



Windermere Primary School

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Newsletter 2



Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see so many of you at last night's parent consultation evening. I hope that you found the meetings useful. Please remember that I am always happy to meet with parents on an individual basis to discuss a child's needs or concerns you might have. We carried out a parent survey towards the end of last year, but parents can also register with Parent View and share their views about the school on a more public forum, which is useful for prospective parents locally as well as us.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our traditional Harvest Festival celebration on **Friday 14th October at 9am**. Parents are, as ever, warmly welcomed to join us. Many of you will be aware that in previous years we have provided useful and essential items for a range of different charities at both home and abroad. Having sent socks to Nepal last year, this year our focus is closer to home again. **Earthworks St Albans** is a very local charity that offers trainees, with learning disabilities or mental health issues, work experience and training in horticultural and land-based skills. They have a site in Hixberry Lane and run a stall at the monthly farmers' market. Attached to this letter is a list of useful items from their wish list. Their website has some other items which you may be able to supply, but which are less suitable for our harvest festival collection – e.g. chicken manure! You are welcome to take such items directly to them.

Cross Country and Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 23rd September

We had a fantastic turn out for our cross country event, which was blessed by good weather once again. Thank you to all of you who donated cakes and biscuits to the coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support – over £155 was raised through your donations. Thank you to the PTA for organising this event, which also made watching all that eager running even more enjoyable.

Water Bottles

Even though the weather is cooler, the children still need to bring **NAMED water bottles with sports caps** into school. It is important that they remain hydrated throughout the day. Water bottles are available from school for the princely sum of £2.

School Lunches

Those of you who came to last night's parent consultation evenings will be aware that there is a new menu coming out after half term. Some of the items on the new menu were available to sample last night and will also be on offer on Tuesday evening (until 6pm). Please take an opportunity to look at the new menu when it comes out (there will also be a link on the website). If you think that your child would like to try school dinners – especially as the weather gets colder – remember that they don't have to have school dinners every day. They can choose their days so long as they keep to those days.



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Nut free!

Please remember that due to nut allergies the children are not allowed nutella or products containing nuts in their lunchboxes or snacks. Indeed, children should not be having chocolate based products or sweets in their lunchboxes at all.

Uniform

Almost all of our KS2 children are now in their winter uniform of shirt and tie with a v-necked jumper or cardigan and are looking very smart. Please make sure that long hair is tied back though, as it isn't pleasant for others when they get flicked in the face by the class Rapunzel.

School Photos

The deadline for school photos to be returned is next Friday, please make sure they are in school by then or ordered online.

Data Collection

This year there have been some changes to the information which we must provide to the Department for Education about children in our school. We must now include their country of birth and nationality. You will shortly be receiving a copy of the data collection sheet for your child so that we can ensure our records are up to date. Please make any amendments on the sheet and return them to school.

School Money

Thank you for your patience with the new online payment system. I am sure that once we have ironed out the current teething problems it will be a much smoother and more convenient way to pay for school items.

Sports Results

Our cross country team attended their first meet of the season and demonstrated that the registration running is already having an impact, with improved results on last year.

The football team have had two matches this season. They drew 2-2 against St Bernadette's and won 4-2 against How Wood, so that is a fantastic start for us.

Governors

Our governors are a key part of the management and leadership of the school. There is likely to be a vacancy for a parent governor in January. If you might be interested in taking on a new challenge (or maybe you are already a governor elsewhere) and would like more information about the role please contact Mrs Sally Gibson on s.gibson@windermere.herts.sch.uk.

Our current governing body has a wide range of interests and skills and we would welcome any parent who is keen to support the school, but if you have skills or experience in any of the following areas we would be particularly interested in talking to you:

- Financial planning/management
- Education
- Premises/facilities
- Procurement/ purchasing
- IT
- Project management.
- Links with local businesses or the local community

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. D. Raftery

Headteacher

Earthworks St Albans – Wishlist

Donations help to save the charity valuable funds. We welcome donations of the following items: (please note that for health and safety reasons all consumables must be within their sell by/ best before/ use by date and be in an unopened packet)

- Tea bags
- Decaffeinated coffee
- Sugar
- Herbal tea bags
- Sugar free / no added sugar fruit squash
- UHT milk
- Antibacterial washing up liquid
- Antibacterial hand soap
- Antibacterial surface cleaning spray
- Biro
- Crayons
- Felt tip pens
- Paints
- Seeds
- Screws/Nails
- Sandpaper
- Paint brushes
- Terracotta pots (not plastic)
- Modular seed trays
- Sticky labels
- Envelopes
- Office supplies
- Raffle prizes for our events