

WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



17th September 2018

Welcome Back!

The summer holidays and the heatwave simply melted away in no time and we are all now back to school again.

Anyone who has come into school during the holidays will know that the building has a completely different feel to it when it is devoid of children, so it was really lovely to welcome back all our children and watch them eagerly head to their new classes and another year full of learning *and* fun.

We have welcomed a new Reception class into school as well as a few children in other year groups and of course there are also a number of new staff joining our team: Mrs Parnell in Year 2, Mrs Chakma in Year 6, Miss Goodwin in Reception, Mrs Steckiene in Year 4 and Mrs Fowler in Year 5. I know that you will make them all feel welcome and quickly part of the Windermere community.

I am very impressed by how smart the children looked when they returned to school: lots of smart haircuts, polished shoes and new uniform. Many of the KS2 children are already in their winter uniform, but please don't forget that by the end of September all KS2 pupils need to be wearing shirts and ties, not polo shirts or summer dresses. Individual pupil photographs will be taken on **27th September**. Details about this and opportunities for sibling photographs will be sent our nearer the time.

Our celebration display recognises those pupils in each class who have met that week's criterion for Child of the Week, e.g. *someone who has made others feel welcome*. These change every week, but reflect that half-term's theme. This half term the focus is on **New Beginnings**.



The attendance award is given to the class (or classes) with the best attendance for the previous week. Last week, very excitingly the award was shared between Year 2 and Year 3, who both had 100% attendance! Well done to the pupils in those classes.

Our new Celebration Assembly display is buzzing about our 'Child of the Week' and 'Attendance Awards'.

Water Bottles!

One area where the news is rather disappointing regards water bottles. A significant number of children are leaving class (interrupting their learning) and coming up to the office (interrupting Mrs Jordan and Mrs O'Keeffe's work) to ask for plastic cups (a waste of money and resources) because they don't have a water bottle in school.

It is essential that every child has a water bottle in school. These should have a sports cap, so that if it is knocked over only a very small amount of liquid will be spilled. Water bottles can be bought from the school office for £2



Water bottles must contain *water* and not diluted juice. Firstly, it is extremely bad for a child's teeth to be constantly bathed in a sweet liquid. Naturally, many children prefer to drink juice or squash to plain water. However, children are unaware of the long term damage they may be doing to their teeth, so it is important that we, as adults, ensure they are keeping their teeth healthy. Given plain water in their bottles, they really will drink it when they are thirsty.

Secondly, accidents do happen and sometimes drinks bottles are knocked over. If the drink is only water, it will quickly dry without causing too much damage, but if the drink is squash or juice, it will leave a sticky mess.

As usual at the beginning of term, the creeping menace of *The Rucksack* has reared its ugly head! The cloakrooms in our classrooms are very cramped. The space between coat pegs is barely wide enough to fit two coats side by side; it is certainly not wide enough to accommodate rucksacks. It is for this reason that **we do not allow rucksacks in school**. Whatever your child tells you, they do not *need* a large bag - the only exception is if they are staying with a different parent that evening - and everybody else does not have one either!

If your child brings a rucksack to school, you will be asked to take it home again. A book bag, or despatch bag (it doesn't have to be the school one) which will fit in our bag boxes are ideal.



Homework

Our new homework system worked really well last year. We saw some fantastic work and evidence that families had shared the learning and enjoyed new experiences together. There is always a choice of tasks and many of these can be completed as a whole family e.g. a walk in the park, a visit to the library. Try not to leave all of the tasks to the last week of term, but the half term holiday is an ideal time to get quite a few completed at one time.

Half term holiday

Whilst we are on the subject of the October half term holiday, please note that Hertfordshire's holiday is 29th October to 5th November (children return to school on 6th November). This is **not the same** as Essex, Luton, Bedfordshire or Cambridgeshire. I am sure that there will be financial savings to be made from this, but please make sure that your child is in school the week before.

Sports Awards

As you know at the end of last year, we were nominated for the Primary Sport School of the Year Award for the St Albans City and District Sports Awards. When all the children had gone home at the end of last term, Miss Baldwin and Mrs Raftery headed to the awards ceremony. We were thrilled to receive this beautiful award in recognition of the level of sport that the school offers to our pupils.

The first of our sporting fixtures takes place this week, so we are wishing our Cross Country team good luck for Thursday.

