



The Wren



Christmas Edition!



Winter 2023

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Healthy Schools
North Northamptonshire

**EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE :
STEP BY STEP**



Head Teacher Letter:

Joshua Gershwin-Williams
Head Teacher



Dear Wren Spinney School Community

As we bid farewell to the autumn leaves and welcome the winter, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the extraordinary journey we've shared at Wren Spinney School this term. The dedication of our staff, the resilience of our students, and the unwavering support from our parents and guardians have made this term truly remarkable.

Celebrating Milestones and Recognition:

Our students have once again demonstrated incredible talents and resilience, achieving milestones academically and socially. I am delighted to share that we have been awarded the Healthy Schools Award Bronze and recognised as a Rights Respecting School. These achievements underscore our commitment to promoting the physical and emotional well-being of our school community and fostering an environment where every student's voice is heard, and their rights are respected.



Nurturing Progress and Craft Fair Success:

Our devoted staff have diligently integrated the Equals Curriculum into our teaching practices, ensuring a personalised and inclusive learning environment. The recent success of our craft fair, and African arts competition not only showcased the creativity and skills of our students but also highlighted the strength of our community bonds.

SMSC Integration and Special Recognition:

The integration of the SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual, and Cultural) framework into our curriculum has played a pivotal role in nurturing well-rounded individuals. I am thrilled to share positive feedback from Jan Martin, our School Improvement Advisor, who expressed that "the embedding of the school curriculum model and its positive impact upon classroom practice and pupil outcomes is something that many similar schools would wish to see." This recognition speaks volumes about the excellence and innovation within our school community.



Specialised Support:

In acknowledging the holistic development of our students, I want to express deep gratitude for the outstanding support provided by our Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Music Therapy teams. The commitment of these professionals has been instrumental in ensuring that each student receives the specialised care and attention they need. It is through their dedicated efforts that we continue to create an inclusive and nurturing environment.



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Collaboration with Equals Curriculum Schools of Excellence

Additionally, I am excited to share that Wren Spinney School is a founder member school of the Equals Curriculum Schools networking group. This collaborative initiative reflects our commitment to innovative and effective teaching practices. Working closely with other schools has allowed us to share experiences, exchange ideas, and contribute to the ongoing improvement of educational outcomes for students with diverse learning needs.



Community Unity:

To our parents, carers and our governors, your ongoing support is invaluable. Your active engagement in school activities, collaboration during parent-teacher interactions, and continuous encouragement at home contribute significantly to the success of our initiatives. The positive feedback from both Peter Imray and Jan Martin reflects the collective dedication of our leadership and staff team, showcasing the progress we've made.

Anticipating the Future:

As we eagerly look forward to the spring term, I am filled with optimism for the opportunities it will bring. Let us continue to approach the coming months with enthusiasm, resilience, and a commitment to making each day a meaningful step forward in the growth of our exceptional students.

Seasonal Greetings:

May the holiday season bring joy, connection, and moments of shared celebration for our entire special school community. I wish you all a restful break, filled with the warmth of family and the joy of the season.



In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Wren Spinney community for contributing to the success and vibrancy of this term. Let us continue to embrace the values embedded in the Healthy Schools Award, Rights Respecting Schools, SMSC, Equals Curriculum, and the commendation from Jan Martin, as well as recognising the invaluable support from our SaLT, OT, and Music Therapy teams as we journey forward together.



EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE : STEP BY STEP

Structured, Sensory and Collaborative Provision updates...



Structured Provision Termly Comments

The Structured Provision had a fantastic start of the year. We went out and about to the farm, shops and parks, and some of the students went swimming or horse riding. We loved our Celebration days when we dressed up and danced. We have also created some beautiful artefacts for in school competitions. We welcomed the African Drummers when celebrating the Black History Month and we had so much fun! Working on our communication and attention skills was a priority for us and, together with the input from our SALT and the OT team, we have done a brilliant job. The students are much more confident in using communication boards and books. The sensory swing sessions, designed by our OT, have been a winner this term. Well done everyone!

Sensory Provision Termly Comments

The Sensory provision have had a busy Autumn term, we have enjoyed our termly theme 'On the farm' taking part in Sensory stories, The Little Red Hen, and The Gingerbread man, exploring different flavours and textures of bread and Gingerbread biscuits. Our post 16 sensory students from all four classes started their ASDAN accreditation this term, taking part in mixed group sessions twice a week completing work towards the Sensory story and Creativity modules. Over the term we have had a fantastic time exploring our new outside spaces, taken part in whole school events as part of the Celebration days, including Children in Need, Diwali, and the African drummers who visited us as part of Black History month, we were also very proud that the Sensory department swept the board in the annual Pumpkin decorating competition in October! As Christmas approaches, we have enjoyed the visit from the 60's brass band and we are all busy practicing for our school performance. Next term our theme is Ready, Steady, Grow! And we look forward to adventures climbing the Bean Stalk! We hope everyone has a lovely break and a Happy New Year.

Collaborative Provision Termly Comments

Our Collaborative Provision has had a fantastic Autumn Term. We have been able to enjoy off site visits such as swimming, Horse Riding, Shopping, local walks, Green Patch visits, Tennis competition at Northamptonshire Cricket Club and Ten Pin Bowling. In school we have been taking part in creating art pieces for the African Art project, the Pumpkin Competition and a Christmas Card competition. We have been seeing lots of peer working with classes joining together for exploratory play and dancing sessions. We have had visits from The African Drummers and The Music Man. We wish you all a restful break and we look forward to our Spring term.



'Movember' Challenge



Christmas Craft Fair



Black History Month Competition



EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE : STEP BY STEP



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Student Council Update

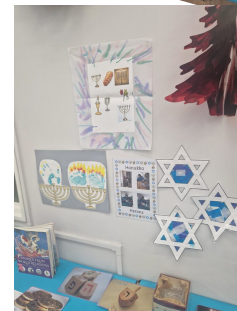
The Student Council started the year exploring safety and how our students express feelings of safety in many different ways. This was their first, of many, contributions to our journey as a school community towards the Rights Respecting School Award. This was also an opportunity for the Council to provide feedback on the school and provision that is in place for them, overall this was very positive but they have highlighted some new resources that they feel the school could have available on the playground. The school council also held elections for new members and took a role in handing out ballots and collecting nominations for this, there should be two new councillors starting in the new year. Finally, the school council have also questioned and provided feedback on candidates during their interview days, providing valuable feedback on their interactions with the candidates

Celebration Days



This term as part of our SMSC curriculum we have Celebrated the following events in School:

- Recycling Week
- Pumpkin Competition
- Black History Month
- Diwali
- Remembrance Day
- Children in Need
- Hanukah
- Taskmaster Class Challenge
- Brass Band
- Christmas Production



HAPPY
holidays



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