

The Wren



**Autumn/Winter 2022
Vol. 2**

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EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE : STEP BY STEP

Meet The Wren Team

For the second edition of The Wren, we wanted the students to have more of an input. For this, we reached out to our classes and got some excellent volunteers to help make the newsletter bigger and better. The students excelled in their roles and we hope you enjoy reading/viewing all of their hard work.



Editor-In-Chief
Kyle - Swifts



Our Editor-in-Chief is the highest-ranking member of The Wren. Kyle will determine the overall look and feel of the newsletter and decide what to publish. Kyle and his Personal Assistant (Lorraine) met with the School Administrator to go through some of the important decisions, please see the outcome:

1. Do you think the newsletter should **Yes / No** be colorful?

2. Do you think the newsletter should **Yes / No** have lots of pictures?

3. Do you think it should be big? **Yes / No**

4. Do you think we should send a copy to **Yes / No** the King?

5. Do you think we should send a copy to the Prime Minister? **Yes / No**

6. Do you think we should send a copy to **Yes / No** Noel Edmonds?

Photographer
Dean - Flamingos



Well, what a creative journey the Flamingos class have been on so far this term. Here are a few fabulous photos that one of our talented photographers have managed to capture during some of the special moments in our fun sessions. You'll notice our fun and vibrant pumpkin creation, our delicious 'Bake Off' cake that won 2nd prize and our wonderful sensory story display board that two of our students stood proudly and posed for our class photographer, in front of their hard work.



Distribution
Kieran - Swifts



Responsibility for getting the newsletter from the press to the reader falls to our main distributor, Kieran. All the hard copies of the Newsletters were hand delivered as he whizzed round the school in his new walker.



Meet The Wren Team

Illustrators

Maria
Hummingbirds



Summer
Falcons



We created a Hummingbird out of recycled items, for Recycling Week. We used a bottle for the body and painted it. Here is a picture of what our creation looked like.



We all made our own poppies, using the bottom of a plastic bottle. We completed a 2-minute silence whilst wearing our poppies



Summer enjoyed making their autumn wreaths with help from a member of staff. Summer used paper leaves, whereas others preferred the texture of real leaves collected from our playground.



All of falcons enjoy getting messy with a bit of glitter and paint, we made our firework night pictures whilst listening to the sounds of all different types of fireworks.

Reporters

Casey - Hummingbirds



Casey reported on an incident that occurred during a trip out to our local supermarket....

we where at didi where was paying a Christmas dinner for next week Jo sat her head stuck in the freeze when she was reaching for the Turkey we took photos of her and we laughed and we did not help her and we showed to head Teacher and he laughed so much.



Entertainment News

Ruby & Evan - Hummingbirds

Entertainment Journalism was taken very seriously by Ruby & Evan, who both wanted to perform.

Ruby decided to sing her favorite Christmas song for our readers. We hope you enjoy listening to this rendition as much as we do.



Evan wanted to share his excitement for the festivities in a creative way.

To do so, he needed a special outfit and an extra special dance.

Please scan the QR code to view .



Hear from our Head Teacher...

It has been an exciting and busy term for all our students, with lots of activities and events for us all to take part in.

The new curriculum we introduced is going well and our students are engaging well with this new way of learning. It has been great to see students now have their lessons focused on the skills they need for adult life. Students are now beginning to learn about travel training and road safety. Some students are also now going out into the community and developing their shopping skills and social skills.

All of our students have also been developing their independence and thinking skills, whilst having fun through Free and Structured play. This also helps our students discover their interests and what they are good at. This is especially important as our students would not have had the opportunity to develop these life skills during the pandemic.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.



Josh
Head Teacher



Please scan these QR codes to view a very special video from some of our senior staff.

Hear from our class teachers...



Steve
Class Teacher of Kites

Kites have really enjoyed all of the different celebrations over the last few months, our favourites so far have been Diwali and Remembrance Day. During Diwali week Red Kites really enjoyed the chance to dress up in cultural costumes, listen to stories, make Diwa lamps from salt dough and make Diwali lamps. They also enjoyed listening to stories and making a Diwali card to take home. On the final day they also had one of the teachers sharing what she did for Diwali which fascinated some of our learners. Red Kites fully embraced Remembrance Day 2022 and got fully involved in making poppies using paper, paints and tissue paper. They used scrunched up tissue paper to make the petals of the poppies. They also used paints on a slice of apple to print and make some effective poppies. Finally they use tissue paper circles glued together and scrunched up to make some fantastic poppies which could be worn or put together to make a wreath.

