



TIMBERSCOMBE C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

Nurturing our unique acorns, for the infinite possibilities of the mighty oaks they shall become.



Inspired by John 10:10, Gideon 6:11 and Corinthians 13:4

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Head Teacher's Blog

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have written a separate letter today, just about events in the lead up to the Christmas holiday, due to the latest and changeable situation regarding Covid-19, we have to approach all our events with cautious and careful planning to ensure full safety of pupils, staff and all of you. Please be mindful that, although we are hopeful that our plans in place will run, they are subject to change.

This also means, we have to approach all FOTs activities with caution, resulting in most fund raising initially occurring in school. Massive thanks to everyone who attended the recent meeting, and for all the enthusiastic ideas, emails and support. Please keep this going into 2022, as we really want to match our anonymous donation of £500 to double that to invest in our school. Thank you anonymous donators— great to have that incentive to get us all going!

In other festive news, it is indeed the start of Advent, hence Christmas festivities are in full swing at our school. From the nativity rehearsals, (with Miss Sparks personally trying on all the costumes- she does make a wonderful star!) to our magical Christmas tree farm visit, to our wonderful Christmas across the globe art and wellbeing workshop.

A huge thank you to Willow Tree Christmas Trees for their donation and allowing the children to choose a giant tree for our new library (and delivering free too!). I would recommend this as the place to get your tree this year to all families, it was a really lovely experience from our welcoming elf, to seeing and learning about all the trees, from tiny three year old saplings, to the mature little forest!

Our art and wellbeing workshop with, local artist, Mrs Snape, was great fun starting with a wonderful story, linking to different music and languages. Please do check out Mrs Snapes art studio, website and new book! www.zoesnape.com

Have a lovely safe, well and festive weekend, Mrs Naomi Philp

Our school is about kindness, caring for others, ourselves, and our world.

Our school values our faith, our location, our community and most of all each other.

We aim to instill a life long love of learning.

Little Oaks News

This week the children have loved finding out more about space. Some of them already had some knowledge and it was lovely to build on what they already knew.

They have shown great enthusiasm and have produced some wonderful art. They have also been ordering space objects such as stars and planets, by size and have been working on their counting skills. The children have enjoyed doing some cookery this week

and have made some tasty star biscuits to take home!

For the last two weeks of term our focus switches to all things Christmas!



An Extract from Thought for the Week

Ed Gregory

Director of Education, Diocese of Bath and Wells

The theme for first week of advent is often 'hope'. In the bible account of the first Christmas, in the very last part, we meet a woman called Anna. Anna is at the Temple when, following Jewish tradition the baby Jesus is presented there by Mary and Joseph. Only three verses tell us about Anna, yet we know she had faced incredible loss, she was devoted to God and she was rewarded with sight of Jesus, the one she recognised as the Saviour.

In the darkest of hours hope is difficult to grasp, but it is always there. It may be through faith, like Anna, it may come through the empathy and support from family or friends. Hope may be in the words of professionals trusted with care or treatment, it may be through the amazing beauty of creation or the unexpected words of a stranger.

As we move into advent this week, perhaps make time at the start of each day, as you wake up, to name a hope for the day. At the end of each day stop, find a comfortable place, and light a tealight, a candle or just be still. For a time that you set yourself, watch the flame or close your eyes and reflect on the word 'hope'.



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Key Dates:

- 7.12.21 Christmas Games Afternoon
- 8.12.21 Christmas Film/Pyjama Afternoon
- 10.12.21 Decoration Day (Christmas jumper optional)
Christmas Raffle
- 14.12.21 Nativity (11.00am & 6.00pm)
- 15.12.21 Christmas Dinner, Party and 'Special Visitor' (Party clothes!)
- 17.12.21 Christingle service

Children's Crib Service 24th Dec 3.00pm
St Petrock's Church, Timberscombe

This year the service will be held outside the church by the Christmas tree
by the Christmas tree
All Welcome

ECO NEWS

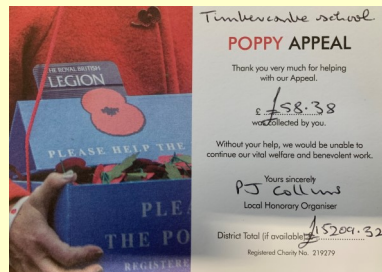
HELP WANTED! Do you have a little time to research this amazing project and help us apply for this scheme?

