

# WINDERMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL



May 2018

## Ofsted

By now hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to read our latest Ofsted report.



*“...pupils  
receive a  
consistently  
good  
standard of  
education.”*

*- Ofsted 2018*

Ofsted visits most schools regularly to inspect the standard of education being provided. Schools that have previously been deemed ‘Good’ are generally inspected every three to five years.

Our previous inspection was in January 2014, so this inspection was not altogether unexpected, however as usual we were only informed of the inspection the previous afternoon. On Thursday morning we welcomed two inspectors, who spent the day visiting lessons, meeting children and teachers, talking to parents and the local authority representative as well as delving into files and policies. Before contacting the school, inspectors had already identified areas that they wanted to investigate based on data held by the Department for Education. By the end of the first day the inspectors had completed most of their investigations and were just looking for further evidence for specific judgments.

On Friday the inspectors attended Reception’s sharing assembly and met with some of our school governors, as well as visiting more lessons and listening to children read. Finally, at the end of two very long days, the inspectors met with senior leaders and the local authority representative to provide verbal feedback.

Frustratingly, we were not allowed to share the outcomes of the inspection until the final report was published, which would not be until after the Easter holidays. I am sure you can imagine how anxiously we waited to see the contents of the report after the holiday.

I was thrilled to see that the report captured the very essence of our school, which we know is a *‘a nurturing and caring school, with a real family feel.’* I am grateful to all the parents who took time to complete the Parent View questionnaire or to meet with the inspectors. They were very impressed by our pupils and their positive attitudes towards learning and each other. The inspectors judged ‘Personal Development and Welfare’ to be **outstanding!**

The inspection team clearly recognised the work we have done over recent years to improve outcomes since the last Ofsted inspection. Outcomes at the end of Reception and for the phonics screening check are regularly above national and Hertfordshire averages, whilst our attainment at the end of KS1 (Year 2) are now some of the highest in the St Albans district.

One of the inspectors’ key lines of enquiry was the poor attendance of some pupils. Although we were able to demonstrate the efforts we have made to improve pupils’ attendance overall, it is clear that some pupils continue to be absent from school with such regularity or for extended periods of time that they are considered to be ‘persistent absentees’. Sadly, this impacted significantly on the behaviour judgment and consequently we were unable to

## Governor Gossip

It was not just staff and pupils who were under scrutiny when Ofsted visited. Several of our governors came in on the evening beforehand to help in the most practical of ways - tidying, sorting and providing sustenance (pizza) for staff. Clear evidence of how supportive they are and what a fantastic team we have.

Sadly, after 8 years as a governor, **Ian Pressman** will be standing down this term. Ian is a parent governor, but unfortunately as both of his children have now passed through the school and moved onto secondary school, he is no longer eligible to stand. Ian's particular responsibility has been for health and safety, but he has brought his business skills to many areas of governance, so he will be much missed. I am sure you will join me in thanking Ian for his service to the school and the contributions he has made to the children's education and well-being.

Of course this means that we will be holding a parent governor election in due course.

Although 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.

It is a big responsibility, but training is provided and it is an opportunity to support your child's school.

If you are interested please ask at the school office for more information or contact the Chair of Governors, Jo Perry, on [chair@windermere.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@windermere.herts.sch.uk)

secure an outstanding judgment in this area as this could not be graded higher than 'good' and the combined judgment for '*Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare*' defaults to the lower judgment. Obviously this is really disappointing for the school as I feel the poor attendance of a few, does not reflect our wonderful children and their positive attitudes to school and learning.

## Attendance

It is so important for your child to attend school regularly and punctually. Children who miss 19 days of school (or 38 sessions) are considered to be persistently absent. However, poor school attendance is not just about government figures and penalty notices, it is about missing out on education and social interaction. This includes arriving late to school. **Pupils who arrive after 9:25am are considered to be absent (unauthorised) for that session.**

Arriving late or missing days from school makes understanding the sequence of learning and establishing relationships with other children very difficult.

Bear in mind that whilst 95% attendance sounds reasonable, in fact it equates to a whole term of learning missed in primary school. It is not surprising then that pupils with attendance less than 95% do not achieve as well academically. 90% attendance represents 4 weeks' absence every year and over the course of a child's primary education this is equivalent to two terms' absence.

By taking your child out of school for extended periods of time and by condoning regular 'sick' days when a child perhaps feels slightly under the weather, but could attend school, parents are denying their child an education and are also not preparing them for a future where punctuality and good attendance are important for a successful and productive adult life.

Obviously there are times when your child is not well enough to attend school, or when their attendance would spread germs and infections to others. However, there are also times when your child might just feel a bit tired, run down or out of sorts. Please encourage them to come to school. If necessary we can administer paracetamol or ibuprofen (with your WRITTEN permission). We often find that once at school, children quickly perk up and forget that they felt unwell.

Once a child's attendance falls below 90% no absences - even for illness - will be authorised until overall attendance has improved. In line with our absence policy, holidays - however educational - will not be authorised.

