Pewsey Vale School

Brightside

DECEMBER 2024

A very warm welcome to you all at this festive time.

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to the coming holiday.
As you can imagine, the vast majority of our students have been excited about breaking up for Christmas; whether this be linked to their upcoming presents, opportunities to spend time with their families or just getting a break from school!
However, I think that it is important at this time of year that we do reflect on things and acknowledge that for some, this is a very difficult time of year. Some families have lost loved ones and this is often tougher to cope with over this period. Others may struggle financially, emotionally or to meet false expectations. Please remember, there is a lot of support out there and Childline is a great starting point.
In this edition of Brightside, we have included a lot of articles on the different things that we have been up to. Whether it be curriculum related, sports fixtures, trips and visits; all of the students have thoroughly enjoyed engaging in these opportunities.
Over this term, we have introduced a lot more enrichment opportunities during lunchtime and now run over 25 weekly clubs. From next term, we will also be running daily intervention sessions for our Year 11 students to support them in their exams.
This term has also marked the beginning of a new chapter in our school’s journey as we join Acorn Education Trust. This will allow us to continue to grow and build additional capacity. I look forward to the future work that we will be doing together.

So, I hope that you all have a happy time over the break and wish you a Merry Christmas.

See you all back on Wednesday 8th January.

Neil Pritchard

REWARDS - MR CLAPTON

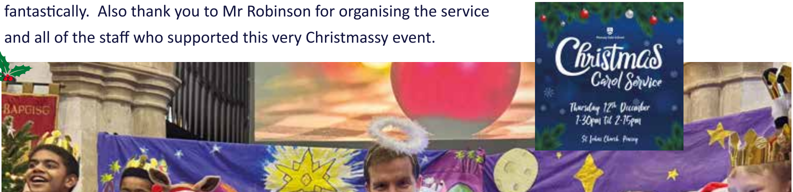
We have had a continued buy-in from the students with the rewards system that was introduced at the beginning of the academic year, with a significant number of students having now accumulated 100 plus points, where they will get rewarded with a bag of sweets and a certificate of achievement to take home. Some students are well on their way and even hit the next tier of rewards, where they will get a sweet treat and a raffle ticket to enter the big prize draw. The students have been absolutely brilliant, wanting to gain points so they can be rewarded for the great things they are doing in and around school. This positive addition to school has been great for all involved and the momentum is snowballing well, as the year comes to an end. Students are continually getting noticed and rewarded for the amazing things they are doing in every lesson, every day, the staff have definitely noticed the positive impact this has had on everyone, with students wanting to contribute in a positive way rather than a negative one, which is great to witness.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the local businesses who have been very generous and contributed to our prize pot, these lovely businesses consist of the following;

Marshalls Bakery, Spa, Pewsey Radio Vision, Snoopers Bazaar, The Moonies, Acorn Builders, Co-Op and No1 Hair & Beauty.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - MR ROBINSON

On Thursday 12th December the Year 7's were invited to St John the Baptist Church in Pewsey to take part in the Scratch Nativity. Reverend Hazel Davis welcomed us into the church and despite some initial hesitation from both staff and year 7's we all became a part of the nativity told from a different angle. With much excitement we had Angels, Kings, Shepherds, a fantastic Angel Gabriel (Thank you to Mr Webb for donning the light up wings) and more animals than you can imagine. Thank you to our Head Girl and Head Boy, you played Mary and Joseph fantastically. Also thank you to Mr Robinson for organising the service and all of the staff who supported this very Christmassy event.



PRESENTATION EVENING

On Thursday 28th November we held our GCSE certificate presentation evening for those students who left in the summer after sitting their GCSEs. This was a lovely event where those students were able to reminisce with staff and other students and share how they are getting on with their new courses.

We were also lucky enough to welcome two special former members of staff who presented trophies to winning students. Mark Alford (former Head of the English Department) presented the Alford Cup for the highest attainment in English. Barbara Reeder (former Head of the English Department) presented the Reeder Cup for the highest attainment in Maths. We also had a new cup this year, the Dunstan Cup, presented by Hilary Dunstan, former parent and PTFA chair, this cup is presented for character and resilience.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP RUCKSACK PROJECT - MRS YOUNGS

This Christmas, we wanted to reach the people who are suffering the most by bringing joy and hope into their lives. We aim to provide essential items for as many local homeless people as possible.

