

A cold and frosty week has passed us by and February is fast approaching. It has been a joy watching the children play with the ice on the picnic tables and trying their best to make snowballs as they wait for the school doors to open.

If you are passing the school hall on a Monday morning you may have heard Mr Steed and the whole school singing their 'Assembly Bangers' this gets us all in a feel good positive mood ready for a week of learning. Apple Tree held their first Reading Café yesterday. Thank you to all the parents who were able to come along to share stories and books with the children. Our new phonic scheme 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' is in full swing so EYFS and KS1 parents keep an eye out for your child's new decodable reading book. These are coming home today. A GENTLE reminder that these books **MUST** be returned to school on **MONDAY** so that the reading practice sessions can continue the following week.

Key Changes:

- All schools must use an accredited systematic Synthetic phonics scheme.
- The books used in school - Little Wandle fully decodable books matched to your child's needs.
- The books coming home
 - 1 Little Wandle fully decodable book matched to your child's needs. (Your child will have been using this book at school and should be able to read this book with 95% accuracy when they bring it home).
 - 1 sharing book that your child will have chosen from a selection of quality texts. This is for you to share with your child - not for your child to read to you or on their own.
 - Both reading books **MUST** be brought into school **every day** to enable us to use the scheme properly.
 - In school children will have three reading sessions each week, focusing on decoding, prosody (improving fluency and expression) and comprehension.

At Northwood we promote a love of reading from Apple Tree through to Oak Tree and believe that all reading experiences should be special, exciting and fun.

A round-up of Sports News from Mr Hill; Year 4 swimming lessons are underway and excited swimmers head off for the minibus shuttle run each Thursday. Our football teams are still doing well in all football leagues despite games having to be cancelled [sometimes at short notice!] due to the weather and pitch conditions. Our U9 boys team were victorious after a 7-1 win against Brighstone. Our U9 girls team have a match next week against Wroxall and on Thursday our U11 athletics team head to the Sportshall Athletic Final. It's all go! Good Luck #TeamNorthwood

The school holiday calendar for the 2023/2024 Academic year is attached. The development days have not been included as yet and these will be clarified once a new Headteacher has been appointed.

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Mumford