In Swans Class this term we have been concentrating on developing independence skills starting with putting on our coats and shoes. Most students can do this independently but we are working on fastening zips and tying laces, buckles and Velcro straps. Any help parents can give us practising the skill is greatly appreciated. With our Autumn theme our sensory stories have been 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. We practice sensory circuits daily as well as developing play skills, communication and food tech. We have enjoyed theme days including Diwali, Halloween, Remembrance Sunday and Children in Need.



Julie
Class Teacher of Swans

Next term we will be building on the skills learned and practising travel training; using bikes in the playground and finding our way around school safely as well as early shopping skills with the help of the Post 16 Provision Students.

(Penguin Class wanted to tell you about their start to the academic year via a rap, we hope you enjoy...)



Chris
Class Teacher of Penguins



Penguins have been busy since the start of the year,
Building our independence and working hard that's clear,
Art, bikes, swimming, communication and reading,
Physical well being, RSE, assembly and travel training.

We're working hard to communicate and become independent Penguins,
At the end of the day, we initiate conversation and now we know our laptop logins,
We've improved when it's time to use the bathroom,
We're busy, busy when we're hungry and we can find our spoon.

In reading, we're learning how to retell a tale called Snot,
We sit and listen to everyone then show them what we've got,
We're also responding to a rhyme about Tiny Tim,
Drinking bath water and eating soap always ends grim.

Bern has asked The Penguins for some info about out amazing swimming trips,
We'll have to break in down for him so he can get to grips,

Swimming weekly, Diving deeply, All the Penguins, Water engines, Changing solo, Fun times YOLO, Bus or car, We'll go far!

For the rest of the year lots of fun awaits,
Visiting supermarkets and communicating is at the gates,
Celebration days, assemblies and visits around the school,
We will be splashing once more in the pool!

Hear from our class teachers...

Falcons have had a brilliant Autumn term, we have been going on an Autumn walk and chased a gingerbread man in our sensory stories, explored ingredients for apple crumbles and gingerbread biscuits in sensory cooking, carved pumpkins and dressed up for Halloween, ran a Pudsey Bear Hunt for children in need made some fantastic artwork in creativity and got incredibly messy in exploratory play! We have been exploring our school environment in travel training, finding our way to different areas of the school, and taking part in outdoor learning sessions in the school playground and mud kitchen.



Sara

Class Teacher of Falcons

We are enjoying practicing for the Christmas performance and are looking forward to our Chinese New Year theme for the new term!



Nicola & Cheryl
Class Teacher of Hawks

This autumn term in Hawks we have been very busy. We have decorated a pumpkin and won 1st prize in the pumpkin decorating competition. We also painted pumpkins and made pictures using autumn leaves. We made tealight holders to celebrate Diwali we had a lot of fun getting messy doing this activity. Our story this term 'The Gingerbread Man' we been using stencils and flour to tell the story. We have also decorated biscuits and making Gingerbread men using cutters.

Flamingos have put a pause on our Harry Potter Sensory Story to read the Winter Polar Bear. We will immerse ourselves in the icy wonderland of the Arctic to see how a Polar Bear lives in their natural habitat. We are looking forward to the Christmas season, including lots of arts and crafts and practicing our dance routine for the school Christmas Performance. The class have started travel training on the school minibus and are particularly excited about picking up the Schools Christmas tree. We cant wait to get started so let the fun commence!



Pete

Class Teachers of Flamingos



Toby
Class Teacher of Skylarks

Skylarks have been fortunate enough to access the community on a number of occasions. We have enjoyed walking to the park and enjoying some social time together. On our way to the park we have been working on our Travel Training learning skills such as Road Safety. The class have shown immense progress with identifying when it is safe to cross a road since the start of term. In our Outdoor Learning sessions, we have been using the school bikes for exercise, balance and being safe around others. We have a mock road in the playground with two zebra crossings that we continue to use for road safety. Looking forward to the Spring term after Christmas we will be swapping our art sessions for Food Tech building similar skills but generalising across other topics. When we are out Travel Training we will be working on independence by visiting a shop to buy a snack. We have an Occupational Therapist that will be working with the class looking at Interoception, (the ability to detect and attend to internal bodily sensations, has been found to moderate the experience of body ownership).

