

# WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter 1

29th September 2017



## Welcome Back to School!

What a delight to welcome everyone back to school and also to welcome some new faces to our ranks. It seems as though everyone had a good break and they have returned ready to greet the new school year with great enthusiasm.

On the first day of term we asked every pupil (except our brand new Reception pupils) to give us a word that summed up their feelings about being back at school. Although a few were nervous about the coming year, the overwhelming response was 'excited' or 'happy'. What more could we ask for?!

Unusually for us, we haven't had huge amounts of building work done during the summer holidays, but it has still been busy. The staffroom has had a much needed makeover with a new kitchen area and some proper desking to replace an old workbench. There has also been a lot of reorganising as we have moved the remaining books from the corridor down to the library and sorted out the first aid area and the meeting room.

## Bookmarks and Barcodes

If you look inside the books that your child is bringing home from school you will find that each book contains a barcode. The barcode is unique to that specific copy and is stored on our library system - thanks to a small army of volunteers who have given up an extraordinary amount of time to catalogue all our books.



Your child also has a barcode, although this is on a bookmark and in their reading record book or planner. From now on, when your child borrows a book from school they scan the two barcodes and we know who has each book. This will allow us to keep track of our stock of books much more easily. It also means that once the final few books are added to the system, children will also be able to borrow a library book as well as their levelled reading book.

Every classroom has a scanner linked to the library system as well as the main library computer. If your child loses a book, we will be able to tell you which book it was to help your search.



**SILVER AWARD**

## Well done!

If you remember, last year I mentioned that Miss Clark was leading our drive to improve our Science teaching and learning. To evidence the improvements across the school she was working towards one of the Primary Science Quality Marks. Having submitted all the data and evidence part way through the summer term, we had almost, but not quite, forgotten that we were waiting to hear if we had been successful.

So, it was a thrilling start to the new academic year to learn that not only had we been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark, but at the silver standard and not just the bronze.

Well done to Miss Clark for leading the school's teaching and learning in this area.

## Fresh Faces

The first day of the autumn term was the first day of big school for our thirty new faces in Reception.

Amazingly there were very few tears from either pupils or parents and all of the children seem to have settled well.



Over the past few years we have been honing our transition programme for our Reception pupils and their parents. Shortly after the allocation day we write a letter of welcome so that parents feel reassured and we invite them to a coffee morning so that they can begin to network with other parents and feel part of our lovely community.

The new pupils have two opportunities to come and stay for an afternoon; the first visit is in a small group joining some of the current pupils and the second visit is the new class as a whole for the first time. Parents are also invited to come into school, buy uniform, order milk and find out about school life in more detail.

Miss Rios has visited the local nurseries where the majority of our pupils will have come from and telephoned any others. In addition to this parents are given an opportunity to come in for a one to one meeting with Miss Rios and Mrs Alger so they can share information with staff that will make their child's start smoother.



This year we added two further steps. During the summer holidays every child will have received a little book about starting school at Windermere. It has illustrations that are specific to our school and aims to allay worries by explaining what to do when you arrive at school, if you are hungry or thirsty and what to do if you need to go to the toilet.

Then at the beginning of term parents were given a handbook, that hopefully explains everything you need to know about sending your child to Windermere.

With all this, we hope that our new pupils have settled well into their new school life.



Our new after school club is proving very popular, with an ever increasing number of families taking advantage of this service. Remember you don't need to make a regular commitment, but you can book on the day - providing there is space of course. Please book directly - there is a link on our website.

<https://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/breakfast-and-after-school-clubs/windermere-primary-school/>

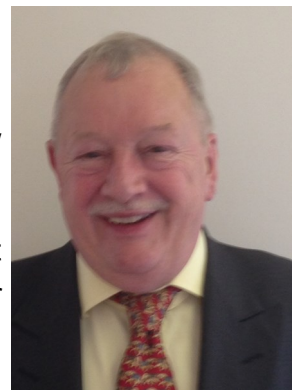
Q What did the tree say to autumn?

A Leaf me alone!

## Sad farewells...

Usually we say our farewells at the end of term, but sadly we are also saying a few farewells at the beginning of this term.

As you will know from my letter at the end of last week, we lost one of our great governors at the beginning of term. **John Plumstead** will be sorely missed and our good wishes go to his wife and girls.



Visitors to the school office will have noticed a friendly face missing - **Mrs Newton** has worked at the school as teaching assistant, midday supervisory assistant and latterly as school secretary for the past thirteen years. However, her children are now grown up and more independent, so she felt that it was an appropriate time for her to look for a full-time job that would allow her to take term-time holidays. She was quickly snapped up and started a new job at the beginning of September.