Absence from school may be authorised if it is for the following reasons:

- Sickness
- Unavoidable medical/ dental appointments (though these should be made, whenever possible, outside school hours)
- Days of religious observance (not more than 1 day at a time)
- Exceptional family circumstances such as bereavement (generally only one day)

Please remember that if your child has more than 15 sessions of unauthorised absence over two terms, *each* parent may be issued with a penalty notice for *each* child.

# Reading Rewards

Reading is such an important skill; it determines achievement in almost every other area of the curriculum. So, it is essential that children learn to read fluently, developing reading stamina, fluency and comprehension. To achieve this pupils need to be reading to an adult at home every night. I know that with the busy lives that we all lead, it can be difficult to find time, especially if the children are unwilling.



To encourage regular reading we have introduced a new **reading rewards** scheme. This was discussed with the children at the end of last term and they were very excited about it. Starting from 1st March, children who have 20 adult signatures in their reading record book or planner, can claim a reward book. This book is theirs to keep! The children were asked to select books that they would be keen to own and the result is a vast library of fiction for all ages. The first of our avid readers have now collected their books and the excitement on their faces as a delight to see.

Please support your child to earn their reward book by listening to them read and then signing their reading record book or planner.

## Summer Fair

The summer fair on **Saturday 30th June** is one of the PTA's major fundraising events. The money raised supports every child by subsidising educational visits and workshops as well as other equipment used in school. The PTA work very hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly, but they need your help! If you can spare time to help run a stall, set up or clear up, it will help to support the school in providing opportunities and experiences for everyone.

Please contact Lynsey Newman on [PTA@windermere.herts.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@windermere.herts.sch.uk) if you can offer support. If you are unable to do so this time, then please come along on the day to spend some money!

## Enterprise Week

This term's Learning Together Week is focusing on business skills, with everyone designing, making, creating and marketing a product for sale at the Summer Fair.

If you are able to lend a hand with the production line, then please let your child's class teacher know.

## Health and Relationships Education

There will be an opportunity to view the materials used as part of our Health and Relationships Education after half term. Look out for the letter about this important aspect of your child's education.



## Here Comes the Sun....

Well, maybe. The weather doesn't quite seem to have decided whether it is spring, summer or indeed, winter again! However, when the warmer weather does come please remember that your child must have a water bottle in school every day.

Please apply suntan lotion in the morning before they come to school. If the weather gets really hot we will keep them out of the sun during the hottest parts of the day, but they still need to be protected with sun hats and lotion.

Summer uniform is, of course, the order of the day, this term. Red gingham summer dresses and shorts with polo shirts are all acceptable. Children who are still wearing a shirt (not a polo shirt) should be wearing their tie still.

## Chess Success

Our Thursday chess club have been participating in the South West Hertfordshire Chess Tournament. This was run over a number of sessions during the spring term and although it was our first time of competing, I am thrilled to say that Windermere came 6th out of 14. Considering that some children are relatively new to playing chess, I think that this is a very impressive result.

Some of our chess players have also been participating in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. Four of our regular players qualified for the Hertfordshire Megafinal and of those, two - Robert and Kia - have also qualified to enter the Southern Gigafinal. Robert achieved 1st place in the U8 boys competition and Kia came 3rd in the U11 & U12 girls competition.



Robert and Kia relaxing after their chess success at the MegaFinal.



We are very grateful to Mrs Saporenkova for making this possible, but she would really appreciate some additional help with the club on a Thursday after school. If you are able to lend a hand for an hour after school, please get in touch. You don't need to be a chess grandmaster to help the children.

---

## Staying Safe



You may have seen that work has started on the field outside Year 6 and adjacent to the train. We are really excited to have some new outdoor equipment installed. KS2 will benefit from some outdoor gym equipment, which they will be able to use as part of their PE lessons, as well as at playtimes. KS1 will soon be sailing the high seas with their very own pirate galleon! This will ensure that they continue to develop their physical skills,



keep active and have an opportunity to develop their imagination during playtimes.

**However, please note that in common with the rest of the school playground equipment, these areas are not to be used by children - especially pre-school children - before or after school.** I would also ask parents to keep a close eye on their children at the end of the day. On Monday a number of nursery age children were allowed to wander onto the field and pick up the cricket club's equipment, with the result that they were wielding large bats in a worrying manner!



It is great to see the children running around at playtime and enjoying themselves and even more so to see that they are all wearing safe and appropriate shoes whilst doing so. Open-toed sandals or crocs are great for holidays and the beach, but are not appropriate for school wear. Although they might be cooler, they leave toes very exposed to injuries, including sunburn on very sunny days.

Disappointingly, an increasing number of children are not bringing water bottles to school. Instead they are relying on the school to provide them with disposable plastic cups. Not only is this an unnecessary use of the world's resources, it is wasting time in class to get a cup from the office, wasting office staff time to provide a cup and of course, wasting the school's much reduced budget on plastic cups.

After half term, cups will no longer be routinely provided by the office and parents may be telephoned to bring a water bottle into school. Water bottles are available from the school office for £2. These can be purchased online through SchoolMoney and, if necessary, provided to your child the same day.