The 'Recycle to Read' campaign is a scheme that allows us to collect broken plastic toys and unwanted tech to exchange for new reading books for our school.



Please drop into the office or call Mrs Arch to discuss working together to make this happen.

Info about the scheme available at: <https://jointhepod.org/campaigns/recycle-to-read-2021>



Poppy Appeal

Thank you for all the donations, as a School we donated £58.38

Safeguarding

Free Online Safety Guide—What parents and carers need to know about age-inappropriate content

According to research carried out by the British Board of Film Classification, last year 60% of children had to talk to their parents after viewing something online that had left them feeling uncomfortable, scared or confused. Perhaps unsurprisingly, more than half of the content reported by children featured either violence, hate speech or explicit sexual material. Social media often acts as a gateway to this material: trending topics tend to be seen whether they were searched for or not.

Certain online activities increase the chance of a child seeing upsetting content: joining social networks below the recommended age, using age-inappropriate games or apps; watching live streams; and participating in unmoderated chat groups.

Only 30% of parents set up their children's devices to block inappropriate content.



Trusted adults also need to feel confident of responding effectively if and when a child does stumble across content which is too adult for them to process by themselves. #WakeUpWednesday guide examines this and other sources of inappropriate online content.

Download your free guide here: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Two helpful elves went on an adventure with Mrs Philp and Miss Sparks to choose something special to be decorated in School. A big thank you to Willow Tree Christmas Trees for their kind donation.

Nativity Tickets

Tickets will be coming home in book bags by Wednesday 8th December.

Please look out for them and contact the office if you have any questions.

Star of the Week is Finley for working hard in the nativity rehearsals.

Class 1 Achievement Awards this week goes to Evie for excellent handwriting; the Kindness Award goes to Teddy for making sure Mrs Hall's board is always switched on or off.

Class 2 An Achievement Award this weeks goes to Ellie for super writing ; the Kindness Award goes to Troy for pointing out other peoples positive points.



Christmas at Timberscombe CoE First School

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through Timberscombe School

Not a teacher was stirring, not even Mrs Sparks with Little Oaks;

Mrs Gummer had hung the stockings in the new library with care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug by their desks;

While visions of Mrs Prole and Mrs Stephens roast dinner danced in their heads;

And Mrs Arch in her 'kerchief, and Mrs Hickman in her cap,

Had just settled their brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the allotment there arose such a clatter,

Mrs Philp sprang from her office to see what was the matter.

Away to Class 2 Miss Sparks flew like a flash,

Tore open the windows and threw open the fire exit.

The moon by the trim trail catching the new-fallen snow,

Gave a lustre of midday to a Collective Worship below,

When what in Class 1, to Mrs Hall's wondering eyes did appear,

But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick,

Mrs Twiss knew in a moment he must be St Nick!

More rapid than Mrs Waygood his coursers they came,

And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen

To the top of the playground! to the top of the school!

Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As leaves from our Willow that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with our gazebo, mount to the sky;

So, up to the school roof the coursers they flew

With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—

And then, in a twinkling, Mrs King heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As Mrs Cooper drew in her head, and was turning around,



Down the secret chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,

And he looked a bit like Mr M just opening his music pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pencil he held tight in his teeth,

And he practised his handwriting, copying Miss Bowden – taking a leaf;

He had a broad face and a little round belly

That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,

And Mrs Sparks laughed when she saw him, in spite of herself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head

Soon gave the pupils to know they had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,

And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

Miss Sparks was peeking, just pretending to doze!