Each tutor group was asked to fill a rucksack with as many items as possible that a homeless person may need. The winning tutor group were awarded a prize. This was 11DLy, who, between them, donated a phenomenal amount of contents, including a homemade pillow, hat, gloves, socks, food, hygiene products, water purifier and much more. A close second was 7IWa with a fantastic full rucksack. We also had a very generous donation from one year 7 student, Ivy, who created a rucksack for both a boy and a girl.

Huge thanks to all of you who donated to this very worthy cause.

These filled rucksacks were collected by The Haven night shelter in Swindon in time for them to be distributed to those in need during the Christmas.

Pewsey Vale School
Pack a bag Change a life
Rucksack Project

SWINDON Night Shelter

ART - MR JONES

On November 29th Mr Jones, along with our Governor Mrs Del Mar, took the Year 10 Art students to the Roche Court Sculpture Park in Salisbury.

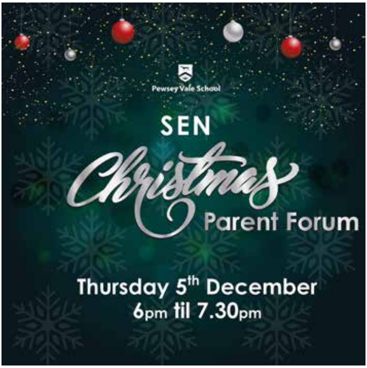
Mrs Del Mar was “delighted to join the year 10s on a very successful art trip to Roche Court on Friday. A bespoke tour, arranged by three of the Education Centre's trained guides, showed the students over 40 sculptures, both modern and contemporary, stretching their understanding and use of language: so essential for GCSE.

Pewsey Vale is a regular visitor to the Sculpture Park and the relationship has meant that Pewsey's art students have first hand experience of sculpture and painting.

Roche Court provides an outdoor learning centre where students can see sculptures in a curated setting and have the freedom to explore and experience some of UK's leading artists' work. ”

SEND - CHRISTMAS PARENT FORUM - MISS SCOTT

It was lovely to see parents of some of our SEND students attend the first Pewsey Vale SEND parent network on Thursday 5th December. The evening was an opportunity for parents to meet and chat over a cuppa and to create their own Christmas Cookie Jar to take home and enjoy. We will be holding three Parent Forums per year with the aim to foster a sense of community, support and fun! The forum is an opportunity for families to share experiences, discuss challenges and successes in parenting children with SEND. Discuss resources and strategies that have been helpful for families, and most importantly connect with other parents to form lasting friendships and support networks. You never know, your story might inspire someone else.



Pewsey Vale School
Christmas
Triple chocolate cookies

ENGLISH - MISS LEGG

This term, Year 11 English and Year 10 Performing Arts students received a visit from the Handlebards touring production of Macbeth. The performance was an engaging and dynamic experience that brought Shakespeare's classic tragedy to life in the main hall through a unique and energetic performance style. The Handlebards, known for their bicycle-powered theatre, presented a fast-paced and highly interactive version of Macbeth that was tailored to GCSE students. Their production combined humour, physicality, and creativity to make Shakespeare accessible and exciting for students to aid in their mock revision (and included some surprise roles for Mr Davies, Miss Anslow and Miss Cave!).

In addition to the performance, the Handlebards also provided drama workshops for students as part of their school outreach program. These workshops gave students the opportunity to delve deeper in the play's themes, characters, and language through practical exercises and encouraged them to consider some alternative interpretations of their GCSE Literature text.. The workshops focused on improving acting skills, fostering collaboration, and exploring the text in a hands-on way as students engaged in improvisation, scene work, and

group discussions, all aimed at enhancing their understanding of the play and its relevance.
The combination of the lively production and interactive workshops provided an immersive educational experience which students thoroughly enjoyed, making Shakespeare's work both entertaining and educational for our KS4 students.

uhammed Ali

PE - MISS BAWCUTT

15th November –
Miss Bawcutt and Mr Pritchard took two year 11 teams to the Badminton tournament at Trafalgar school in Downton.
Boys did extremely well with one team finishing in 2nd place and us taking a team to the county finals. Congratulations all round to those year 11 boys.

18th November –
Second round of the cup for our year 7 team, away at Stonehenge school. The game ended with a loss sadly for our year 7s, they took a while to settle into the game and had a stronger second half. Hopefully they can gain their first win after Christmas against Wellington in Round 3.

