



# 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

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

## Newsletter 4



Dear Parents,

As the half term holiday looms into sight, the children (and adults) have been enjoying our first Learning Together Week of the year. The overarching theme has been *Art*, but much of the learning has been based on the story of '*The Gruffalo's Child*'. This delightful tale has much to offer all ages; the simple repetitive structure and appealing images is ideal for our youngest pupils and the clever use of similes and descriptive language, together with a twist in the tale has given our older pupils a chance to show off their literary skills too.

As part of the week's activities, we were visited by the author and illustrator, Simon Murray, who has written the *Icky Doo Dah* series of books. If you or Santa are interested in buying any of these books there will be a chance to do so. Simon ran workshops in each class, making every child an illustrator. The results are fantastic!

Yesterday the children had a 'together' day. They were mixed up into different Gruffalo classes and moved from session to session throughout the day doing drama, dance and art. Each Gruffalo group created a new piece of artwork for display in the hall, retelling the story of *The Gruffalo's Child*. This will be on display after half term.

### **Mrs Brooks**

Sadly, after 8 years at the school, Mrs Brooks is leaving us and heading for pastures new. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy of patience, good humour and decorative flair will stay with us for many years to come. As a parting gift, Mrs Brooks has kindly left the children a class set of Boomwhackers. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well for the future.

## **Language**

As a school we are generally keen to expand pupils' vocabulary and develop their language. However, the vocabulary of some of our pupils is not acceptable! Even when they appear not to be listening, children are great sponges and quickly pick up on words and phrases they hear around them, including swear words. They may not be using such words at home, but a few children are trying them at school. I would urge you not to use such words in the presence of your children and ask other family members and friends not to do so.

In addition I should remind you that as a school we do not tolerate swearing at all – even in the staffroom. Parents meeting with staff are expected to treat them with an appropriate level of respect.

## **Sports Club**

There are still a few places on the Game On holiday sports club. Please contact the office on Friday if you are interested.

## **Remembrance Poppies**

As usual we will be selling poppies and other remembrance tokens after half term. Donations should be at least 50p for poppies, wristbands and reflectors and £1 for friendship bracelets and slap rulers. We will be holding our usual Remembrance Service on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Children in Need – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

We also have a limited number of Pudsey and Blush ears (on a headband) and Children in Need wristbands for sale. We have asked the children for their views on how they would like to raise money for this very worthwhile cause, so look out for their very own fundraising initiative after half term.

## **Inset Day**

Please remember that next week is half term and that Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November is a staff inset day so the school is not open to children.

I hope you all have a great half-term.

Mrs. D. Raftery  
Headteacher