



# Wistow Ways

Orton Wistow  
Primary School



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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you would expect, we have to start thinking about Christmas quite early in school as the logistics and preparation for the things we do takes a lot of planning. Rehearsals have already begun for the Reception Nativity and Year 2 Christmas Production. Staff have already been asked to sign up for the stall that they will run at the Christmas Fayre on 1 December and we have already ordered the materials for our Christmas decorations!



Our corridors have also been a hive of activity this week as the old displays make way for the new ones. Most of the new displays are based on the books we have been reading as part of our involvement with the Power of Reading. The new displays are already looking amazing and I cannot wait to see them when they are finished.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our non-uniform day for Children in Need. We were delighted to have raised £370.85!

Best wishes,

*Simon Eardley*

Best wishes,  
Simon Eardley Headteacher

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### This week's Assembly Theme:

This morning the assembly theme was about Cyber Bullying.

# Monty

by Mr Marks

This week's Monty's Mealtime Marvels are:

- Charlie Payne**
- Anna Granville**
- Chloe Gosnold**
- Maisie Ware**

All four children have shown that they remember the PRIDE Code when eating in our dining room.



# Coming Up

**This Week: WB 20 November**  
**Grandparents' Lunch Week**

- Tuesday**  
Year 5 - 2 Can Learn 10am  
Year 3 Roman Remains F Meadows
- Thursday**  
Year 3 - 2 Can Learn 9.15am

**Next Week: WB 27 November**  
**Monday - Thursday**

- Year 5 Bikeability
- Thursday**  
School Nurse
- Year 1 Custard The Dragon
- Friday**  
**Honours Award**  
Christmas Fayre

**In 2 Weeks: WB 4 December**  
**Iguana's Class Lunch week**

- Tuesday**  
Rock Steady Concert
- Thursday**  
FS Dress rehearsal
- Friday**  
FS Performance  
Clubs end  
FOWS Children's Christmas Sale

**In Three Weeks: WB 11 December**

- Tuesday**  
Year 2 Dress Rehearsal
- Wednesday**  
Year 2 Production
- Thursday**  
Year 2 Production evening  
Christmas Lunch
- Friday**  
Year 3 Roman day  
Honours award assembly

# Shining Stars were awarded to:

- Hedgehogs:** Archie Pywell
- Penguins:** Elijah Mabbutt
- Magpies:** Brandon White
- Iguanas:** Avie Crockett
- Wallabies:** Jessica Wharton
- Caterpillars:** Joshy Unwin
- Sharks:** Taya Hill

- Giraffes:** Pravojan Nithaharan
- Armadillos:** Leila Riviere
- Hummingbirds:** Matthew Spencer
- Macaws:** Xander Warr
- Toucans:** Cole Bowtell
- Nightingales:** Tess Atkin
- Wombats:** Samantha Alton

# Attendance

Last week, our Whole School Attendance was: **97.56%**

The class(es) with the highest attendance were: **Macaws who had 100%!**

# House Points by Mr Eardley

**DEMPSEY**



**NENE**



**MALLARD**



**FENS**



# This Week's Menu by Mrs Cooper

GRANDPARENTS' LUNCH WEEK	Top Ten Favourite	Roast	Comfort Food	Feel Good Thursday	Basket Meal
	Monday 20 Nov	Tuesday 21 Nov	Wednesday 22 Nov	Thursday 23 Nov	Friday 24 Nov
Main Course 1	Chicken Nuggets	Pork Loin Steak & Apple Sauce & Yorkshire Pudding	Wistow Sausage Roll ✓	Pepperoni Pizza ✓	Chicken Burger in a Bun
Main Course 2 (V)	Vegetable Nuggets	Quorn Fillet & Yorkshire Pudding	Cheese Whirl ✓	Quorn & Vegetable Noodles ✓	Quorn Southern Style Burger in a Bun
Main Course 3	Steamed Salmon				
Starchy Food	Potato Wedges Dauphinoise Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes New Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes New Potatoes	Sweet Potato Fries New Potatoes	Oven Chips
Dessert 1	Chocolate Fudge Brownie ✓	Chocolate Chip Sponge & Custard ✓	Jam Roly Poly & Custard ✓	Lemon Meringue Pie & Custard ✓	Gingerbread Man
Dessert 2		Fruit Salad & Shortbread ✓	Fromage Frais & Sponge Finger	Chocolate Chip Cookie ✓	Ice Cream Cone

