

WINDERMERE PRIMARY



18th July 2018

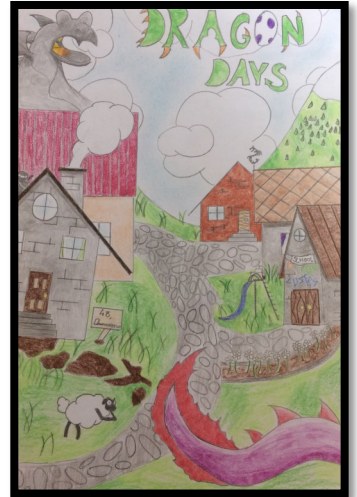
End of Year Productions

It seems hardly any time since we were reassuring Reception parents on their child's first day at school (the children themselves were fine!) and yet we are now celebrating the end of another fabulous year. What a year it has been!

Year 6 have again taken to the boards and put on an amusing end of year musical production. The rest of the school supported them by singing a number of, at times quite complex, songs with enthusiasm and enjoyment. I was pleased to see that more children from the younger years returned for the evening performance, than in previous years. Not only is their attendance essential to swell the singing voices, but it also demonstrates a commitment to their peers and fosters a sense of community within the school.



This has not been Year 6's only production this year. Mrs Fugle, who was due to go on maternity leave during the summer holidays, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Elliot, at the end of June. After a short period in hospital he is now at home and thriving.



Of course, Year 6 is not all about theatrical productions - there is some very hard work to be done first! In May Year 6 completed their end of KS2 tests. They are tested in reading, grammar, spelling and maths with six test papers spread over four days. This year we were also selected for the science sampling test, which doesn't have outcomes for individual pupils, but which informs the government of standards in science across the country. The standard KS2 tests are the culmination of four years of learning. They are important evidence of the children's academic attainment and the progress they have made; they are, of course, not the most important achievement for our children, which is that they leave Windermere as well-mannered, confident and community spirited citizens. However, as a Headteacher I am also thrilled when they are able to demonstrate high academic standards that reflect the hard work of them and their teachers.

This year's KS2 SATs results are: reading 93% (national average 75%), writing 93% (national average 78%), grammar 90% (national 78%) and maths 76% (national 76%).

I am confident that these results will prove to be above Hertfordshire averages as well. Of course, not to be outdone, KS1 and EYFS have also turned in an impressive set of results, continuing a trend of performance above national and Hertfordshire averages.

EYFS outcomes 2018: 83% (national 71%*)

Phonics Screening Test 2018: 93% (national 81%*)

KS1: Reading 92% (national 76%*), Writing 88% (national 68%*), Maths 92% (national 75%*)

*national figures for 2017

Following our very successful Ofsted inspection earlier in the year, these results underline the excellent education we are able to offer our children.

Summer Fair

Thanks to the hard work of the PTA and the support of all our parents, the Summer Fair was even more successful than previously. The profit, which is used to subsidise school visits and fund workshops, was an incredible £2200! The children had been running their own enterprises during the previous week and were able to sell their products at the fair, raising almost £300. They should feel very proud of their achievements. Thank you to all of you who donated prizes, gave time to help and who came along to spend money! The PTA are always looking for new ideas and new supporters, so if you can spare any time to help please let them know.

Stay Safe

The summer holidays are an opportunity to get out and about, to explore and have adventures. However, the children also need to stay safe whilst out on their explorations. I am dismayed to notice a number of children cycling without wearing a cycle helmet. A fall from their bike, if they are not wearing a helmet, has the potential to generate life-changing injuries. Many of our Year 6 pupils completed their bikeability award this term and understand the importance of safe cycling and wearing a helmet.

Children in Years 4-6 have also seen a video courtesy of Network Rail, about staying away from railway lines and the dangers of trains. Some of these dangers also apply to the roads; it is very difficult for young children to perceive speed, distance and hazards, so please ensure that your children are appropriately supervised during the summer holidays. We want them back safely in September!



After School Clubs

As you are aware our after school care is provided by EnergyKidz.

We will be offering after school interest clubs as usual next term. However there will be some changes and you should look out for the clubs letter, which we will send out in the first week of term.

There will no longer be a homework club on Thursdays after school. With our new home learning system, we feel this is no longer required.

I am really pleased to say that for **Debutots** pupils in KS1 (current Reception and Year 1) Debutots will be offering a drama and story-telling club after school on a Thursday. Game On's KS1 multi-sports club will be moving to a Wednesday to accommodate this new club. We are always looking for additional activities for our younger pupils to join in with, so this is a welcome addition. If your child is interested in coming along you should sign up and pay online. Unfortunately, as this is an outside provider, we are unable to offer discounts.

Please remember that there are no interest clubs on the first week or last week of term.

Breakfast Club

Our school run breakfast Club is the ideal way to start the day. It offers a healthy breakfast and a chance to relax with friends from 8am until the start of school. There is no need to book in advance and you will be invoiced at the end of the month. Unfortunately with the ever increasing pressure on school budgets it is necessary for us to increase the cost of each session to £4.

School Lunches

Please be aware that the cost of a school lunch will be rising to £2.45 from September. If you think that your child might be eligible for free school meals, please contact the office, who may be able to advise you.

