

Cheapside CofE Primary School

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Wednesday 18th December 2024

Cheapside School

Infants Newsletter 2024

Autumn 2

This half term has been packed with exciting activities in **Wrens**, **Robins** and **Doves**! In the mornings, each class has continued to focus on English, Maths and Phonics, providing a solid foundation for their learning. The afternoons have been just as engaging, with the children diving into the rest of the curriculum, including **Forest School**. It's been wonderful to see them grow and develop their skills, both inside the classroom and outdoors. A big well done to all for their hard work throughout the term!



Goldilocks crime scene in Robins!

In **Wrens** and **Robins**, the children have been enjoying the opportunity to work together in a larger group on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. On Tuesday afternoons, they've been focusing on transcription and handwriting, guided by Miss Grigulis, Mrs Lewis and Mr Ryker, alongside Continuous Provision. It's been wonderful to see the children's focus as they refine their writing skills and make steady progress in their handwriting. On Wednesday afternoons, working together in a bigger group with Mrs Miles and Mrs Coe in **Forest School** has also been a fantastic way for them to collaborate and learn from each other.

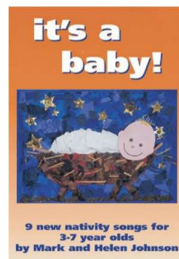


In **Doves**, Mrs Spong is in class each morning, providing consistency throughout the week, as well as on two afternoons. This has been beneficial for the children, creating a stable and supportive learning environment. On Thursday and Friday afternoons, Miss Dineen has been working with the class and has thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the children, especially in their art lessons.



Nativities

The nativities across the Infants were absolutely fantastic! It was so heart-warming to see the children not only embracing the spirit of the season but also showcasing their growing confidence and musical skills on stage. It was a real pleasure to watch them shine. Well done to everyone involved for making these such a special occasion!



P.E.

We are lucky at **Cheapside** to have a specialist P.E. teacher in Mrs Higgins, who has been leading lessons in **Wrens, Robins** and **Doves**. **Wrens** have now started their P.E. lessons, and each class has been focusing on gymnastics this term. Some classes have enjoyed having the opportunity to use the apparatus in the hall, exploring different balances and shapes. Others have also worked on team and ball skills. They have all enjoyed learning new techniques and rising to the new challenges!

PPA

PPA (Preparation, Planning, and Assessment) time is a legal requirement for all teachers, ensuring they have dedicated time each week to plan and assess their teaching. This equates to 10% of their total teaching time. At **Cheapside**, we understand the importance of ensuring this time is covered effectively. Currently, Mrs Day provides PPA cover across much of the school, while in **Reception** and **Year 1**, our new arrangement sees Mrs Coe and Miss Grigulis providing this cover for one another. This system ensures that our teachers have the necessary time to focus on their planning and assessment, while maintaining a high standard of learning for the children.

Plans after Christmas

As you are aware, **Wrens** and **Robins** will be extending the amount of time they work together in the afternoons starting in January. Currently, they have two afternoons together, and after the Christmas break, they will have one additional afternoon together. We have worked very hard to ensure that they are combined for the minimum amount of time possible and are delighted that we are still able to keep them separate on two afternoons each week.

The two afternoons they've spent together this half term have been effective, with three adults in class ensuring the children can work in small groups on key areas of the wider curriculum. This approach

has also allowed the children to forge stronger relationships across the two year groups and on the playground we've already noticed they are playing with a more varied group of children.

After Christmas, the mornings will remain almost exactly as they are currently, with each class maintaining its unique identity. Teachers will continue to focus predominantly on the core areas of **English** (including **phonics** and **spellings**) and **Maths**. In **Wrens** and **Robins**, on the afternoons they are together the curriculum will continue to comprise Forest School as well as subjects like art and music alongside some Continuous Provision. We will continue to have at least three adults in class to support the children's learning and at times the two classes will still have the opportunity to be taught in smaller groups.

We have also taken on board parent feedback regarding the timing of Forest School in Year 2 and are now able to move **Dove Class's** current **Monday afternoon** session to **Thursday afternoons**. This change ensures that **Doves** will no longer have both **P.E.** and **Forest School** on the same day, spreading their active learning more consistently throughout the week. We have also moved TA support into the morning two mornings a week in **Doves** on the days that Mrs Barter isn't in to help support the children.

Wren Class Timetable from January

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Wrens Mrs Coe & Mrs Lopez	Wrens Mrs Coe & Mrs Lopez	Wrens Mrs Coe & Mrs Lopez	Wrens Mrs Coe & Mrs Lopez	Wrens Mrs Coe & Mrs Lopez
PM	Wrens & Robins with Mrs Coe & Mrs Bailey Mr Ryker & Mrs Lopez will also be in class for some of the afternoon.	Wrens & Robins with Miss Grigulis & Mrs Bailey Mr Ryker & Mrs Lopez will also be in class for some of the afternoon.	Wrens & Robins – Forest School with Mrs Coe, Mrs Miles, Mrs Bailey & Mrs Lopez	Wrens with Mrs Coe & Mrs Bailey	Wrens with Mrs Coe & Mrs Bailey

Robin Class Timetable from January

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Robins Miss Grigulis & Mr Ryker	Robins Miss Grigulis & Mr Ryker	Robins Miss Grigulis & Mr Ryker	Robins Miss Grigulis & Mr Ryker	Robins Miss Grigulis & Mr Ryker
PM	Wrens & Robins with Mrs Coe & Mrs Bailey Mr Ryker & Mrs Lopez will also be in class for part of the afternoon.	Wrens & Robins with Miss Grigulis & Mrs Bailey Mr Ryker & Mrs Lopez will also be in class for part of the afternoon.	Wrens & Robins – Forest School with Mrs Coe, Mrs Miles, Mrs Bailey & Mrs Lopez	Robins Miss Grigulis	Robins Miss Grigulis

Dove Class Timetable from January

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Mrs Spong & Mrs Monteith	Mrs Spong	Mrs Spong	Mrs Spong & Mrs Monteith	Mrs Spong & Mrs Monteith
PM	Mrs Spong & Mrs Miles	Mrs Spong	Mrs Day	Forest School with Mrs Miles, Mrs Lopez & Mrs Monteith	Mrs Roberts

Our specialist phonics teacher, **Mrs Barter**, will continue to support **Phonics** in small groups across all three classes on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings.

We are very grateful for the support and feedback we've received from parents during this period of transition. We will continue to keep you updated on how the new arrangements are progressing and, as with everything, these arrangements are subject to change if needs be although we are very pleased with what we have put together in what, as you know, are challenging circumstances.

To help us better understand how parents and carers are feeling about these changes, we kindly ask that you take a few moments to complete the short survey. Your input is invaluable to us.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Searle, Clare Roberts & Matthew Wickenden
The Senior Leadership Team