Hear from our class teachers...



Anna
Class Teachers of Hummingbirds

In Hummingbirds we have been learning all about the world of Harry Potter through our sensory story. We have also been out into the community visiting: the supermarket, Stanwick lakes, and the allotment. On the 11/11, Hummingbirds made their own poppies and completed the 2 minutes silence. We have also enjoyed Diwali, Halloween and Children in Need celebrations. Next term we will be continuing with Harry Potter, we also have a trip to Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes planned!

Emu's this term have been completing some travel training and walking into our local community and starting to identify when we can safely cross the roads around our local area. We have also been doing some ball games interacting with our friends in class and communicating with who we want to play the games with and how. When the weather is good we also have been going on the bus into our local area to access more of our community.



James
Class Teacher of Emus



Lorraine
Class Teacher of Swifts

Swifts have had a busy start to the year. Our theme for this term is Autumn and we have made some creative art using leaves for our display we have also enjoyed taking part in our Sensory Story 'Bonkers for Conkers' especially the fruit falling from the trees! In Food Tech we have been exploring apples cooking and tasting. Our themes are Spring and Summer for this academic year and we look forward to experiencing different play activities and spend time exploring outside.

The students in Sparrows have settled really well in their new class. The students began their journey of learning to be themselves, which includes learning what motivates them, what regulates them and helping them to discover the world that they live in.

The students worked on building their attention skills, they are learning to play and communicate using their chosen method of communication. All of the students amazed me with the tremendous rate of progress with their communication using PECS, communication boards, or verbal communication. Well done, Sparrows!

The sensory sessions and the call and response activities have been everyone's favourite this term. Next term we are hoping to keep up with the good progress and further develop our independence and communication skills.

We are all looking forward to the festive season and getting crafts ready for decorating our classroom. Have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Mihaela
Class Teacher of Sparrows

To help reduce waste and encourage our students to recycle more, all classes were asked to make their class Bird out of recyclable materials/junk. This was a very popular activity with both students and staff. However, Penguin Class were victorious. You can see from the pictures how they went out into the community to collect litter and then created a Prodigious Penguin.

To celebrate their win, they wrote another, amazing song. We hope you enjoy:



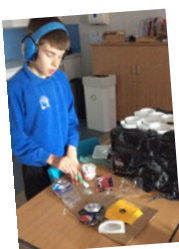
"Litter Picking Penguins, yes we are!
Travelling heroes, we go far.
Picking litter on our walk,
Saving the environment is our talk.

All the litter that we found,
Was tidied up from the ground.
We put it together, it was a size.
To be victorious and win a prize!

So please, don't be a little bug.
That behaviour is slimy like a slug.
Everyone try your best to be eco engines.
Just like your favourite LITTER PICKING PENGUINS"



Chris
Class Teacher of Penguins



Learners from several classes have been going horse riding and learning how to safely approach and ride a horse. Students have done excellently and have even managed to go for a small ride around both the paddock and the local area in the village in which this is done! We are super proud of all the learners at Wren Spinney and how they have accessed this so well.



Horse Riding - James



Our annual pumpkin competition was a huge success. Our students were very creative with their ideas and produced amazing pumpkin designs. Congratulation to Hawks, Skylarks and Penguins for their winning entries. There were some Spooktacular fancy dress outfits in school, thank you for supporting.



Pumpkin Competition - Lorraine

Transport has been working really well as we have gone to two lanes at school now.

Transport times have changed a little in the afternoon.

Cars can now pick up from 14.30 till 14.45 then bus will be able to come down from 14.45, with having two lanes at the front of school this means that transport is not taking as long.

We would like all children collect all students by 15:15 as they are no longer the long line of traffic like they used to be.

Post 16 Students.

I am looking at holding another Transitions day in January Date to be made and time, this is open to family's and students to look at the next step after Wren.

Support

If any family's are needing support i am able to do this. Please just phone and speak to me and will be happy to support if i can.



Playground Ambassadors - Since our last article, the Playground Ambassador Team has grown. We now have 2 Playground Ambassadors in Skylarks, 1 in Kites, and 1 in Hummingbirds. We recently introduced our Playground Cleaner in Hummingbirds, who supports with maintaining our equipment and grounds. Our Playground Ambassadors will be recognisable by their Student Lanyard and Playground Ambassador Badges. I'm sure you will join me in wishing the students all the best in their new roles.