House Captains

One of the first tasks of the year is to elect our House Captains. I am delighted to tell you that the following Year 6 pupils were elected by their houses:

Jupiter: Skye and Alex

Mercury: Caelan and Olivia

Saturn: Chloe and Kalel

Neptune: Millie and Kian

Reading Rewards

Children in Years 1 and 2 have been excited to swap their reading record books for a more grown-up planner this year. The planners contain some very useful information on phonics and reading, which is aimed at our younger pupils, they have sturdy plastic covers and each page is dated making it easier to keep track of messages.

Every time your child reads to you (a school book or a book from home), an adult should make a brief comment (*read well, found this tricky, enjoyed this book*) and sign the planner on the correct page. As soon as your child has collected 20 signatures, then they can ask for a Reading Reward Book.

There are a wide range of books to choose from, but we will be regularly topping our stock up.

Book Fair - 4th -11th October

However, if that is not enough for your bibliophile, then we will be holding a book fair in October. This year it will be possible to pay by debit/credit card (by phone) as well as cheque/cash. Details will be sent out shortly.

As usual we are asking for volunteers to help us man the book fair at the end of the day. Please let Miss Clark (Y4) know if you can lend a hand.



Activity Clubs

Unfortunately, our lacrosse coach is not available this year and we have not yet managed to find someone to take over the lacrosse club. However, we will still be offering cross country, football, netball, tag rugby, kwik - cricket and hockey, so there is plenty to look forward to.

Our afterschool activity clubs are understandably very popular. All the clubs are limited as to how many pupils they can take at any one time. For some clubs they could take more pupils if there was a parent willing to help out.

To ensure that the children on the waiting lists don't have to wait too long, we decided that we would split some of the oversubscribed clubs into two groups - before and after half-term. Hopefully this way everyone will get a go!

As ever, we ask that parents let us know if their child no longer wishes to attend a club and parents are reminded that if their child's behaviour does not meet our expectations or they are repeatedly late being picked up from the club, then they will not be allowed to continue at the club.

Upcoming events...

In addition to those for which we already have diary dates, there are a number of other events coming up, which you may be interested in.

Reading Information Evening

Last year we held a Reading Information Evening, which several parents said made a real difference to how they are able to support their child in reading. We will run another session this term for anyone who missed last year's or who is new to the school.

Maths Information Evening

Following on from the positive response to our reading evening, we will be offering a maths evening. This will explain what the expectations are for each stage of your child's primary education, how we teach specific concepts such as division and how you can help your child to calculate with confidence and solve problems with ease. We will also share the mysteries of 'bead strings', 'hundred squares' and 'tens frames'!

Phonics for Parents

Later this term, Miss Rios will be inviting Reception parents into the classroom to see how phonics is taught and how they can practise with their child.

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 27 th September	Individual photos
Friday 28 th September	Cross Country and Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thursday 4 th October	Parent Consultations (3.30pm - 7pm)
Tuesday 9 th October	Parent Consultations (3.30pm - 7pm)
Friday 12 th October	Harvest Festival 9am
Monday 15 th October – Friday 19 th October	Learning Together Week
Saturday 27 th October – Sunday 4 th November	HALF TERM:
Monday 5 th November	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 9 th November	Remembrance Assembly led by Year 6, parents welcome (10:40am)
Tuesday 13 th November	Open Day for 2019 Reception Parents
Friday 16 th November	Year 5 Sharing Assembly/BBC Children in Need
Friday 23 rd November	Year 4 Sharing Assembly
Friday 30 th November	Year 3 Sharing Assembly
Saturday 8 th December	Christmas Fair (provisional)
Friday 14 th December	Reception Nativity 9:30 am
Monday 17 th December	Under 5's Afternoon Performance
Tuesday 18 th December	Afternoon Performance (adults only)
Tuesday 18 th December	Evening Performance (adults only)
Friday 21 st December	Certificate Assembly (9 am)

School finishes at 2pm on Friday 21st December

Children return to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019

Contact Us

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If you need after school care for your child, you can book them into EnergyKidz. They have fun and food until 6pm. You can book on the day up until 3pm, but you need to register your child online first. You can book a place for just one day or everyday.



EnergyKidz

And finally...

Have you named your child's clothes?

At the end of last year we had a large number of jumpers and sweatshirts left unclaimed because they were unnamed. We can't keep lost property, because we simply don't have the room.