



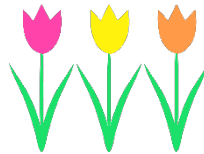
Windermere Primary School

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31st March 2016

Newsletter 11



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely long weekend – it certainly has been an odd arrangement with the holidays this year!

Sadly the end of term also comes with some good-byes. As parents, most of you get to know class teachers and the office staff quite well because you have regular contact with them. However, of course behind the scenes there are many people that work with 'frontline' staff to ensure children are kept safe, happy and make progress. Ms Hannan, our SENCo, who has been with the school for 10 years, will be leaving us this term. I know she has a lot of exciting projects planned that will keep her out of mischief over the coming months and I am sure she will keep in touch, dropping in for the odd cup of coffee and cake.

Ms Hannan has provided invaluable support and advice to the school over the years. The role of SENCo is challenging in many ways: other professionals expect you to be the font of all knowledge, you are required to step into classes at the drop of a hat, monitor the achievement and progress of every pupil (not just those identified as having special educational needs), you have to pursue professionals from outside the school for reports and assessments, and then compile lengthy and detailed reports to secure funding or support for children with complex needs. The list is almost endless and yet Ms Hannan does all this with an incredible level of patience, professionalism and tenacity to achieve the best for our children. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her well for the future.

It is also a time to say good-bye to Mrs Begum. She has worked at the school as a midday supervisor for nine years – quite literally through rain, snow, wind and sun! Whilst I am excited for Mrs Begum that she is taking on a senior position with another school, we will be sorry to see her leave us after such a long time and wish her well in her new role.

Attendance

I was interested to see that a study recently noted that every day of absence impacts on a child's achievement at school. The study found that children with no absences are three times more likely to achieve 5 A*-C grades at GCSE. Of course we all want the best for our children and allowing them to have days at home when they feel slightly 'under the weather' or taking them away on extended holidays is not in their long term interest. Earlier this year



Hertfordshire County Council agreed that penalty notices for absence could be issued after 15 sessions (a session is a morning or afternoon) of unauthorised absence. At a recent full governing body meeting it was agreed that good attendance is essential for children's academic achievement and wellbeing and we would incorporate this into our own attendance policy.

Therefore you should note that if your child is absent from school for 15 *unauthorised* sessions (i.e. 7½ days) in the current or previous term you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £60 per parent, per child. Full details are available in our updated attendance policy which will be on the website shortly.

Alban Arena

Not content with wowing audiences at the Royal Albert Hall earlier this month, the choir have also sung their socks off at the Alban Arena. They were fantastic! As ever, they not only sang beautifully, but also demonstrated the high standards of behaviour that we have come to expect. I am very proud of them all, but I would also like to thank Mrs Baskerville who has supported them throughout practices and rehearsals for months.

Football

Our football team played their final match of the season against Park Street – the league winners – before Easter. Unfortunately they lost 3-1; we don't yet know where this places us in the final league standings, but I will let you know when we do. There is a six-a-side tournament arranged for next term, but otherwise that completes the football season. I would like to thank Tom, the St Albans City Youth football coach and also our long-standing football team manager – Mrs Newton – for all their hard work and support for the team.

Book Fair

We had a great turn out for the book fair last week, but just in case any of you missed your opportunity to buy some brilliant books there will be a final chance after tomorrow's certificate assembly. Remember a percentage of the takings are given to the school to buy new books for our classrooms and the library.

Summer Uniform

I am sure you, like me, are looking forward to some warmer and drier weather over the coming months, although by June I'll be complaining about the heat. After Easter summer uniform prevails! This means that children in KS2 may wear polo shirts instead of shirt and tie. Children throughout the school may wear red gingham summer dresses. However please remember that for safety reasons open-toed sandals and especially 'jellies' are not suitable for school and must not be worn.

No doubt there will still be some cold days and, almost certainly rain on a regular basis. All children should be bringing coats to school even if the weather looks sunny in the morning. Coats should be at least showerproof; 'hoodies' are not an appropriate alternative.

I hope you all have a lovely spring holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again on MONDAY 18th April 2016 – please note that we do not have an inset day on the first day back.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. D. Raftery
Headteacher