

• Hello everyone •

Welcome back. I hope you all managed to do something special during half term and maybe went to see family or friends that you haven't seen much of this year. It was great to see the children back and ready to learn on Monday, even though the weather was certainly stormy. Weather is much better now that it's cold and frosty.

• Notices •

Parent/teacher meetings

A big thank you to both parents and teachers for successfully carrying out telephone call meetings. It was definitely strange not to be face to face, but I hope all parents managed to find out and discuss their child's progress with their teacher. If you didn't manage to meet up with your child's class teacher please get in touch, so that we can re-arrange a suitable time.

PTA

Our amazing PTA have signed the school up to Amazon Smile. Meaning, when you purchase anything through Amazon the school will receive a small donation. We would be really grateful if parents signed up so we can make this year extra special! Please read more on the Amazon website: <https://org.amazon.co.uk/>.

Also our PTA have organised a raffle, we are nearly at our ticket goal so please help us go over and above it!! To buy a ticket please go to :<https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/tortworth-vcp-school-gl12>

National Lockdown

On the 31st October, the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown to commence on **Thursday 5th November** until **Wednesday 2nd December**. Schools will remain open as such; we will be operating in the normal manner. As the lockdown rules toughen, please may we remind

parents to be mindful of social distancing during drop-off and pick-up times and to abide by household mixing rules. We understand that this lockdown will be very tough, but we appreciate everyone's efforts. Stay Safe!

After School Sports Clubs

With local grassroots clubs unable to run through November, including our community clubs and hubs, the sport and physical activity that our after school sports club provides is even more critical for children's mental health and physical wellbeing. After school sports club runs on a Tuesday from 3.30 - 4.30 and we still have places available. Please do not hesitate to sign your pupil up so that they are kept active throughout this second lockdown. Please sign up by following this **direct link**.

Parking

The school governors have shared a map illustrating safe parking. Please ensure that these guidelines are followed during pick-up and drop-off, especially as mornings and evenings get darker.

Thursday School Lunch

School lunch on a Thursday will no longer be sandwiches, instead it will be replaced by sausages and ratatouille (week 1); chicken pie and veg (week 2); beef lasagne (week 3). As always, we have vegetarian options and jacket potatoes available. Please make your preferred selection through Parent Pay.

•Wagtails •

This week we have been enjoying the story of Owl Babies and we have been talking about how we sometimes feel scared of the dark. We have been retelling the story using a story map and next week we will be making up our own versions of the story with different nocturnal animals.

It has been lovely to have some dry, sunny weather at last and on Wednesday we went down to the Wild Woods and built some shelters with tarpaulins and ropes. The children had lots of fun and there will be some photos appearing soon on the Wagtails page of the school website.

• Kestrel •

Children in Kestrel class started the week designing and making a robot. Although we all worked very hard on our designs, on reflection we knew we could do a whole lot better. We will be continuing with this topic during our DT lessons and would appreciate it if you could start collecting small pieces of 'junk modelling' materials. In computing, we are learning about coding, using Purple Mash. Do ask your children to demonstrate this to you at home.



• Peregrine •

Our year 5 and 6 children had rather a strange week with two supply teachers due to staff sickness. They took it all in their stride which shows how settled they are and we are very proud of them.

The children finished their green man masks, using acrylic paint and showing good understanding of blending and shading colour to great effect. In science, they dissected a flower and labelled the reproductive organs as well as looking at and comparing life cycles of amphibians, reptiles, insects and mammals.