

WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter 11

31st March 2017

Red Nose Day



What a fantastic day we had! Miss Baldwin had debated long and hard on how many boxes of Red Noses to buy. After all, fun though they are, we didn't want to be left with surplus stock...She bravely plumped for THREE. Mrs Raftery was dubious and, trying to look encouraging, envisaged having to find a home for unwanted noses. But they flew off the shelves! Our sale of the Red Noses alone was enough to buy **28** mosquito nets to protect children from malaria in Africa.

Then everyone turned up to school redder than ever. Red Nose T-shirts, red jumpers, red trousers and even red socks were all worn for a donation.

Then the action really got underway. Using our Fitter Future workouts the children and staff exercised their way to an absolutely stunning **£815** (online and at the office). To ensure there was no afternoon flagging-by-the-wayside, Jack from Fitter Future came along to lend his support too.

"I think Red Nose Day was brilliant ... We had so much fun and I loved it!"

- Chloe, Year 6



It was an incredible effort by everyone and it is hard to imagine how much difference that much money, a total so far of **£1,004**, will make to children and young people in both Britain and abroad.

Thanks must go to **Miss Baldwin** for her organisation of the day - we even made the local newspaper!

Q. How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?

A. Eggs-ercise

Eventually, when pretty much everyone was redder (clothing and faces) than they had imagined possible the Comic Relief Cake Bake was judged. An almost impossible decision, but after much deliberation winners were chosen from each year group and awarded Red Nose prizes.

Finally all the cakes were sold off at the end of the day, raising another **£189**!



A very Windermere Cake Bake

Governor Gossip

Well, it isn't *gossip* at all, of course. It is a series of factual and accurately minuted meetings, but it is incredibly hard to make that alliterate with 'Governor', so I've used some poetic licence and called it 'gossip'.

This term there have been two meetings for the Resources Committee, one for the CPC Committee and one full governing body meeting. There have also been two extraordinary governing body meetings which were called to ratify or make specific decisions. In addition to that individual governors have been in for a variety of different reasons on at least eight occasions, one of which was the JARV (Joint Annual Review Visit). This meeting is held with our School Effectiveness Advisor, Julie Kemp, from Herts for Learning. Together with senior leaders and governors, she assesses the school's performance against Ofsted inspection criteria to ensure that we are offering the very best education to your children.

You will be pleased to know that she was very impressed by the work that the children are doing in school and the education that we are providing.

I think you will agree that we are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated band of volunteers. We are still seeking a parent governor and there will be a further opportunity to put your name forward in the summer term if you would like to be part of this happy team leading the school forward.

Nearly there...

It has been quite a challenging half term, as you will know if any of you have visited the school office recently. With the building work going on adjacent to the office and office, the rooms have got slightly smaller, more crowded, a bit dustier and quite a lot noisier! However, the building of the new library, first aid area and meeting/intervention room is nearing completion. The agreed completion date was the beginning of June, but the work is running ahead of schedule so we are hoping to be able to reveal the rooms fairly soon. Once we have taken possession we can start measuring up for furniture and soft furnishings.

This also means that parents will soon be able to access the KS1 gate again. But, do not fear, KS1 parents are welcome to continue adding those few extra steps to their daily tally by walking the long way round.

Of course, a library isn't a library without books and some of our existing library books are looking a little tired and in need of retirement. It would be lovely to start our new area with new, child-sized furniture and attractive

new books and the PTA have already asked how parents can help us create a fantastic new resource for our children. Next term we will let you know how you can help us achieve just that.



The meeting room gains walls!

An aerial view of the new build. The new roof is deeper because it is better insulated than the existing roof, but the visible face of the building is completely in keeping with the existing façade.



Q. Why do we paint Easter eggs?

A. Because it is too hard to wallpaper them.

St Albans Primary Schools Music Association



I had a fantastic evening on Tuesday when I went to see the choir sing at the Alban Arena. I was incredibly proud of them and amazed at how many songs they had learnt for this event organised by SAPSMA. The whole event had a historical theme, telling stories from Britain's history.