# GDPR

**Question:** What does a small primary school have in common with Twitter, Facebook and a large multinational company?

**Answer:** The need to meet the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations.

As a school, protecting you and your child's data is second nature to us. We are very cautious about who has access to any information and how it is used. Of course, as a school we are obliged to collect and process significant amounts of data about your child, their progress, their attainment and their needs. As these are statutory requirements we don't need your permission to do this. Some information is optional, such as ethnicity, and can be withheld, but it may support the school financially (free school meal eligibility/EAL) if you share this information with us.

I hope that you feel you can trust us to use your data wisely and to share with you information that we feel will be of interest to you. However, in line with the requirements of GDPR, we are now seeking specific consent for all sorts of things, including unnamed pupil images on the classroom walls and agreeing to receive letters from the PTA.

I am really pleased to see that most parents have returned their consent forms already. We will be adding these to our records for each child. It is really difficult for us to break each area down into individual examples, so please be aware that if you have not given consent for marketing materials, your child will not be given information from the PTA about school events such as the school disco, Mothers' Day/Fathers' Day makes and the Summer/Christmas Fair. However, you will still be able to pick these letters up from the school office.

A new GDPR policy will be on the school's website soon and parents will be emailed up to date privacy notices shortly. Part of the requirement for GDPR compliance is that every organisation must have a Data Protection Officer, who carries out audits and deals with Subject Access Requests. The DPO must be independent of the control and processing of data, which in a small school like ours, where everyone has many responsibilities, is very difficult. To achieve compliance we have teamed up with Colney Heath School. Their office administrator is our DPO and Mrs Jordan is their DPO. We hope that this will enable us to share good practice, without incurring additional costs.

---

## Parent Consultations

At the parent consultation evenings later this term parents will be asked to check and update their child's data and to sign the acceptable use of the internet form. Appointment forms will be sent out after half term. Please ensure that you keep to your appointment; this tells your child that you value them and their education.



## Term Dates 2018/19

You should have received a copy of next year's term dates. If you have not done so, please ask at the office.

## New Museum and Art Gallery

I am delighted to say that we have been able to make a donation to the new museum and art gallery that will be based in the old Town Hall in the centre of St Albans. Look out for the school's name when you go to visit.



## Sports Success

Over the past term and a half we have seen Windermere pupils excel in a range of different sports. Thanks to the ongoing coaching from Miss Baldwin the cross-country team continued to improve their results. The netball team has benefited from specialist coaching not just from the Hertfordshire Mavericks, but also from Sasha Corbin (one of our Commonwealth gold medallists). They are now well-placed to succeed next season. Our football team have had a slightly mixed season, but many of our Year 5 pupils have had an opportunity to prepare themselves for next year.

Our new lacrosse team have excelled themselves, winning against other local teams.

Everyone benefited from and enjoyed the Sports Relief Daley Challenge organised by Miss Baldwin. We had yoga, American football, rugby and cheerleading, so there was something for everyone and at the same time we raised over £700 for Sport Relief.

Letters about **After School Clubs** for the autumn term will be sent out at the beginning of September.

## Contact Us

**Windermere Primary School**  
Windermere Avenue  
St Albans  
AL1 5QP

Tel: 01727 853360

Fax: 01727 855878

Email:  
[admin@windermere.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@windermere.herts.sch.uk)

Website:  
[www.windermere.herts.sch.uk](http://www.windermere.herts.sch.uk)

Twitter:  
[@WindermerePS](https://twitter.com/WindermerePS)

## This Term's Events ...

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May - Reception Parents' phonic sessions.  
14<sup>th</sup> May – 18<sup>th</sup> May – SATs week  
15<sup>th</sup> May - 25<sup>th</sup> May - KS1 SATs  
22<sup>nd</sup> May – Living the Dream Dance Workshop  
25<sup>th</sup> May – Music assembly  
8<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 and 5 Afternoon Tea - postponed due to World School Games  
8<sup>th</sup> June – Reception visit to Paradise Wildlife Park  
8<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 visit to Legoland  
12<sup>th</sup> June – Class photos  
13<sup>th</sup> June – Duathlon  
15<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 and 3 Afternoon Tea  
17<sup>th</sup> June - Year 1 Phonic Screening Test  
18<sup>th</sup> June – Year 2 Verulamium Museum visit  
20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June – Year 4 Residential trip to Phasels Wood  
22<sup>nd</sup> June – Sports Day  
25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June – Enterprise Week/Bikeability  
29<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 and 2 afternoon tea  
30<sup>th</sup> June – School Fair  
2<sup>nd</sup> July – Reception afternoon tea  
4<sup>th</sup> July - Year 4 and 5 afternoon tea  
5<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> July – Parent Consultation Evenings  
6<sup>th</sup> July – Year 2 Childwickbury Arts Fair Visit  
11<sup>th</sup> July – Year 1 trip to Southend  
12<sup>th</sup> July – Transition/Secondary Transfer Day  
16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July – End of Year Performance  
18<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Assembly  
19<sup>th</sup> July – Certificate Assembly and Leavers' assembly **School finishes at 2pm**