20th November –

Miss Bawcutt took two year 7 teams to St Johns for their first netball match. Both teams work well for their first game despite their nerves, however did not result in a win for either teams. Congratulations to Emmy, Isla BD and Sienna who got coaches player for their matches. Congratulations to Isla BD and Sylvia who got player of the matches for their team from the St Johns players.

25th November –

Year 11 girls had one of their final matches for school against Wellington School. What a physical and well fought game. The girls held their own and were winning during the first half of the match. The girls did not have their full squad so thank you to Laila for stepping up and playing. We did end up with the loss with a score of 10-7 to Wellington but congratulations to Laila who got player of the match!!!

26th November –

Year 9 had their game against St Johns on 26th November and what a game it was!! Great start in first quarter ending in 2-2. The girls kept their own in the second quarter ending in 3-2. Sadly due to some fatigue the girls lost their way in the third quarter and St Johns took the lead even more with 7-3. However, the girls found some strength, drawing the last quarter, meaning the score ended at 10-6 to St Johns. They played fanatically!!! Player of match went to Laila, congratulations!!!

9th December -

U16s Round 2 of the county cup – unfortunately the boys came away with a loss of 4-2 against Stonehenge at Home. The boys played well and tried to keep their cool throughout but unfortunately couldn't get the win. Two good goals - one from Mac, who finished a great cross from Caydn, and another great goal from Jack. Well done to all who played on a cold, dark Monday!!!

11th December –

Year 8s finally got their first game of the year after their unfortunate luck of cancelled matches. Was a tough game for the girls. Took some time to gel together. Looking for our win after Christmas in our next game.

School Games –

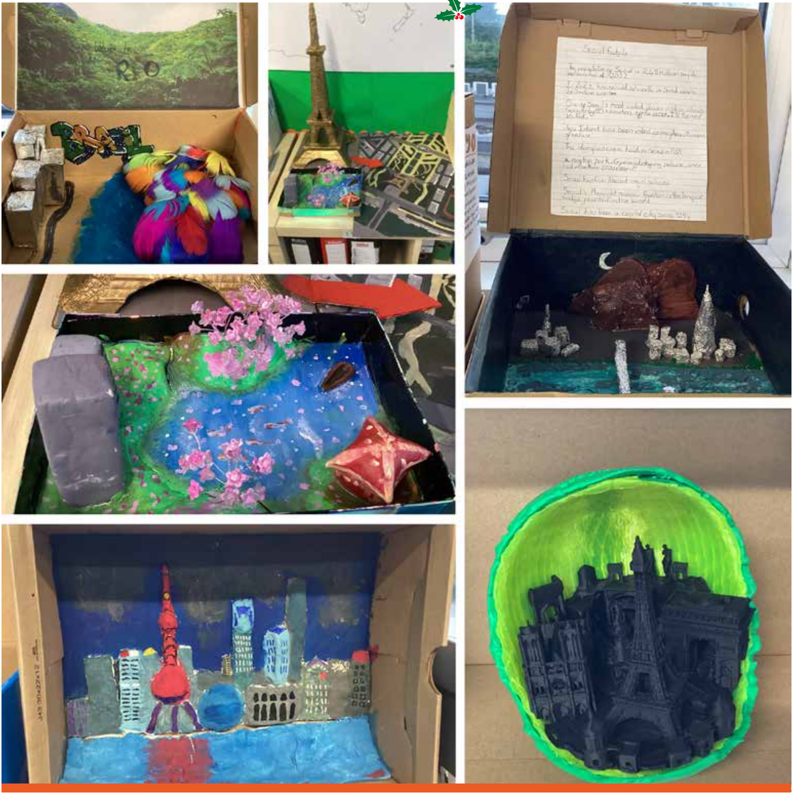
KS3 pupils have also been helping out with our school games coordinator assisting in multiple sports festivals with the local primary schools, well done and thank you to everyone involved.

Cancelled matches –

Those matches that were postponed this term will be taking place after Christmas. This includes, year 8s football match, year 8s netball match and a year 7s netball match.

GEOGRAPHY - MISS LYTHE

I was blown away with the quality of work from the Year 9s this term. Their homework was to create a mega city in a box and write a 2-minute script to present to the rest of the class. The boxes were very creative with a lot of research clearly completed. Hearing the students showcase their knowledge to their classmates made me very proud indeed. Good subject vocabulary and confident speaking made them sound like a true geographer. Well done to all those that worked hard on this project.



