

WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter 10

13th March 2017

Race for Life

One of the strengths in our school is the care and support we offer to families. Teaching Assistants are a key part of this; they find lost property, wipe noses, nurture the unhappy, calm the angry and then deliver learning interventions that ensure all our children make great progress. They are an invaluable part of your children's learning. Lots of your children will have benefitted from the care of Mrs Denny. Unfortunately just before half term Mrs Denny was diagnosed with cancer. She has had an operation and is recovering well, but she now faces a long period of chemotherapy and radiotherapy to ensure that she is cancer-free. I know that you will all join me in wishing her well. However, you may like to do something to help, not only her, but the many others who are in her position.

When the summer term ends and many of us collapse in a heap or head off on holiday, Team Windermere will be donning their running gear and participating in the Race for Life. If you would like to support them in their endeavours, then please visit the Cancer Research UK Fundraising page and donate something to help them reach their goal. The link can be found on Twitter and will be on the website.



<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/team-windermere>

*"Whenever
someone gets
hurt, Mrs Denny
comes and
cheers that
person up by
making them
laugh."*

- Chloe, Year 3

Library Update

Our big building project - a new library and meeting room - is progressing well. When the steel structure was manoeuvred into place and joined together it felt that the building was starting to take shape. Since then the rafters have been bolted into place and the first layer of the roof laid on top.

This week the window walling around the office and staffroom has been moved and reinstalled as the outer wall of the library and meeting room. By reusing some of the window walling we have been able to reduce costs - and of course save on raw materials. There will be some changes though; you may recall that the window panels at the end of the dining room were solid, which made the room quite dark. In the new library these will be replaced with clear glass and there will be skylights, so the whole area will be much lighter.

This has been quite a noisy phase of the work, so we are looking forward to a quieter period over the coming weeks!



Looking out from the meeting room.

Primary Science Quality Mark

Is your child the next Professor Brian Cox or Jane Goodall?

They could easily be the person who discovers the cure for diabetes or finds a renewable, clean and practical energy source for the future. To support them in this we have been looking closely at teaching and learning in science.

Miss Clark has been raising the profile of science, not only with the children through the medium of our Learning Together Week, but also with staff by running in-service training and encouraging professional dialogue.

We have invested in new science resources and it is very clear that over the past few years the children are doing more and more practical investigations, which are more memorable and, quite frankly, more FUN!



Term Times

Amazingly the Easter holidays are not far away now. Firstly, don't forget that we break up for Easter on **Friday 31st March** and return to school on **Tuesday 18th April**. Some other local schools, particularly secondary schools have different dates this year.

However inconvenient, absences to take holiday at the same time as older siblings cannot be considered as exceptional and cannot therefore be authorised. As I have said in a previous newsletter, this is because as a maintained school we must follow the prescribed term dates and are not allowed to choose our own or follow other schools, other than the five inset days and the occasional day which can be arranged to suit the school's own needs.

Next year the system changes slightly in that Hertfordshire have set some dates, but also left an additional eleven days for schools to choose for themselves. However we recognise that it is very difficult as a parent if you have children in more than one school and significantly different holiday dates. Consequently we have planned to follow broadly the same term dates as other local schools.

A calendar of term dates for the next academic year will be sent out with this newsletter, so keep it somewhere safe. Just in case you do mislay it, you'll also find it on the school website.



The calendar of term dates is slightly different from previous years. It does not include all the school events - they will be published at the beginning of the new academic year in September, but hopefully you will find it easy to read and simpler to keep track of those key dates.

Building Update Mark II

Year 1 have been inspired by the building works going on in school and have their very own building site. They have been building with blocks and Lego and this week it is going to be K'nex.

Within the building site they have their own drawing office with squared paper and of course the very essential PPE (personal protection equipment) of hi-visibility jacket and hard hat.

Year 1 role play area.



Easter Eggs-itement

Yes, 'tis the season of eggs-cruciating egg-based puns.

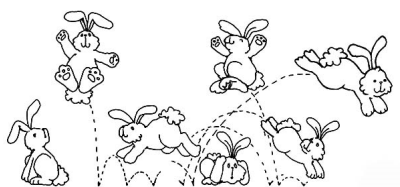
Never mind, to ease the pain we have a number of fun events to help. Staff are already starting to donate Easter eggs for the Easter egg raffle. For those of you who are new to the school, or if you would just like a reminder of what happened this time last year, the rules are simple.