Children's Mental Health Week - Children's Mental Health Week runs from 6th - 12th February 2023. We will be arranging several different activities within class with loads of support and advice coming home via ClassDojo. This year's theme is Let's Connect. We would like to know what Let's Connect means for you, your household and your extended family. We know connecting with others and reaching out for support isn't always easy. At Wren Spinney, we pride ourselves on positive relationships with our families. If you do need any support please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will always try our best to support you and your families.

<https://forms.office.com/r/A4VeFxShbU>



Spending Time in nature outdoors can help improve your mood and reduce feeling of stress and anger. You could try bringing nature indoors, with potted plants or flowers. You could also try growing your herbs on the kitchen windowsill. If you were looking for something a little different, why not try spending some time with animals. You could offer to pet-sit, go for a dog walk, feed the birds from your window or maybe even visit a local community farm

David's Wellbeing Tip

Spend Time in Nature

I am Annette, your Special School Nurse at Wren Spinney. I am here to work with you to ensure your child's health needs can be met in school and enable them access to their education. I am a Mum of 2 teenagers and enjoy spending time with my family. At home I love to read, bake and try a variety of crafts. I am contactable via school and I will always try to help you, or signpost you to relevant information or services.


Annette Robinson
School Nurse



David Doyle
Family Support Worker



Sara
Provision Lead
Sensory

The Sensory provision have had a great start to the school year and are really engaging with the new curriculum, exploratory play is a large part of our school week and all classes have really embraced the session and it has been wonderful to see the students and staff having so much fun! Our themes this term have been based around Autumn and the Gingerbread man, with the thematic, process-based learning approach running through our sensory stories, creativity and sensory cooking sessions.

Our theme for the Spring term is Chinese New Year, and we are looking forward to taking part in Community based visits and activities.



The students in the structured provision have settled in well. They have learnt to gel as a group and follow different routines. The students seemed to respond really well to the change of our curriculum. The levels of attention and interaction have increased, the communication skills have blossomed, and the students seem happy and eager to come to school. All of our visitors to school have noticed what a positive difference the new curriculum has had on our learners. What a good start of the year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the classes in the Structured Provision!



Mihaela
Provision Lead
Structured



The Collaborative Provision have had a great start to the academic year. We have been able to access community for learning opportunities on many occasions including Corby Swimming Pool, the local community for road safety, Stanwick Lakes, The Allotment, Sywell Aerodrome, Ise Brook School, Chester House Farm Shop and local shopping trips. Students have engaged well with our new Equals Curriculum and we are seeing lots of new skills being built and put into practice.

We are looking forward to the Spring term with extra places to visit like Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes, Stubbs Farm in Woolaston, Scavenger Hunts at Chester House and keep an eye out for our Enterprise Group that will be raising money by selling items they have made.



Toby
Provision Lead
Collaborative



Signalong - Word of The Week

On our website you will find some of the most useful words and phrases to help with signing. There are various ways to sign these words. Wren Spinney School uses the 'Signalong' system. These are slightly different from Makaton and BSL signs. We hope you enjoy learning some of these signs; we update this page throughout the year to add more!

Web: www.wrenspinney.co.uk

Signalong - Parents Training Session

It was a pleasure to host a Signalong workshop for parents and carers in October. During the session we learnt the methodology of performing signalong signs. This consisted of handshapes, orientation and placement and how hands may move when signing. We also learnt some basic signs which can be useful around the home. If anyone requires any information or help please feel free to contact the school.



Louise

Level 4 Teaching Assistant



Signalong - Word of the Week



Toby
Provision Lead

Swimming Pool Fun

A number of students have been to Corby to access the swimming pool, this has been a real benefit to the students as it encourages a huge amount of independence skills with getting changed but also social dynamics in the pool. Our swimming instructor also likes to keep the students busy with different swimming styles and distances!!