SEND - KURLING FESTIVAL - MR ROBINSON

The SEN department took 8 students to a new age Kurling festival at Wellington Academy. The students had a brilliant time trying out a new sport they had never played before. The festival will be held again next year where the students are looking forward to honing their skills even more.

FOOD TECH - MR DRAPER

The food department has had a very busy and rewarding term, with lots of new and tasty creations. The pizzas were a great success again, with the finished articles looking very Professional.

The ‘stained glass window’ style cookies looked beautiful and the taste test in the school office can confirm that they tasted amazing!

HISTORY - HARRY W

Harry W and his Father have travelled to Bastogne in Belgium to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle Of The Bulge. Harry has been part of a civic reception as representative of his great great uncle and US President - Franklin Roosevelt, and taken part in acts of memorial for the fallen of the battle.

“I type as I sit with Harry on the BA flight, heading home.

He is tousel-haired, red-cheeked, muddied, tired, a little bruised but not bloodied! He has walked tens of kilometres across winter landscaped battlefields, through mud, forests and frozen white pastures... waved at convoys of 100s of military period vehicles as they passed by, and listened to music and news of the era broadcast across loud speakers in bars and cafes of villages and towns of the Ardennes.

Harry has visited 6 separate museums, attended live reenactments events, climbed on shattered tank hulks, caught sweets thrown from passing US half tracks, scoured the ground for "war treasure" and personally sought to reduce the Belgian annual waffle stock by at least 50%!

Harry had the opportunity to represent the family of former US wartime President Franklyn Roosevelt - at the 101 Airborne Division Museum in Bastogne which he attended in the presence of Helen Patton - (Gen George S Patton's grand daughter). Harry's great aunt is wife to FDR's son. Harry represented with immaculate decorum and understated pride.

Most remarkably... on the eve of the 80th Anniversary of the commencement of the Battle Of Bulge (15 Dec 1944), Harry climbed with me up to the infamous Bois Jaques forest and stood motionless in the winter's night; in the middle of the US former defensive positions - as the trees above him ached their melancholic melody of mourning in the almost shattering silence of total darkness; snow dancing and swirling around him in a wind seemingly baying for the battered young paratroopers of eight decades ago.

It was beyond moving. And terrifying!” Mr. Winskill

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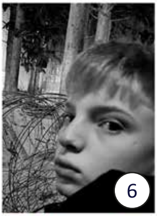
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US Temporary Cemetary, Recogne near Bastogne
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My Trip To 80Th Anniversary Of The Battle Of The Bulge 14 – 16 December

1.On 16 December 1944 – the German Army launched a massive attack into the Ardennes. They wanted to get to Antwerp and split the US and British Army up. Bastogne was a town on the German axis of advance.

2.Every available soldier was moved toward Bastogne to protect the town. They were told to dig trenches in forests. The weather was awful and minus 10 degrees with heavy snow. Many of the troops didn't have winter clothing. Some didn't have even weapons or ammunition.

3.This is one the forests today in modern times. It is called the Bois Jacques or “Jack’s Wood”. In this wood men of the 101st Airborne Division dug their trenches and foxholes.

4.Many soldiers died in this wood and many more were injured or suffered frost bite. People who visit the wood make small crosses from the twigs on the ground to remember the fallen paratroopers. I made some repairs to crosses that had fallen.

5.The foxholes are still everywhere – dotted throughout the wood and forests. This one had been recreated by a visitor to show what it might have looked like in 1944. The ground was frozen hard and very cold.

6.The museums had some reconstructions of the Bois Jacques. This museum is the Bastogne Municipal Museum. The scene was immersive and made me realise how hard the conditions must have been for the young soldiers.

7.This scene was for a medic who was trying to save a soldiers life. The snow was fake and the trees were too – but together the scene made me understand the difficulties they faced. It was not only the Germans trying to kill the soldiers, the weather was trying to kill them too

8.This lady is called Helen Patton. She is the granddaughter of the US commander – General George S Patton Junior. He was in charge of the US tanks that drove north to free Bastogne. I was due to spend time with her, but her visits were delayed. My great Aunt is the wife of the US President's son. She asked me to pay my respects to Helen.

This is the best museum in Bastogne. It is for the airborne troops who defended the city. It is privately owned but the displays are incredible. Every item on display is 100% original and not reproduction. The museum building used to be the officers mess for the German SS occupying the town.