Grandparents' Lunch

## New Website

by Miss Wells

We are extremely pleased with the positive response received in the latest parent questionnaire regarding our new website. It is great to hear that the site is proving to be user friendly and informative.

If you haven't done so already, please spend some time looking at the year group pages for additional ideas and tasks to support your child at home. We've seen very limited examples of the home learning activities suggested on the site coming into school. If your child has accessed these, we would love to celebrate this in class. Please discuss this further with your child's class teacher.

Do keep an eye out towards the end of term for updated curriculum objectives and home ideas for your child's Spring Term topic too.

Thanks very much.

## Operation Christmas Child

by Mr Eardley

A massive thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox to Operation Christmas Child. We were overwhelmed to have collected 119 shoeboxes in total. It is wonderful to think that 119 children somewhere in the world will receive a gift from Orton Wistow. 80 were donated by the Hope Christian Fellowship, and 39 from children at our school. Thank you!



## Charities and Collections

by Mr Eardley

We pride ourselves on thinking about how we can do things better.

Having looked back on this term so far, I think we have had too many occasions when we have asked you to make a donation to an event we are running, whether it be for charity or FOWS. You may have felt inundated by our requests.

Unfortunately, the lion's share of the events we support (Jeans for Genes, Harvest Collection for the Food Bank, Children in Need and the Shoebox appeal) fall one after the other and this term we decided to support the Anti-Bullying Alliance as this is a cause we feel strongly about. On top of this, you have been asked for donations for the FOWS collections. I will have a think about whether we can do things in a different way next Autumn term.

I know that not everyone sent in something for the harvest collection or shoebox appeal, but most of you support our non-uniform days and FOWS collections. I have always felt that it is important that the children see a value in supporting others through charities but have been left thinking that we need to be careful about the frequency of these requests.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the numerous things we have done.

## FOWS News

by Sophie Chambers (Chair)

### Donation Friday

This Friday 24<sup>th</sup> will be our last Donation day of the Autumn term; children are invited to wear their favourite jumper in exchange for any sort of unopened bottle of drink. Thank you all so much for your continued support. Please be assured that we seek to utilise every single item for our events and your generous donations are very much appreciated.

### Lottery

This week's winner of £21.30 was Victoria Abraham-congratulations, again! If you don't currently play and would like to sign up then please visit [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) and search for Orton Wistow. New supporters signing up before 22<sup>nd</sup> December are currently being entered into a draw to win a family ticket to Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour!!

### Christmas Fayre

Next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 3.30pm-5.30pm, we hope everyone will be able to join us! There will be lots of fun festive games, Santa's Grotto, Henna treatments and face painting, make your own reindeer food and tombolas galore! Platform One are busy preparing for their very own stall this year and there will of course be refreshments and home baked treats. We have some lovely gift stalls booked so be sure to visit them in the main hall to check out what they have to offer.

Thank you to all who have already sold their raffle tickets and returned the money and stubs to the school office. We have additional books available at the office so do please ask if you would like some!

Our final and complete prize list is as follows:

£100 Cash	Restaurant Vouchers
Luxury Food and Drink Hamper	Rocket Park Recording Studio session
£50 Boden voucher	Lego Architecture Set
Spirals Gym voucher	Pkai Hair voucher
Pamper Hamper	Block of 5 YogaBellies Yoga classes
Tiger toy hamper	£15 Entertainer voucher
£50 Alwalton hall voucher	Car Valet at Sycamore BMW
Autoglym Car products	£20 Voucher for Glitz & Glam Beauty

We have accumulated a mass amount of unwanted school uniform items over the past few years. In order to clear some much needed storage space it has been suggested that we have a uniform sale stand at the Christmas Fayre. If anyone has any items of uniform that they would like to donate then please drop them in to the school office.





