toys!

If like me you have an attic or garage full of old, preloved, toys which your children no longer play with, we would warmly welcome donations of them to support our Small World Zone. Dinosaurs, cars (both small and super-sized), Playmobil sets, construction bricks, and dolls (including prams and pushchairs) are just a short list of what the children have said they would like included in their play. But, if you have something that your children played with and don't anymore we would love to see if we can incorporate it into our Small World Zone, so please bring it in.



## Calling parents with woodwork skills!

In preparation for the next stage of OPAL, we are looking for a solution to house the children's wellies so that they are easy for the children to find and put away. If any parents feel that they are able to make something similar to the pictures below, please let Mrs Ambrose know.



## Just another request...

We have also introduced our new music boxes – which have changed the total 'vibe' of playtimes. However, at the moment we are somewhat limited with the music we can offer the children, if you have any CDs which we could borrow and return to make up playlists for the children please drop them into the office. The children have specifically been asking for artists like Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift.

Thank you



## Nurture Garden

Nurture garden update: the nurture garden continues to move forward bit by bit. We have to thank the Restorick family for their donation of a big bag of soil to help with planting as we continue to build our garden.

## Volunteering in School

Do you find that you have some spare time and a talent you would like to share with the school this could be just an ear to listen to some children read, it could be green fingers that could help with our nurture garden or a particular interest in a sport that could be offered to coach some children. If this sounds like you, please get in touch with the school.

## Absent From School

If for any reason your child is absent from school please call the school as soon as you are aware of their absence, there is an answer phone on the school line where you can leave a message or you can email [admin@minety.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@minety.wilts.sch.uk). For our records please can you ensure that you provide the reason for your child's absence. If your child is off for more than one day please inform the school of their absence every day.

## Golden Book

For this academic year, we have changed the name of our celebration assembly. Every Friday we come together as a school to celebrate achievements from every class. Congratulations to Seb, Hugo, Jack G, Jack N, Tommy, Charlotte M, Jimmy Dean, Archie B, Lily & April.



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is based at the Pre-school building in a specially designated area. The club will run from 8 – 9am per day and will include breakfast, £3 per morning. Pre booking essential. It is very important that if you do want a place for your child that they are booked – children cannot be accommodated if there is no booking. Contact Pre-school for more information on [info@minetypreschool.org.uk](mailto:info@minetypreschool.org.uk)

## Oakwell Afterschool Club @ Minety

Oakwell After School Club is registered with Ofsted to run an After School Club at Minety and is currently running for 3 evenings a week Tuesday to Thursday but if parents signed enough children up it would run from Monday to Friday. The club is welcoming and positive with a good Ofsted rating. It has a lovely atmosphere with an excellent child to adult ratio. If you need to contact or talk with the leaders just drop in to the hall at 3.15 p.m. or e-mail Donna Waldron at [oakwell.minety@gmail.com](mailto:oakwell.minety@gmail.com)



# Minety

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Term Dates 2023/2024

Wiltshire Council

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023						
M		4	11	18	25		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	
Tu		5	12	19	26		Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th		7	14	21	28		Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24		
Sa	2	9	16	23	30		Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	3	10	17	24			Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	5	12	19	26		

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
M		4	11	18	25		M	1	8	15	22	29		M		5	12	19	26	
Tu		5	12	19	26		Tu	2	9	16	23	30		Tu		6	13	20	27	
W		6	13	20	27		W	3	10	17	24	31		W		7	14	21	28	
Th		7	14	21	28		Th	4	11	18	25			Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F	5	12	19	26			F	2	9	16	23		
Sa	2	9	16	23	30		Sa	6	13	20	27			Sa	3	10	17	24		
Su	3	10	17	24	31		Su	7	14	21	28			Su	4	11	18	25		

March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
M		4	11	18	25		M	1	8	15	22	29		M		6	13	20	27	
Tu		5	12	19	26		Tu	2	9	16	23	30		Tu		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W	3	10	17	24			W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th		7	14	21	28		Th	4	11	18	25			Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F	5	12	19	26			F	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30		Sa	6	13	20	27			Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	3	10	17	24	31		Su	7	14	21	28			Su	5	12	19	26		

June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
M		3	10	17	24		M	1	8	15	22	29		M		5	12	19	26	
Tu		4	11	18	25		Tu	2	9	16	23	30		Tu		6	13	20	27	
W		5	12	19	26		W	3	10	17	24	31		W		7	14	21	28	
Th		6	13	20	27		Th	4	11	18	25			Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F		7	14	21	28		F	5	12	19	26			F	2	9	16	23	30	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29		Sa	6	13	20	27			Sa	3	10	17	24	31	
Su	2	9	16	23	30		Su	7	14	21	28			Su	4	11	18	25		

key:

	School Holiday
	Bank holiday
	Term Time

Teacher Development Day - School Closed to Children

School Closes Early - School will close at 1.15 P.M.