



# Windermere Primary School

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## Newsletter 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Red Nose Day – Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March

Next Friday is Comic Relief's fundraising day – Red Nose Day. For a donation of 50p or more your child can come to school with a fun face. They can use face paints to create a crazy face or they can come to school with a zany hair-do for the day. If a funny face isn't your idea of fun, then come as a spy or secret agent! Please note though that none of the children are 'licensed to kill', so guns, lasers and other weapons are not allowed.

We will also have a Bake-Off Cake Sale after school, so please support this great charity by donating cakes to be sold, or come along a buy a cake or biscuit.

Some of the cakes we will be selling will be part of our Best Batch Bake-Off competition. The children can bake a batch (at least six) of cakes, muffins, buns or biscuits and there will be prizes for the best batch in each of the age group categories.

### Mother's Day Workshops and Gifts

Any children who were absent this week and missed the opportunity to participate in this PTA event will have a chance to do so next week. If your child would like to do it, but forgot to return or lost their form, they must bring the money (£1.50) in on Monday.

### Parking

By now you will all know that I am a great advocate of your child walking to school. It is healthier and gives you a chance to chat to them at the beginning of the day. You can play 'I Spy' games on the walk, talk about what they will be doing or, at the end of the day what they have done and it is also a chance for you to model good pedestrian practice and create road-sense in your child.

If you *have* to drive to school, please:

- do not park in Windermere Avenue
- park with consideration for local residents
- do not simply drop your child off in the road
- do not use the school car park (unless you have a prior arrangement with the school)
- be careful of children crossing the road, especially when turning around.



## **Punctuality**

Registration starts at 8.55am. All children are expected to be in class by 8.55am so that they can register, order their lunch and be ready to learn at 9.00am. Lessons start promptly and not only is your child put at a disadvantage by missing the first part of the lesson, but it also disturbs the learning of others when children arrive after registration. Children arriving after 8.55am are recorded as late; children arriving after 9.30am are recorded with an unauthorised absence for that session. Most children arrive on time, but some are persistently late. We work closely with our Attendance Improvement Officer, from Hertfordshire County Council, to ensure all children receive the education they are entitled to. As part of her role, during the summer term she be monitoring punctuality, so late arrivals may well find themselves 'greeted' by someone different!

Parents should also note that children (including free school meal pupils) arriving after 9:45am must bring their own lunch to school.

## **Weather Ready**

Touch wood, but we seem to have escaped snow days this year. However I am very surprised to see how many children are still coming in without jumpers or cardigans and without appropriate footwear. Slip on 'ballet' style shoes are really not suitable for the active playtimes that our children enjoy. Good, supportive shoes, whilst less 'trendy' are essential to keep your children's feet safe and healthy. I know that proper school shoes are more expensive and sometimes it seems as if you are forever buying new shoes, but a child's feet are still developing and obviously they need to last them a lifetime, so it is worthwhile investing a little at this stage.

## **Year 4 Trip**

Year 4 recently walked to St Albans Cathedral for the day where they learnt about the story of Saint Alban, the history of the cathedral and made mosaics. They all returned full of the day, although a bit tired.

## **Sports**

The football teams have had a busy couple of weeks, with the girls playing Cunningham Hill and Fleetville. The girls played brilliantly improving on their earlier performances against these schools, and received very complimentary comments.

The boys' football team played against St Peters. Again a fantastic performance!

The cross country team were at St Columba's this week. All runners improved on their previous placings. Well done!

Unfortunately the netball match scheduled against Prae Wood had to be postponed due to the weather but is scheduled to be played on Monday. We wish them good luck.

## **Calling All Gardeners!**

Are you an avid gardener? Or maybe you know of a grandparent who has green fingers and would like to share their expertise with our children (particularly Year 3). Now that the weather is beginning to improve, we would like to get our school garden underway again and some help would be much appreciated.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend, enjoying the spring weather.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Raftery  
Headteacher