## School Nurse

by Mrs Nalton

Just a reminder that the School Nurse, Lindsay Edis, will be holding Drop In Sessions on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November** from 9-12pm, and parents are invited to attend. Please can you contact the School Office if you would like to book a 15-minute slot within this time to see the School Nurse.

School Nursing drop-ins offer a confidential and safe environment for parents to discuss issues about their child's health and wellbeing. Information and advice can be accessed and children and young people can be signposted or referred to other services.

## Labelling School Uniform

by Mr Marks

Please make sure that you label your child's clothing. There are children in every class who are wearing uniform that is not named.

The amount of unnamed clothing that finds its way into Lost Property is staggering and a terrible waste of money.



## Snowdays!

by Mr Marks

On very rare occasions, it is necessary to close the school due to unforeseen circumstances, such as adverse weather conditions where there is a health and safety issue or when staff cannot reach the school. We recognise that parents appreciate advanced warning when this happens but hope that you understand that the unpredictable nature of weather means that we often have to make a decision on the morning in question.

If it is necessary to close the school, we would contact you via Parent Mail and Twitter and would add an emergency message to the front page of our website. We also inform local radio when we have to close in winter and they broadcast this. If you do NOT hear from us, you should assume that the school is open – even if other local schools are closed!

Parent Mail also includes a texting service and we are keen to look into this, as it would allow us to text you if we were closed, or to remind you of an event. This is something we have not done before so we want to get it right. We have at least one mobile number on record for each child. Next week, Mrs. Young will send you a message on Parent Mail to tell you that we are going to send a test text to every family. You will then be able to let us know if there was a problem.



# Parent Questionnaire

by Mr Eardley

Thank you to everyone who completed the Autumn 1 Parent Questionnaire.

	Positive Response	Change on Previous Year	Don't know	Negative Response
<b>AUTUMN 1 – Uniform, Attendance &amp; Website</b>				
The school positively promotes the wearing of school uniform/colours.	99%	Same	1%	0%
Good attendance and punctuality are promoted.	100%	Same	1%	0%
The new website is high quality and informative	95%		5%	1%

We are delighted with these results once again!

It is brilliant that the new website has been so popular with you and we are keen to see it evolve over time. Last week we added a Compliments Wall to the Parent's Section so we have somewhere to post the nice things you say about us.

We did receive some comments:

Comment	My Response
Do we have plans to introduce a special polo shirt for Y6 as not all children will want to wear a sweatshirt.	We will have a think about this. We still plan to keep the purple sweatshirts because they look great but we will consider a polo shirt as well.
I wonder if the photos of the children in the school newsletter could be changed every few weeks	We aim to change the photos on the newsletter each term and think this is regularly enough.
Uniform code is wonderful but please also insist children with long hair have it tied up to minimise transfer of head lice.	We do insist on children having their hair tied up and challenge children on this if we see them with their hair down. We would appreciate parental support on this.
Still think you have too many colour options for the children to actually look "uniform" and therefore clearly come from Wistow school. The class photos really highlight this!	We gave guidance on this in the last summer newsletter and in the updated Directory. There will always be variation in uniform, as you cannot enforce a particular item. At the moment, we like the slight variations and choice in colours. Some businesses allow for some variation in their uniforms.
The children are always looking smart.	Thanks!
Very happy having moved my daughters to Orton Wistow Primary School. Thank you.	Thanks!
All topics mentioned above have been well communicated and promoted and parent mail is a great tool that's utilised very well to keep parents informed of all that's happening in regards to the dress code, attendance and school diary.	Thanks!
<b>Comments about the new Website</b>	<b>My Response</b>
The new website is a huge improvement, much easier to navigate and find information. I really like it.	Thanks!
Information and guidance on acceptable food for children. I don't think it's the role of the school to act as food police but giving parents information would be useful.	I will review this when we next review our Healthy Eating policy but think that there is probably information available on the internet. I found these: <a href="http://www.nutritionist-resource.org.uk">http://www.nutritionist-resource.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk">http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk</a>
The new website is excellent and eye catching. It has all the information you need as a parent	Thanks!