Firstly your child will be given a raffle ticket to bring home. If they would like to take part in the raffle, then they need to return the ticket with 50p to school by Tuesday, 28th March. At the end of term we will draw out tickets until all of the eggs donated by staff have been exhausted. Nobody can enter more than one ticket, so the most it costs is 50p per child and your child could win a fantastic Easter egg worth much more. The funds raised go towards playground equipment (such as the new dressing up things which are being enjoyed by so many children across the school), so everyone is a winner!



Eggs-ploring

The annual Easter egg hunt will take place on a fine day during the final week of term. This year we will have the additional challenge of the building site to avoid, so the Easter bunny may have to be a little more inventive in his egg hiding!



Eggs-quisite

Over the past few years we have seen decorated Easter eggs and themed scenes, which would have pleased Carl Fabergé. There will be small prizes for every entrant and slightly larger prizes for the winner in each year group. The idea is to decorate an egg - hen, goose or ostrich - or to create a scene for the egg with an appropriate egg-theme. Last year we had individual eggs decorated to look like Angry Birds, Yoda and the Incredible 'Yolk' as well as scenes with eggs playing a starring role.

Photographs

I really hope that you like our new style newsletter. Initial comments have certainly been favourable. I think the biggest difference is the inclusion of photographs which brings stories and articles to life. Unfortunately quite often when we see a photograph which we really like and which epitomizes the children's reaction and enjoyment, too often we don't have consent for one of the children in the picture, so it can't be used.

We want families to be a part of their children's school life and sharing photographs in the newsletter, in blogs and on Twitter are all ways of keeping you in touch.

We will be sending out some new, more specific consent forms soon, in the hope that we can use more of our lovely children in photographs.



A delightful Easter scene from recent years.

Sporting Success

After the winter lull the cross country team were back in force on Wednesday. All of the team improved their previous results and for the first time in my memory we had THREE children finish in the top 50!! Well done to everyone who competed, but especially to Antonio, Tom and Chloe. I suspect that all the extra fitness sessions and registration runs that Miss Baldwin is encouraging us to do, are having an impact on the fitness of our runners.

The netball team and boys' football team had been slightly less successful since the last newsletter. The girls lost 4-6 to Aboyne Lodge and the boys lost 3-0 to Park Street. However, on Friday afternoon the boys had an opportunity to restore the honour of the school as they played against Aboyne Lodge. A stunning win of 9-2 to us was an excellent start to the weekend.

Gave It A Go

Last time we saw Year 5 'having a go' at lacrosse. They had a brilliant time. We asked for some quotes and it was clear that lacrosse is a tricky sport with some new moves involved, but they loved it. So much so that we have asked the coach to pop back and do some more lacrosse in the summer.

"I found the catching and scooping hard, but the rest easy."

- Macie, Year 5

"It was exciting and I mean REALLY exciting..."

- Simra, Year 5

Forthcoming Events ...

15th March - Year 4 Roman Day at St Albans Abbey
16th March - Cross Country at Garden Fields
17th March - Year R Sharing Assembly at 9am
17th March - *RockSteady* workshops and parents' assembly at 2:30pm
18th March - Netball Rallies
20th March - Book Fair after school in the hall
20th March - Governing Body meeting
21st March - Year 2 going to St Luke's Church
24th March - Year 6 Crucial Crew visit
27th March - Ukulele assembly for Years 3 and 4
28th March - Choir performing at the Alban Arena
30th March - Girls' football at Bernard's Heath Junior School
31st March - Certificate assembly
31st March - End of term at 2pm

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24th March Red Nose Day



We will be sending out more details about events for Red Nose Day, but there will be a Bake Off competition with the entries being sold at the end of day cake sale run by the PTA.

The children will also be asking for sponsorship as they participate in a relay workout throughout the day.

Dressing in red isn't really anything special for us, but if children want to wear MORE red or RND T-shirts, they can do so in exchange for a small donation.

And finally...

Please remember that whilst we are happy for you to take photographs of your own child, you may not photograph other children and then post their photographs on the internet - including Facebook - without their parents' permission.

It would be sad if we had to stop parents taking *any* photographs at school events, including sporting ones.