9.In May 1940 – Adolf Hitler visited Bastogne. This picture is taken of him leaving General Von Rundstedt Headquarters after a visit. . And this is me standing in exactly the same spot

10.This is men of the modern 101 Airborne Division marching through Bastogne to celebrate the Battle Of The Bulge. These men were singing a really loud paratrooper song called "Gory, Gory What a Hell Of A Way To Die".

11.Like in December 1944 – 80 years later it snowed in Bastogne and was freezing cold. This tank was borrowed from the Russians and used to defend the city. It had a US star painted on the front to show it was a allied tank.

12.Over 6,000 US soldiers were killed or injured in the Battle Of The Bulge. 2,701 were buried in a temporary grave site on the battlefield from 1945 until 1948. The bodies were then dug up and moved a new US cometary in Luxembourg.

There were loads of people re-enacting the Battle. These were mainly French, Belgian and Dutch people. Their uniforms were identical to those worn during the battle and they had lots of period vehicles to drive around in,. It made the story really come to life seeing these men and the vehicles.

13.My dad and I stayed in a town called La Roche. The town was destroyed by US bombing in December 1944 and January 1945 as the Americans tried to push the German Army out of the town. Then the tanks rolled in and defeated the Germans. This is a Sherman M1A2 with 76mm gun. It was knocked out by a German tank. The hole in the hull is big. I don't think anyone survived inside the tank as the explosion would have killed the crew instantly.

14.Snipers were a continual threat to the Americans. On 13 January 1945, the US troops tried to attack this town called Foy. The US troops couldn't see the sniper who was hiding in this window.

An American called Daryl "Shifty" Powers was a trained hunter in USA. He was used to shooting in cold weather. He saw the clouds of breath from the German sniper in this window and fired. The German sniper was killed. Shifty's mates all fired at the window in celebration – leaving all these bullet holes.

Lots more bullet holes from M1 Garand, M1 Thomspon and M1 Carbine bullets…

15.Another key site was Parkers Cross Roads. This junction was vital to German advance. The Americans defended it with young and untried soldiers. But they were able to delay the division long enough o allow time for the airborne troops to occupy Bosi Jacques. Almost all the American soldiers at Parkers Crossroads were killed or injured. My Dad and I searched for the foxholes that had been dug by the US troops.

16.This is Parkers Cross Roads taken on the day of the battle by an American warplane. The roads are really hard to see due to the snow coverage. The house in the red circle is the one in the X in previous image.

17.I enjoyed my trip but found the trip emotional. I felt that I learned lots of things I didn't know. I also got to see the places that I had read about.

It was fun seeing the Battle Of The Bulge and being there when it was exactly 80 years ago to the day.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP - MRS YOUNGS

On Wednesday 6th November the Army engagement team came into school to run a Leadership Skills Day with the Senior Student Leadership Team.

The students engaged in extended team work and leadership challenges– something that pushed them a little more than the activity days they have participated in the past and make them really think about how to get the best out of people, how to lead effectively and inspire others in order to get results. They are a very strong, yet varied group of students, who will go far in life, so we organised this day in order for them to realise your potential. They rose to the challenge admirably. Well done team.

SCHOOL CLUBS - ‘LUNCHRICHMENT’

Please see below for the new ‘Lunchrichment’ timetable.

(N.B – students will need to have full PE kit for Fitness and Triathlon Club only).

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime
History Fiction Club Y7-9 Room 22	Badminton Club Y7-9 Sports Hall	Subbuteo Club all Yrs Room 12	Photography Club all Yrs Room 20	Badminton Club Y10-11 Sports Hall
Shakespeare Festival Y7-9 Room 16	Mindfulness Club all Yrs Room 25	All too Swiftie Club all Yrs Room 18	Triathlon Club all Yrs Room 1	Art Shorts all Yrs Room 7,8,9
Maths Intervention Y7-9 Room 12	Reading Club Y7 (A) Y8 (B) Library	Choir / Band Club all Yrs Room 21	Reading Club Y9 Library	Theatre Company Y7-9 Room 17
Football Club Y9+10 Sports Hall	Karaoke Club all Yrs Room 16	Just Dance Club all Yrs Room 16	Rock Soc all Yrs Room 2	Tennis Club all Yrs off-site
Fitness Club Y10-11 Vale		Chess Club all Yrs Library	Dodgeball Club Y7-9 Sports Hall	
		Table Tennis Club Y9-11 Hall	Creative Writing Club all Yrs Room 19	
		Year 11 Intervention		
Year 11 English	Year 11 Maths	Year 11 Science	Year 11 Maths	Year 11 Statistics
ILe 7+ Rm 18	IWa Rm 12	RCa Rm 2	JLe Room 13	RWe Room 14
EAn 5+ Rm 24	Year 11 German (higher)	HLa Rm 1	Year 11 German (fdtn)	
EDa/DCa 3+4 Rm 19	JRo Rm 21	CBl Rm 5	JRo Room 21	
Year 11 PE	Year 11 History	Year 11 Art/Gra/3Dd		
OBa Lib	RDe Rm 22	JJo Rm 9		
		Year 11 Geography		
		DLy Rm 25		
After school	After school	After school	After school	After school
Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	
	Netball Club all Yrs Courts	Art Club Y10-11 Room 9		