So St Nick, laying his finger aside of his nose,

Gave a nod, and a wink, up the secret chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team and elves gave a whistle,

And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But we heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—

"Happy Christmas to all at Timberscombe First School, and to all a good night!"



FOTS Christmas Fundraising Events



Christmas Games Afternoon Tuesday 7th December

Children will have the opportunity to play games in school such as guess how many sweets in the jar, name the soft toy and Christmas hoopla. There will be prizes available for these games.

Each game will cost 20p to enter. Children will need no more than £1 for this event.

Christmas Film/Pyjama Afternoon Wednesday 8th December

An afternoon of Christmas films, hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Children can bring their pyjamas into school to change into at lunchtime. Children can bring a suggested donation of £1 for this event.

Christmas Raffle

A children's raffle will be drawn in school on Friday 10th December. Prizes will include an extra 10 minutes of playtime, a special snack at snacktime and 15 minutes to do an activity of their choice in class.

Tickets will cost 50p and can be purchased from Monday 6th December to Thursday 9th December.

Colouring Competition

A competition will be sent home for children to complete for a small prize should they wish to participate.

Entries will cost 50p.

Saturday 18 December - 2.30pm

Henry LAWFULL Toby JONES Sally HAWKINS Kristen WIIG Michiel HUISMAN Zoe GOLLETTI Stephen MERGHANT with Jim BROADBENT and Maggie SMITH



Certificate PG

Tickets: £5 (Regal Film Society members/Friends/Students/Under 14s £3)

The Regal Box Office, open Mon-Sat 0930-1200 Tel: 01643 706430



Wellbeing

By Kelly Twiss

How the power of kindness impacts our lives in such a positive way!



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Desmond Tutu

We are lucky to be surrounded by so much kindness in our lovely schools and I witness this each time I visit; you should know that kindness affects the user and the experienter – leaving a lasting impression on both.

In this fast-paced world, kindness and compassion often take a backseat to selfies, self-interest and how many ‘likes’ we can get. I believe after the last couple of years we have all experienced and certainly in our lovely community, kindness is all around us!

Did you know Kindness produces the hormone Oxytocin? this lowers our blood pressure and improves our overall heart health! Oxytocin also increases our self-esteem and optimism- beneficial if we feel shy or anxious in a social situation.

Kindness increases our energy! People feel stronger and more energetic after helping others. It also produces endorphins, the brain’s natural painkiller.

Kindness stimulates the production of serotonin, this feel-good chemical heals wounds, calms you down and makes you happy, less depressed and with increased feelings of self-worth! Who doesn’t want to experience some of that???

Perpetually kind people have 23 percent less cortisol (the stress hormone) and age slower than the average population!

In one study I have read, a group of anxious individuals performed at least 6 acts of kindness a week, after one month, there was a significant increase in positive moods, relationship satisfaction and a decrease in social avoidance in socially anxious individuals.



Its magic, so throw that kindness around like its confetti!!

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see”.
– Mark Twain

Somerset School Terms and Holidays – WSEP/ Moorland/ KT 2021/2022 Academic Year

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



September 2021					October 2021					November 2021								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26		
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28		
December 2021					January 2022					February 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu		1	8	15	22	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	W		2	9	16	23	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	Th		3	10	17	24	
F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	F		4	11	18	25	
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa		5	12	19	26		
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su		6	13	20	27		
March 2022					April 2022					May 2022								
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M	2	9	16	23	30	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27		
Sa	5	12	19	26	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28		
Su	6	13	20	27	Su	3	10	17	24	Su	1	8	15	22	29			
June 2022					July 2022					August 2022								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26			
Sa	4	11	18	25	Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27			
Su	5	12	19	26	Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28			

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/22 – Revised to include the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	Early May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year’s Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	02 June 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Platinum Jubilee	03 June 2022
		Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

*Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend
 Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with individual schools for their term dates