

WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter 14

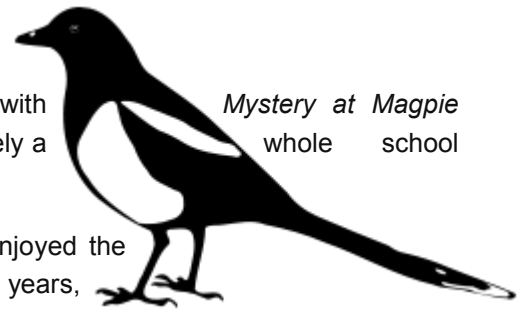
19th July 2017

Magpie Magic

We have all just enjoyed our customary end of year musical production with *Manor*. Year 6 provided the acting, but the singing and dancing was definitely a event.

The smiles on the children's faces showed very clearly how much they enjoyed the experience and for our Year 6s as they say good-bye to their primary school years, they will take memories with them that they can treasure for years to come.

It goes without saying that behind this production is the support of staff and parents. Whilst staff have coached, cajoled and encouraged, parents and carers have enthusiastically supported their children as they rehearsed lines, dances and songs.



Mystery at Magpie
whole school



*"I loved being
part of the
performance - it
was the perfect
end to my time
at Windermere!"*

- Vlad, Year 6

These events are very much *community* events and it is important that everyone recognises that no matter how small their role (acting or singing) they are an important part of the whole spectacle. So, it is always disappointing when some pupils fail to return for the evening show, letting their friends and colleagues down. We have already reduced the evening performances to just one, which means that some parents and grandparents are disappointed by not being able to come along, so please ensure that you support your child and the school by ensuring that they attend the Christmas and end of year performances.

Governor Gossip

As the academic year draws to a close, it is appropriate to outline the governing body's work over the past year.

Although the governors delegate the day to day responsibility for running the school to the Head and leadership team, they are ultimately responsible for the educational standards, safeguarding, health and safety, HR and finance.

This year has obviously been very focused on the development of the library and meeting room in addition to the general running of the school. Governors were very carefully monitoring every aspect of the building, from the initial design ideas and the rather weighty contract to ensuring the school was able to finance this important development. The meeting room has already proved itself to be a much needed addition to the school's facilities and the library should be up and running by the beginning of September.

Although we were able to fund the library and meeting room ourselves, we presented a business case to the County Council, who have agreed to cover the cost of the installation of the new water system to the school, which was an unexpected expense.

There new academic year starts with a full governing body meeting in September. It is at this meeting that the composition of the committees is decided and the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected.

I know that you will join me in thanking all the governors for the excellent work that they do.

Books, Barcodes and Borrowers

If you came to the performances or the recent assemblies, you cannot fail to have noticed that the bookcases that lined the corridor have been emptied and removed (mostly). The books that previously filled their shelves have been placed in the library and every book has been cleaned, barcoded and added to an electronic library system.

We are extremely grateful for the many donations that we have received. These books have also been added to the library, but they have also had a special donation label put in the front of the book, so that future pupils will be able to see who donated to the library. You are still welcome to make donations to the library - fiction books for KS2 are especially welcome.

In the autumn every pupil will be given their very own library account. By scanning their own barcode (in their reading record book or planner) they will be able to borrow and return library books independently. The electronic library system, which is similar to that used in many secondary schools, will allow us to track books more easily, so that fewer books are lost during the year. There will also be an opportunity for pupils to leave book reviews and recommendations for others to read.



Healthy Eating

Although the school kitchen offers well-balanced and highly nutritious meals in line with school food standards, we recognise that some children and parents prefer a home packed lunch.



This is perfectly acceptable, but there are some rules about what can and can't be included in packed lunches. Fizzy drinks and chocolate bars/sweets of any kind are not permitted. Also, we have seen some pupils having Nutella sandwiches.

However appealing these might be, as the name suggests, they contain nuts and nut products are not allowed in school as this could have very serious consequences for our pupils and staff with nut allergies.

Potato Weigh-In

The humble potato has been the cause of some consternation in the staff room this week. Our annual potato growing competition is a quiet, but seriously fought battle between classes. Miss Clark has been very attentive to her particular bag of burgeoning spuds, fearing stiff competition from our newcomer (relatively), Miss Baldwin. However, it appears that a dark horse leapt into the lead at the very last moment: Reception's haul of 1.4kg easily beat the next nearest harvest of 1kg from Year 5. There have been mutterings about 'manure not compost' and calls for a steward's enquiry, but thankfully harmony has been restored.