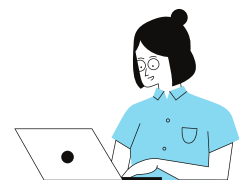


Hi, my name is Lucy and I have worked at Wren spinney for approximately 10 years. Last term I trained and qualified as a Sounds-Write practitioner. Sounds-Write is the phonics system Wren Spinney is now following. Phoenix is now our dedicated phonics room, and I am working with several students from across the school on a 1 to 1 or 2 to 1 basis for three short, targeted phonics sessions throughout the week. If you would like to find out more about the Sounds-Write phonics system, please get in touch or visit www.sounds-write.co.uk



Lucy

Level 3 Teaching Assistant



Celebrations

TERM 3	2023
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 2nd January 2023
TRAINING DAY	Tuesday 3rd January
Re-Open to pupils	Wednesday 4 th January
School Closes	Friday 10 th February

TERM 4	
Re-Open to Pupils	Monday 20 th February
School Closes	Friday 31 st March

TERM 5	
TRAINING DAY	Monday 17th April
Re-open to pupils	Tuesday 18 th April
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 1st May
School Closes	Friday 26 th May

TERM 6	
Re-Open to Pupils	Monday 5 th June
School Closes	Thursday 27 th July

WEEK ONE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN OPTION	Chicken Burger & Potato Wedges	Beef Chilli Served with Mixed Rice	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Nuggets & Potato Wedges	Fish Cake & Chips
VEGETARIAN OPTION	Quorn Burger & Potato Wedges	Macaroni Cheese served with Garlic Bread	Quorn Roast, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Tomato Pasta Served with Garlic Bread	Cheese & Onion Pastry Roll & Chips
VEGETABLES	Baked Beans Sweetcorn	Broccoli Carrots	Cauliflower Seasonal Greens	Garden Peas Carrots	Baked Beans Garden Peas
SANDWICHES	Freshly Made Sandwich with a Choice of Cheddar or Tuna Mayonnaise				
JACKETS OPTION	Freshly Baked Jacket Potato with your Choice of Toppings: Tuna & Mayonnaise, Grated Cheese or Baked Beans				
DESSERT	Melon Slices	Ginger Sponge & Custard	Jelly	Chocolate Crunch	Ice Cream Pot

WEEK TWO	GREEN EARTH MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN OPTION	Hot Dog & Herby Diced Potatoes	All Day Breakfast	Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Turkey Pasta Bolognese served with Garlic Bread	Fish & Chips
VEGETARIAN OPTION	Veggie Hot Dog & Herby Diced Potatoes	Veggie All Day Breakfast	Roast Quorn, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Cheese & Tomato Pizza & Potato Wedges	Vegetable Nuggets & Chips
VEGETABLES	Baked Beans Garden Peas	Baked Beans Chopped Tomatoes	Carrots Savory Cabbage	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Mushy Peas
SANDWICHES	Freshly Made Sandwich with a Choice of Cheddar or Tuna Mayonnaise				
JACKET OPTIONS	Freshly Baked Jacket Potato with your Choice of Toppings: Tuna & Mayonnaise, Grated Cheese or Baked Beans				
DESSERT	Jelly & Mandarins	Chocolate Brownie	Only Crunch Biscuit	Jam Sponge & Custard	Ice Cream Pot

WEEK THREE	GREEN EARTH MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN OPTION	Chicken & Sweetcorn Pizza & Potato Wedges	Chicken Curry & Mixed Rice served with Naan	Roast of the Day, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Sausage with Mashed Potato & Gravy	Fish Fingers & Chips
VEGETARIAN OPTION	Cheese & Tomato Pizza & Potato Wedges	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce & Pasta served with Garlic Bread	Quorn Roast, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Veggie Mince Pasta Bolognese	Cheesy Bean Pitta Pocket & Chips
VEGETABLES	Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables	Green Beans Sweetcorn	Winter Greens Cauliflower	Carrots Broccoli	Baked Beans Garden Peas
SANDWICHES	Freshly Made Sandwich with a Choice of Cheddar or Tuna Mayonnaise				
JACKET OPTIONS	Freshly Baked Jacket Potato with your Choice of Toppings: Tuna & Mayonnaise, Grated Cheese or Baked Beans				
DESSERT	Frozen Toffee Yoghurt	Hob Nob Cookie	Jelly & Mandarins	Flapjack	Frozen Toffee Yoghurt

Reminder - Please ensure that you have booked your child's school dinner through Parent Pay for when we return from our winter break . Parents having problems with logging in please contact the school via email office@wrenspinney.co.uk where we will be able to help you.

