



Windermere Primary School

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20th November 2015

Newsletter 5



Dear Parents,

I think that pretty much everyone has recovered from the excitement of last Friday now. As you know we have previously run sporting events in conjunction with the British Triathlon Foundation and last week we were fortunate to be involved in the Space to Earth Challenge that they are running. Aimed at improving children's fitness we were challenged to *cycle* (on static bikes) and *run* the equivalent distance from Earth to the International Space Station – 400 Km. Our very own British astronaut, Tim Peake, even tweeted a message of encouragement directly to us. If you would like to see some images from the day these are available on our website's Twitter feed or on Twitter itself.

Much fun was had by all. Even those who thought it would be too difficult, had a great time. Once all the kilometres had been added up, we discovered that we had in fact surpassed 400Km and achieved 547 Km! The event also allowed us to raise money in aid of Children in Need. Please return your sponsorship forms and money by Monday 23rd November 2015 in order that we can send all the money from the sponsored event and the money we collected selling Pudsey ears and wristbands to Children in Need.

Wristbands purchased to support Children in Need or Remembrance Day may be worn at school only until the end of November. After that they are not part of our school uniform and will be confiscated.

e-Safety Meeting

This was a very interesting and informative meeting. I consider myself to be relatively cyber-literate (for someone of my advanced years, that is!), but even I was quite taken aback by the amount of information a stranger was able to glean from someone's Instagram account.

I was, however, very disappointed that so few parents chose to take up this opportunity to learn how to safeguard their children. There was a lot of useful information in the meeting, especially for the parents of Year 5 and 6 children. If you



would like a copy of the handouts from the meeting, please call in at the office.

The most important message that came through for keeping your children safe on the internet was that you must encourage them to talk to you about their concerns without fear of losing access to their phone, tablet or computer.

Mother and Toddler Group

Don't forget that our mother/father/carer and toddler group runs on Wednesday mornings at 9am in the hall. Tea, coffee, biscuits and a chance to chat.

Dogs, snakes and spiders

Concern has been raised that several parents when they come to collect their children are bringing dogs and, because dogs are not allowed on school premises, these are then being tied up at the gates. I realise that this is a great opportunity to bring your dog out for a walk and *you* may know that your dog loves children and is completely harmless, but unfortunately for a child (or adult) that is scared of dogs, such reassurance is irrelevant. I am sure you will understand that just as the reassurance that a spider is small and more scared of you or that a snake is harmless, if that is your big fear then all the reassurance in the world won't help. I would like to suggest that if you are not able or are unwilling to leave your dog at home, then pair up with another parent so that they collect your child whilst you hold the dog or vice versa.

Sustainable St Albans Week

Sustainable St Albans Week will take place from Saturday, 21st to Saturday, 28th November. There will be over 100 events in the district run by the community for the community – all about environmental sustainability! Something for everyone of all ages! From walks and outdoor activities, children and young people's events, films and art exhibitions, food and drink, to talks and tours. Download the Programme of Events at <http://sustainablestalbans.org>.

*******Breaking News!!*******

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Mrs Alger gave birth to a baby boy, Oliver, yesterday evening. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all well.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. D. Raftery
Headteacher