Rooks, not Magpies...

Every Thursday a small, but dedicated band meet to master the chessboard. We are very grateful to Mrs Saporenkova for making this possible and I was particularly thrilled to hear of some chess success at the 7th Pixmore Open in Letchworth. With four entrants, Windermere had the largest entry of any primary school there. Kia (Y5) and Rita (Y6) both did very well winning 2 out of 5 games in their age group. Marci (Y4) and Robert (Y2) were in the under Year 5 group, but again both did really well.

Marci won 2 games and drew 1, whereas Robert won 3 games which was enough to seal 2nd place! What a fantastic effort from them all.

Chess club will be continuing in the autumn term, but the children would really benefit from a second adult to support them. You don't need to be a grand master at chess, but if you might be able to help out each week, then please get in touch.

Did you know?

The word 'Checkmate' in chess comes from the Persian phrase 'Shah Mat', which means 'the king is defeated'.

Summer Fair

The weather was wonderful and the atmosphere was fantastic - yet again the PTA organised an event that not only raised funds, but further embedded the community feel that Windermere offers. Many of our new Reception 2017 parents came along too, which was great. We are looking forward to welcoming them properly in September. Initial figures indicate that the profit from this year's fair will be an incredible **£2000!** As ever this money is used to directly benefit every pupil in the school by subsidising transport costs for school trips. However this year the PTA would also like to buy some books for the school library, which will really help to make our new area a delight for everyone.

The PTA are always looking for new ideas and inspiration - why not come along to their next meeting and share some of yours.

After School Clubs

From the beginning of September we will be offering after school care through EnergyKidz. You can book online (look at the parent tab on our own website) for every day or just one day. By having after school provision on site, pupils will be able to sign up for and attend our own after school interest clubs before joining the EnergyKidz session.



We are hoping to expand our own range of clubs, particularly for KS2. Miss Hillier will continue to run cook club, but is looking to alternate this half-termly with an art club. In addition we are intending to run some more sports clubs, which will improve the school's performance at local competitions.

Obviously it is the taking part that matters, but winning sometimes, doesn't hurt.

The usual letter about after school interest clubs will be sent home in the first week of September.

Sporting Success

Our learning together week this term was packed with a variety of different sporting events. Whilst our annual sports day and the duathlon day were key highlights, there were also kwik cricket sessions, rugby training and inter-house rounders matches. Thanks go to Miss Baldwin for all her hard work, not only during sports week, but throughout the year.

The netball team have played extremely well this year coming second in their section of the local league. Thank you to Mrs Wiggins for her invaluable coaching.

The boys' football team had a rather mixed season, but have improved overall and performed well at the 6-a-side tournament. The girls' football team, on the other hand, had a fantastic season. They have improved at every match, culminating in a semi-final place at the football tournament. Thanks to Mrs Newton and Coach Chris for all their hard work in organising and coaching the football teams.

In addition to our cross country teams during the winter season, we also entered kwik cricket and rounders teams into local competitions and a tag rugby team into the tag rugby festival.



Phasels Wood

Year 4 had their residential overnight at Phasels Wood Scout Camp near Hemel Hempstead. They had a brilliant time. They had a chance to challenge themselves with some activities, but also learnt that you *can* admit when something is too high! I wonder if Mrs Newton knew that when she went on the zip wire...

Don't forget we have a staff team raising money for cancer research this weekend and there is still time to donate if you haven't yet done so.

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



Forthcoming Events ...

- 5th September** - Return to school
- 22nd September** - Cross Country - whole school
- 5th October** - Parent Consultation Evening
- 10th October** - Parent Consultation Evening
- 7th November** - Reception 2018 Open Day
- 10th November** - Year 6 Remembrance Assembly
- 16th November** - Year 5 Assembly (Thursday)
- 24th November** - Year 4 Assembly
- 1st December** - Year 3 Assembly
- 11th December** - Under 5s Performance
- 13th December** - Evening Performance
- 15th December** - Reception Nativity Play
- 19th December** - End of Term certificate assembly

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Summer Fun

Year 5 and 6 had an amazing week this summer when they went to Newland Park on a residential trip. They participated in some great teambuilding activities and challenged themselves with some new sports such as fencing and zorbing.

And finally...

Summer uniform may continue to be worn until the end of September. After that KS2 need to be in shirts/blouses and ties, please.