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We supported Christmas Jumper Day in school on Thursday 12th December. We have finished counting the donations received and have raised **£214.91** for Save the Children. Since launching over a decade ago, the Save the Children's annual Christmas Jumper Day campaign has raised over £30 million for children in the UK and around the world, by calling on Brits across the country to wear their favourite Christmas Jumper and donate to the charity.

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
COACH CHRISTMAS
Save the Children

LIBRARY - MRS SHEPPY

Congratulations to the following students who have scored the most points in their quizzes for Accelerated Reader.

Yr7

Isobel
Arielle
Abbie H

Y8

Isabelle R
Walter
Florence

Well done all of you.

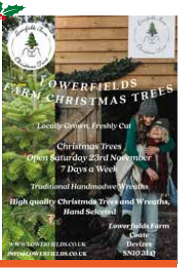
THE PTFA

The PTFA are organised another **Bags2School** on Monday 9th December, this is always a fantastic way to get rid of any of your unwanted items and raise money for the school at the same time. The items that are donated head to Eastern Europe, South America, or East/West Africa, providing valuable employment. They are sent across the world to help people in worn-torn areas such as Gaza and Ukraine.

£46.00

CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you to Lowerfields Farm Trees for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree we are displaying in the school reception.



LOWERFIELDS FARM CHRISTMAS TREES

Locally Grown, Freshly Cut

Christmas Trees
Open Saturday 23rd November
7 Days a Week

Traditional Handmadwe Wreaths

High quality Christmas Trees and Wreaths, Hand Selected

Lowerfields Farm
Coate
Devizes
SN10 3LQ

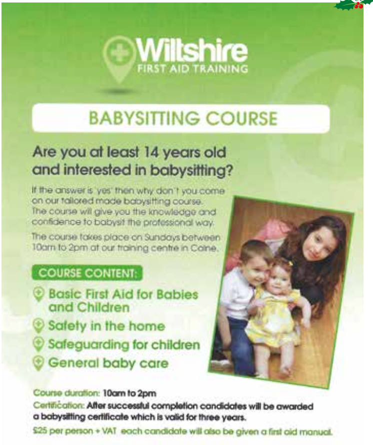
WWW.LOWERFIELDS.CO.UK
INFO@LOWERFIELDS.CO.UK

SCHOOL BUSES

Please can all students and parents be aware that bus passes are **NON-TRANSFERABLE** , they are only valid for the journey they have been assigned.
The only pay-as-you-go service is the small Wiltshire Connect 101 to Devizes.

City Centre 65

WILTSHIRE BABYSITTING COURSE



Wiltshire
FIRST AID TRAINING

BABYSITTING COURSE

Are you at least 14 years old and interested in babysitting?

If the answer is 'yes' then why don't you come on our tailored made babysitting course. The course will give you the knowledge and confidence to babysit the professional way.

The course takes place on Sundays between 10am to 2pm at our training centre in Calne.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Basic First Aid for Babies and Children
- Safety in the home
- Safeguarding for children
- General baby care

Course duration: **10am to 2pm**
Certification: **After successful completion candidates will be awarded a babysitting certificate which is valid for three years.**
£25 per person + VAT each candidate will also be given a first aid manual.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing all the students back in school on Wednesday January 8th in full school uniform.

For further information on how to book please contact us:
T: 01249 569690
E: enquiries@wiltshirefirstaid.co.uk
W: www.wiltshirefirstaid.co.uk

DECEMBER 2024

@PewseyValeSch

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PEWSEY VALE SCHOOL
WILCOT ROAD, PEWSEY
WILTSHIRE SN9 5EW

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