School lunches should be paid for in advance to avoid building a large outstanding amount.

Artsmark

As you know we have been working towards our Artsmark accreditation for the past couple of years. I am delighted to be able to tell you that yesterday we were awarded the Silver Artsmark in recognition of the art and cultural education we offer our pupils. It is very difficult in 500 words to submit information that does justice to the breadth of our art and music curriculum. If we could just have invited them along to visit the school and see the Christmas and end of year performances, the job would have been done for us!



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

The Arts Council England panel made the following comment:

Windermere Primary School have laid strong foundations for their ongoing Artsmark journey, offering a strengthened curriculum offer of specialist arts provision and integrated arts learning in a cross curricular style. Additional opportunities to engage with the arts have been wide ranging and included drama workshops for A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth and The Jungle Book; Living the Dream dance workshop; visits to St Albans Abbey, Verulamium Museum and the Science Museum; a mosaic workshop and craft workshops at the local Childwickbury Arts Fair; and performances at the Royal Albert Hall and O2 Young Voices. Undoubtedly Artsmark has led to an enrichment of provision.

I would particularly like to thank Mrs Baskerville for her hard work in leading this initiative and preparing the submission.

Au Revoir

The end of the academic year always brings a little sadness when we have to say good-bye to our Year 6s and staff who are moving on, even when we know that they are moving to an exciting new chapter in their lives.

We will be sorry to see **Mr Cole** and **Mr Thomas** leave us, but are delighted to know that working at Windermere has given them the enthusiasm to become teachers themselves, so we wish them good luck in their new careers.

Mrs Baskerville has been with us for twelve years. During that time she has probably taught more children than anyone else, because up until this year, she has taught every child each year! Known throughout the school as 'Music Mrs Baskerville', she has taken the choir to the O2 for Young Voices, the Alban Arena and The Royal Albert Hall; she has led our work for the Healthy Schools initiative and the Artsmark.

However, our loss is someone else's gain and I am pleased that another school and even more children will benefit from Mrs Baskerville's care, guidance and enthusiasm. I know she will take many of our good practices to share with others. We all wish her well in her new role.

Not such green fingers...

Not everything has been entirely successful this year. Unfortunately I have to report that the potato crop has been less bounteous than hoped for. Luckily, the school kitchen was not relying on our contribution to school lunch today. The potatoes have been duly harvested and weighed...the results are:

Reception: 577g - not bad.

Year 1: 1,526g - Wow! Fantastic result.

Year 2: 720g - interestingly they were in the same location as Year 1's.

Year 3: 45g - seriously?!

Year 4: 40g - more calories were used trying to find these than you would acquire from eating them!

Year 6: 25g - they might need to use their reading skills to read up on gardening...



The secret to a successful potato harvest is, of course, watering them when it hasn't rained!! Better luck next year.

Sporting Success



Although a relatively small school, we offer a significant range of sporting opportunities to our pupils. As a result we have been nominated for the Primary Sport School of the Year Award for the St Albans City and District Sports Awards! The results will be announced tomorrow evening. We have been asked to outline our sporting activities this year, so I thought I would share this with you:

We have increased our overall sports offer to the children, providing sports clubs in a variety

of areas from Netball with the Hertfordshire Mavericks, where we have had several training sessions with international netballers including Commonwealth Gold winner Sasha Corbin to Lacrosse with the Welwyn Warriors, where we reached the county finals for Lacrosse. We also had the opportunity back at the start of the year to take our hockey club to a hockey session hosted by England Captain and Olympic Gold Medalist Alex Danson. Through the Youth Sports Trust we have also had Mike Mullens (former world champion BMX rider) come in and do some wellbeing and growth mindset workshops with all of our pupil premium students.

During Sport Relief week we put on several workshops to allow our children the opportunity to try sports or activities that they might not ordinarily access. We had a cheerleading workshop, yoga workshop, rapid fire cricket and American Football sessions.

We have taken part in a variety of school games events this year, hockey, kwik cricket, rapid fire cricket, tennis, tag rugby and the incredible world games day to name a few. We have also been very active in district competitions, entering the netball, football and cross country leagues. Although we enjoyed mixed success over the year in these leagues, it has allowed us to build a solid base to move onto next year. We have recently taken part in the District Sports Athletics competition, and came away with multiple top 6 finishers as well as District Champion in the Boys Long Jump! As a warm up event to the District Sports we hosted a mini athletics match at school which allowed some of our district team the opportunity to race and compete against other schools ahead of the finals at Westminster Lodge. We also hosted our annual Duathlon ahead of Sports day which was a massive success.

Yesterday we held our Sports Assembly, when we awarded medals to children who had represented the school at athletics, football, netball, lacrosse, hockey, tag rugby, cricket, cross country and chess. The number of children who have been involved in competitive sport this year is a testament to the hard work of Miss Baldwin, so I would like to thank her on behalf of the children and parents.

Contact Us

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And finally...

I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday and that the children return to school on **4th September** eager and ready to learn.

Please ensure that they are in the proper uniform (summer uniform can only be worn until the end of September) and that they do not return to school with extreme haircuts etc.

We are already looking forward to starting the new school year!