More informative calendar with start & finish times for events rather than default "all day".	I have now found the underlying cause of this. All of the calendar entries now were prepopulated from an excel sheet when we were building the website this summer. By default, they show as an all-day event. I have also realised that we have not been updating the website with new events that we did not know about in the summer. From now on, we will update the website calendar with any new events each week, show the start, and finish time where appropriate. I hope that this will allow parents to check the website for details as at the moment quite a few parents ring the school office to ask.
Easy to find info about what is going on in School. For example, I wasn't sure it was his assembly last week so I wanted to be able to check it was and also check times but couldn't find that info easily.	You are sent a calendar at the start of the year and each week we outline what is coming up in the newsletter. Assemblies are always at the start of the day unless we state otherwise. Please see the comment above about the calendar.
Great new website. Very easy to use and looks up to date. Thanks!	Thanks!
Not sure if this is relevant here but with the new website, you've moved to using Twitter instead of Facebook. That is not convenient for me and many others as I don't use Twitter for anything else but I understand why you've done it. Yes, I could just visit the website weekly to catch up but staff are now commonly putting important info or requests on Twitter which require action in next day or so. Can we limit the use of twitter for FYI messages and 'what we did today' rather than requests for stuff to be brought in? If a class teacher needs to ask parents for something please could they use Parent Mail or even SMS?	This is a valid point and we will try to make sure that Twitter is not the only way of we reminding you.  The reason this happens is because a teacher can tweet a message quickly but they would need the Office to send a Parent Mail email.  We are looking into using texts.
All the information I ever needed are on the website, including the prices for Platform One and for the dinner.	Thanks!
I find information hard to find on the website.	We think the search function works well and have slimmed down what we put on the website so that it easier to find. Perhaps you could let us know what you were looking for and could not find.
Lots clearer now and can navigate to where we want to be easier.	Thanks!
More detailed information about weekly class topics so we can support further at home or at least discuss what's being taught	At present, we do not plan to outline what we are doing each week and feel that the Year Groups section of the website gives you an outline on what we are doing that term. You are welcome to ask your child's class teacher for more information.
Loving the new website.	So are we!
LOVE the website!	So do we!
"More FOWS info- What've they have raised- what's coming up"	I will pass this comment onto FOWS.
Class teacher contact details	We do not have any plans to include individual class teacher's email addresses on the website and would prefer you to contact them through office@owps.org.uk
Really good web site easy to navigate	Thanks!
Pictures of members of staff so I can understand who my son is talking about especially those on lunchtime duties that help him when he's fell over in the playground or give the golden tickets!	We will consider this.
I feel limiting social media mostly to Twitter does not fit with all parents.	We stopped Facebook for the reasons we gave earlier this year. We want our website to be the first place you look for information about the school and have no plans to reinstate our Facebook page.

The required information has been provided on the website.	Thanks!
First of all a good job with information on the school website it's just that I wish you would sent us reminders of when the event is happening in case I read about it and then forget. It's just maybe because I have a mind of a fish. Thank you"	I am glad that you like the website. I am afraid that we do not intend to send out reminders as we feel the Year Planner, weekly newsletters; ParentMail and website provide enough information.

## Year 3 Skype

by Mrs Simmons

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, the Year 3 children skyped the author James Mayhew, due to the fact that they missed his visit when he came into school during Book week, as they were at Flag Fen.



We had lots of questions that we asked him and look forward to reading his books!



## Scholastic Book Fair

by Miss Tansley

AN EXTRA 200 TITLES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO OUR ONLINE SCHOLASTIC BOOK STORE

Follow the link to shop, selecting 'group' at the checkout for free delivery to the school. And don't forget, for every sale the school gets 10% back in free books!

<https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/party/owps>