Mrs O'Keeffe and I are very grateful to Mrs Wardle, who has been helping out in the office over the past few weeks while we advertised and appointed a new admin assistant. We have been successful in appointing someone to join us in the office, so look out for a new face in the office when we welcome **Mrs Jordan** to our team.



## Mixed blessings...

Regular readers will know that **Mrs Denny** was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. She has had chemotherapy and radiotherapy and although she is still receiving treatment every few weeks, most of her treatment is now complete and she is well on the way to recovery. However, after much heart searching she feels that she needs to enjoy her new chance at life and has made the decision to leave Windermere after sixteen years. Whilst it is disappointing to know that she won't be coming back and she will be missed hugely by all of us, her decision is understandable and we wish her all the best for the future.

## Blessings...

On a much jollier note, although we are extremely sad to lose her, **Miss Akthar** is leaving us for a very happy reason. She is now married and will be leaving us at the end of September to join her husband. We wish them both well.

## House Captains

The advent of a new school year brings house elections and new House Captains and Vice House Captains. I was really impressed with how many of our Year 6 pupils put themselves forward for these roles. Their persuasive speeches were of a very high standard, but ultimately only two children can be selected from each house.

The new House Captains are: Jupiter (blue) - Zoe and Tom, Neptune (red) - Antonio and Leander, Mercury (green) - Khadija and James, Saturn (yellow) - Oliver and Ruby.

Q. What did one raindrop say to the other raindrop?

A. Two's company, three's a cloud.



# Sporting Success - *already!*

You will have seen from our activity clubs letter that we have added more and more sporting clubs to the menu. One of these has already paid dividends at cross country. We have always entered a cross country team into the local league, but this time, out of our team of 11, three finished in the top 50 and one, Antonio, finished in the top 30!! This is from a field of 120 runners, so it is really impressive and we are all very proud of them.

Then of course, we had our very own cross country event on Friday morning. Despite Thursday's torrential rainfall, Friday morning was bright and clear. Whilst our PTA supplied tea, coffee and cakes to the parents who had come to support the event (for a Macmillan Coffee Morning donation), the children raced around a variety of different courses. Year 1 started the morning's event with a start that bore similarities to the recent Singapore F1 Grand Prix, but they were soon off round the field for a couple of laps. The other year groups soon followed suit with KS2 heading off site to extend their courses. Everyone had a great time, the cakes were delicious and the PTA raised £230 towards Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The winners were (1st, 2nd, 3rd):

**Reception:** Boys - Edward, Ayyub, Jacob. Girls - Nyla, Lily, Zyla.

**Year 1:** Boys - Sol, Ibrahim, Noah. Girls - Sophie, Ellie, Atifa.

**Year 2:** Boys - Jayden, Jacob, Stanley. Girls - Alexandra, Leanne, Ameera.

**Year 3:** Boys - Jericho, Robert (joint 1st), Tom. Girls - Hannah, La'Shae, Fearne.

**Year 4:** Boys - Matthew, Nick, Elliott. Girls - Chloe, Arissa, Nafisa.

**Year 5:** Boys - Kalel, Hayden, Abid. Girls - Maleha, Skye (joint 1st), Evie.

**Year 6:** Boys - Antonio, Tom, Oliver. Girls - Ruby, Zoe, Honey.

## Forthcoming Events ...

<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Class photos
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parent Consultations
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Harvest Festival 9am
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parent Consultations
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October –</b>	
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Learning Together Week
<b>HALF TERM: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Open Day for 2018 Reception Parents
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Remembrance Assembly – Year 6 (10:40am)
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 5 Sharing Assembly
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	BBC Children in Need
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 4 Sharing Assembly
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Year 3 Sharing Assembly
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Christmas Fair (provisional)
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Under 5's Performance
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Evening Performance
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Ukulele Assembly
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Reception Nativity 9:30 am
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Certificate Assembly (9 am)

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Thank you to everyone who sponsored our Race For Life team. They ran a fantastic race and more importantly raised a very impressive £930.

### Jingle, Jingle All The Way

No, not Christmas carols, but an excess of keyrings being attached to book bags and dispatch bags, which is proving a bit of a nuisance. Please keep it down to one simple keyring for easy identification purposes and no torches!

### And finally...

Don't forget KS2 pupils need to be wearing shirt and tie (not polo shirts) from the beginning of October. Children need to be wearing coats to school not just gilets or jumpers.