



Windermere Primary School

Headteacher : Mrs D Raftery
Telephone: 01727 853360
Fax: 01727 855878
Email: admin@windermere.herts.sch.uk

Windermere Avenue
St Albans
Herts
AL1 5QP

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Newsletter 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

Well, we have reached the end of our first full week back at school – the holidays seem to have passed in a flash – and although I think everyone is looking forward to the weekend, it has been lovely to have everyone back again.

New Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed a number of new children across the school, from Reception to Year 5. Reception are currently only attending mornings, but will be full-time from 19th September. I know that our new families will enjoy being part of the Windermere community; so many of our parents who move into the area and join us part way through their child's education tell us how welcomed by children, staff and parents they have felt.

Once again I am pleased to say that we are almost full to capacity, with just a handful of available places and waiting lists for some year groups. This is of course excellent news as it determines our funding for next year and reduces disruption to classes during the year.

We have also welcomed a new member of staff, Miss Baldwin, who is teaching Year 5. I know that you will all make her feel very welcome.

Registration Running

Miss Baldwin is determined not only to impact on the learning of her own class, but also the sporting prowess of the school and the overall fitness of all children (and some staff!). To achieve this she has kindly offered to run both an athletics club at lunchtime and a tag rugby club after school. In addition she is organising 'Registration Running'. Just before the final whistle at lunchtime one class will take on the challenge of running or brisk walking around the field. It will be a different class each day and it will be led by Miss Baldwin or one of the other teachers. Each child will be encouraged to improve *their own* level of fitness, so it will not be a race, but rather a personal challenge. If this is successful we may look to move it to before morning registration.



Cross Country

The first major event in our sporting calendar is the Cross Country on Friday 23rd September. We are hoping to combine it with a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. Volunteers are eagerly sought to help marshal the runners who go off-site as part of their route. A letter will be coming out next week with details.

House Captains

Our Year 6 pupils have been eager to take on the additional responsibilities that go with being at the top of the school. Today we held the House Captain and Vice House Captain elections. Pupils who would like to represent their House were asked to prepare an electoral address which they presented to the other members of their house. This is followed by democratic elections, which whilst they hopefully will not have quite the impact of Brexit, are nevertheless nerve-wracking events for the candidates. Year on year the campaign speeches have got better and better.

The results this year are:

Saturn (yellow): Safae (HC), Finlay (VC)

Jupiter (blue): Millie (HC), Lara (VC)

Neptune (red): Vlad (HC), Chloe (VC)

Mercury (green): Gracie (HC), Lucy (VC)

Medical Conditions and Medication

We are currently checking that any medication we hold in school – inhalers, epi-pens, etc. – is all in date. If, over the summer holidays, your child has been diagnosed as asthmatic, requires an epi-pen for any reason or has any other medical condition of which we should be aware, please ask at the office to complete a care plan.

Curriculum Information

You will shortly receive a curriculum letter outlining what your child will be learning this term and how you can help them. Please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher if you would like any further explanation.

Reading

One of the key ways to help your child is to listen to them read and to read to them. Accompanying this newsletter is information about reading with your child. One of the most popular misconceptions is that a child should read a book and then quickly change it, steadily working through each level until they reach the dizzy heights of 'free reading'. However an important part of learning to read is achieving fluency, accuracy and understanding, and for a child to see themselves as a reader. If you were learning to play a musical instrument you would not play a piece of music once (with understandable mistakes) and then immediately move onto the next piece of music. You would play one piece several times so that you could play with fluency and confidence. So it is with reading. We expect children to read a book up to three times before moving on, so only the very simplest books will be changed on a daily basis.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club continues to flourish. Remember you don't need to book and can just drop your child off between 8 and 8.30 am. It costs just £3 a morning for breakfast and a relaxing start to the day. Discounts are available for pupils entitled to Pupil Premium.

Uniform

Our children look impressively smart and well-turned out! But please, please make sure the uniform is named. Every term we have uniform lost that has not been adequately named. 'Cutting the label off' is not enough to identify property.

After School

Our after school clubs will be starting next week, so the side gates will be closed at 3:30pm. Can I also remind you that children should not be playing on the equipment after school or whilst waiting for their siblings to come out.

Have a great weekend and come back refreshed for a whole week of learning and fun next week!

Mrs. D. Raftery
Headteacher