I would like to thank Mrs Baskerville, who has worked incredibly hard snatching every spare minute that she can to rehearse the choir, not to mention giving up her evenings to attend meetings and the event itself.

Easter Eggs-itement

There was plenty of eggs-itement in the hall and on the playgrounds today.

After break everyone gathered in the hall, waiting for the Easter Bunny to appear...it was the annual Easter egg hunt. Of course, the Easter Bunny knows better than to hide chocolate eggs around the school, so instead counters were hidden and scattered around the playgrounds and field. There were strict rules about how many counters and what configuration of colours were acceptable, with the level of difficulty carefully structured to cause maximum grief to Years 5 and 6. However, it takes a lot to stop our keen egg hunters, so they were soon off collecting, swapping and sharing.



"I'm sure there is one hidden here somewhere..."



Year 1 revealing their 'finds'

Once back in the hall, the children lined up to eggs-change their finds for chocolate mini-eggs (or a nut-free alternative).

After lunch we held the Easter egg raffle. Most children had donated 50p to raise money for playground toys and to see if they could win an Easter egg. Someone from every year group won something, so that was brilliant.

Eggs-quisite

Disappointingly there weren't as many entries for our decorated Easter egg competition this year as previously - maybe because Easter is still two weeks away even if the holidays aren't - but we still had some fantastic designs and the happy winners and all entrants went home with a chocolately prize.

The winners were:

Year 6 - Millie Year 4 - Samuel

Year 3 - Molly Year 2 - Abbie

Year 1 - (joint winners) Jacob and Lili Mae

Q. How can you tell where the Easter Bunny has been?

A. Eggs marks the spot.

Sporting Success

The cross country season has come to an end. The final event was at Aboyne Lodge and again our team did really well. Unfortunately a bottleneck at one point in the course stopped our lead runners repeating their top 50 result, but next season looks promising.

The girls' football team has gone from strength to strength over the past couple of years. They played against Bernards Heath Juniors yesterday and although they lost 2-0, they played very well and should be proud of their achievement. There is another match in April, so we are looking forward to that.

Next term's clubs include a lunchtime lacrosse club, which sounds great fun. I quite fancy having a go myself!

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Water Bottles!

Water bottles are available from the school office for just £2, but more and more children are coming to the office on a daily basis to get a cup because they have 'forgotten or lost' their water bottle. It is costing an ever increasing amount to supply cups and this cannot be sustained. All children must come to school with a water bottle that can be refilled at school if necessary. Otherwise you will be telephoned and asked to bring a bottle in for them.



Price Rise!

Unfortunately, like everything else, the exchange rate, pay increases and other expenses mean that we need to increase the cost of school lunches to **£2.35** per lunch from 19th April. Obviously this only applies to KS2 pupils who are not eligible for free school meals. If you think that your circumstances have changed and you might now be eligible for free school meals (and the associated benefits) then call in at the school office who can explain what you need to do.



Mrs Denny is doing well, as is our fundraising, but if you haven't donated yet there is still time to do so.
<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/team-windermere>

Forthcoming Events ...

- 18th April - Return to school
- 18th April - Reception 2017 places announced
- 19th April - Game on against St Bernadette's
- 21st April - Year 6 WWII trip to Lincolnsfield's Centre
- 21st April - RockSteady lessons start
- 25th April - Aldwickbury Maths Challenge
- 25th April - Girls Football
- 1st May - Bank Holiday - no school
- 3rd May - Six-a-side Y6 football tournament
- 4th May - Year 3 Celtic Harmony
- 8th May - SATs week Year 6
- 11th May - Full Governing Body Meeting
- 19th May - 2:30pm Parents forum
- 23rd May - New parents' coffee morning

And finally...

Don't forget that when we all come back after Easter, it will be the **SUMMER** term! So break out those polo shirts and summer dresses (red check). However this is an *English* summer, so don't forget coats/jackets every day as well as sun hats. Sun cream should be applied in the morning before school and everyone needs a water bottle every day.

However growing feet need proper shoes - not 'jellies' or 'croc's' - and open-toed sandals are not safe for an active school day.