



Windermere Primary School

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Newsletter 3



Dear Parents,

Learning Together Week

In every classroom this week there have been fire-breathing dragons! Well, possibly not fire-breathing, but dragons anyway. Our literacy focused Learning Together Week has been on the theme of *Dragons*. In KS1 dragons have rampaged through the classrooms and the children have written police reports on the incident. They have even Skyped with a real-life police officer to discuss their findings.

KS2 enjoyed a drama workshop with the locally based Trestle theatre and have created reports, stories and animations based on dragons.

Harvest Festival

Year 5 took many of our donations to Earthworks in the week before half term – the heavy items were taken by car. They were very grateful for all the kind donations and gave Year 5 a tour of their facilities.

RNLI – Lifeboats

Thank you to those of you who kindly donated towards the RNLI's lifeboat fund. Their volunteers do sterling work around the country and, in fact, across the world as they train volunteers in other countries to carry out similar work. Their website has an interesting article on how they have carried out lifesaving work in Bangladesh, where 18,000 children drown every year.

Remembrance Poppies

As usual we will be selling poppies next week. Donations should be at least 50p for poppies, wristbands and reflectors and £1 for friendship bracelets and slap rulers. Year 6 will be sharing some of their poetry and leading our usual Remembrance Service on **Friday, 11th November at 10:40am**. Parents and carers are welcome to join us, but on this occasion I would ask you not to bring pre-school children in order that we can maintain the solemnity of the occasion for our own children.



Children in Need – Friday 18th November

Look out for a spotty letter next week about how you can help raise money for Children in Need.

After-school Club

Last year we asked parents if they would be interested in after-school care here at Windermere. There was a good response and since then I have met with a potential after-school club provider with a view to setting up a club for **September 2017**. They are asking parents to complete a survey in order to gauge levels of participation. Accompanying this newsletter is a copy of their letter which contains a link to the survey. Parents who have registered an email address with us will also receive this electronically. If you are interested in after-school care, but do not have access to the internet, paper copies of the survey will be available from the office.

Signing In and Out

If you have come into the school office over the past couple of days, you will have noticed our new signing in system. Keeping pupils and staff safe is, of course, a priority. In the event of a fire we know that we can evacuate the entire school in less than 3 minutes. To do so means that the office staff must collect up the visitors' book, the in/out book, late book and class lists before they exit the building. This means that they can check that all visitors and pupils are accounted for. However, the same cannot be said for the staff! Our new signing in system will allow us to ensure that *all* people on site, including staff, are accounted for. It will also drastically reduce the time spent entering late arrivals onto our management information system and more closely monitor visitors to the school, all of which improves our safeguarding procedures.

After School Interest Clubs

Our after school interest clubs such as sports clubs and homework club are always over-subscribed. For this reason we 'refresh' the membership each half term, so that anyone who didn't get a place at a club, will do so in the next half term. However, this does mean that you have to re-apply for your child's place each half term. This time we had a number of parents who forgot to do so, or who handed their forms in so late that places had already been allocated. Game On who run the Thursday sports club were luckily able to provide a second coach for the first half term's club so they could take up to 32 children. This term there is only one coach, so they only have spaces for 16 children and unfortunately this means some pupils have been disappointed, but they will be given a priority place next term.

Sports Competitions

Our sports teams are doing well this year. The cross country athletes have continued to improve on their previous times. The football team played at Park Street this week. In a very tense second half, they came back from 5-0 down to a very creditable 6-4 loss.

On a less competitive note, (well officially anyway!) the registration running is really developing the stamina and fitness of our children. We are looking for ways to further extend this activity during the week.

I hope that you have a good weekend and if you are celebrating with fireworks that you keep yourselves safe.

Mrs. D. Raftery
Headteacher