



Windermere Primary School

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Newsletter 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely relaxing Easter break. This is a very short half term, but it is as action packed as ever!

Next week is the May Day Bank Holiday, so please remember that we are closed on Monday, but will be open at the usual time on Tuesday.

KS2 SATs 11th – 14th May 2015

This is an important week for our Year 6 pupils (and staff) who have all been working really hard to prepare themselves for these end of key stage tests in reading, grammar, spelling, punctuation and maths. It is an opportunity to show off all that they have learnt over the past seven years!! They are invited to join us at Breakfast Club to ensure that they get a relaxed start to the day with a healthy breakfast.

VE Day Celebrations – 15th May 2015

Seventy years ago this month Britain was celebrating the end of World War II. We will be holding our own street party on Friday, 15th May. Children are invited to come to school in red, white and blue or to take a step back in time and come dressed as a child from 1945. School lunch that day will be sandwiches, jelly and other street party treats. If the weather is dry (and hopefully warm) parents and younger children are welcome to bring along their own packed lunch and join us. Sadly, if it is wet we will have to eat indoors and we wouldn't have room for additional people.

Parents' Forum – 19th June 2015

As you know the governors run a regular Parents' Forum. This is an opportunity for parents to influence policy and decisions at the school and also to find out about different aspects of school life. In the past the Parents' Forum has shaped the Sex and Relationships Education Policy, commented on school uniform, changed the report format and influenced the provision of extra-curricular lessons. This term the focus will be on P4C – Philosophy for Children.

When Ofsted visited last year they were very impressed with the behaviour of our pupils in and around the school. The inspectors praised their manners and how well they listened in class.

However they said that the behaviour was not 'outstanding' because our pupils did not demonstrate a 'thirst for learning' in every lesson. Whilst we were disappointed with their comment, we recognised a need to develop enquiring minds and an eagerness for knowledge and learning in every child.



Part of our strategy for this has been to introduce P4C to the school curriculum. The staff have been trained and the children are really enjoying these open-ended, thought-provoking sessions. We would like you to have an opportunity to experience one for yourself. So we will be running a P4C philosophy lesson at the Parents' Forum.

Inappropriate Language

One aspect of behaviour that has caused some concern recently has been the use of swear words by our children. This will not be tolerated. However, it is clear that some children have been exposed to inappropriate language either by hearing older family members swearing or by watching television programmes and DVDs that are not age appropriate. Age recommendations and restrictions on computer games and DVDs are there for a reason and as parents it is your responsibility to protect your children from images, activities and language that they are not mature enough to cope with. At home they may not display any reaction, but they are bringing this new found knowledge into school and sharing it with their peers. Please ensure that older brothers, sisters, cousins and friends recognise the innocence of your children and model good behaviour to them.

Sports

The summer term is, of course, full of sporting events. Some of our footballers have already participated in a 6-a-side tournament and there are many other events planned for the coming weeks.

Cake Bakes and Afternoon Teas

The PTA are organising some cake bakes (see their letter from earlier this week) which will raise money for individual classes, whilst this term we will be repeating the very successful afternoon teas which were held last summer instead of sharing assemblies. Donations of cakes for all these events are warmly welcomed – but no nuts please!

Parent Consultation Evenings – 25th June and 1st July

Having sent home annual reports and targets at the end of last year, we will be holding parent consultation evenings later this term. We will repeat the style of the autumn meetings with both evenings offering the much sought after 'after school' slots.

Please note: there will be no after school clubs on these evenings.

Performances

At the end of term will be our grand production of *Aladdin Trouble*. The lead roles in this delightful musical will be taken by Year 6, but singing and dancing will be provided by all year groups. Tickets and costume information will be sent out later this term.

However that is not the only exciting musical event on the horizon. We have been invited to take part in an event at the Abbey on 3rd July. Our Years 4, 5 and 6 pupils are now being taught singing by a specialist music teacher on Friday afternoons.

Together with our ukulele lessons in Years 4 and 5, and the introduction of both piano and guitar lessons available to KS2 pupils, we are becoming quite a musical school.

Volunteering – British Heart Foundation

The British Heart Foundation have asked us to see if anyone would be able to help them out at their shop in Hemel Hempstead. If you think you could spare them some time and are interested, then please ask at the office and we can give you their contact details. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone who would like to return to work and needs to gain experience and a reference before doing so.

I will hopefully be sending out a list of key dates for this term at the beginning of next week. Don't forget that the Attendance Improvement Officer will be visiting us this term to monitor punctuality – don't get caught out!

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Raftery
Headteacher