

Willowbank Weekly



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8th February 2017

Don't forget that school dinners need to be ordered by Thursday for the following week, you can order now for after Half Term.



Foundation

Foundation have had another busy week looking out for Jack Frost and the seasonal changes associated with winter. We have all learnt to say a poem about Jack Frost, made 2d shape ice palaces and also some fabulous junk models of the 'quick little sprite'!



Years 1 & 2

This week we have been exploring our new text 'what do you do with a tail like this?' We have been looking at question words and how to construct a question, remembering the all-important question mark at the end.

Home Learning - We will be handing out the Home Learning books on Thursday as normal. There is no Half-Term specific home learning to complete. We would like to give the children the opportunity to finish any incomplete home learning during this time. We will be handing out a new home learning task sheet on the first Thursday back after half-term. Please remember to bring your books in on Tuesday 21st February.

We are also still looking for spare welly boots, old trainers and outdoor clothing e.g. waterproof trousers and coats. These donations will help the children to access the outdoor provision in all weathers. Any donations welcome.

Years 3 & 4



Last week, the children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a fantastic day at the Eden Project. We went into what looked like big air bubbles, and we explored what it would be like in a jungle. While in the jungle, we learnt how to become Rainforest Rangers by finding out how the rainforest can provide us with food, water and shelter. The most amazing plants included the Horseradish Tree, which cleaned water and the Banana Tree because it can be used to collect water, its leaves can provide shelter, and its fruit can provide food.

Our favourite part of the visit was climbing up to the skywalk platform where we looked around over the rainforest below and saw where we had been walking. This trip has inspired some wonderful writing about the rainforest, its conservation and how it is under threat.

Many thanks again for all of your support with the home learning activities and reading raffle tickets. We are really pleased with the effort that you are all putting into your child's learning at home.



Years 5 & 6

In RE this term, the children have been learning about the importance of sacred places and pilgrimages, to people of all faiths and cultures.

They were fascinated to learn of the huge number of people involved in such pilgrimages as the Hajj, in Saudi Arabia.

The children produced some stunning art work, using a variety of mediums, to express their personal visions of pilgrimages around the world.

Reading

We have reviewed reading at Willowbank.

Year 1 and 2 have a new reading system that links to our Read Write Inc phonics learning. It is important for children to read and re-read books to develop their fluency. Children who are reading at age-related expectations in Year 2 should be able to read at least 90 words per minute of a known book. A known book is one that they have already read, to decode, and that they are then re-reading with fluency.

Accelerated Reader is a reading system that enables children to take quizzes after they have read a book. This system is used in Year 3-6 and by Year 2 in the Spring and Summer term.

Accelerated Reader helps children to practise reading for meaning, by checking that they have understood what happened in the book. Most books are on the Accelerated Reader system, even if they haven't been given a code in school. (You can look up a book on our accelerated reader system or by checking arbookfinder.com)

For children to improve their reading most effectively, it is suggested that they read within their ZPD (zone of proximal development) most of the time. However, we recognise that it is important for children to develop a love of reading. This means that sometimes children will want to read a book outside of their ZPD. Our advice is: children read a book within their ZPD and then choose any book. The third book should be within their ZPD and the fourth could be a free choice if they wish. By

continuing this pattern, we hope that children will continue to develop their reading comprehension and fluency, whilst also developing a love of reading.



Calling all parents!

Throughout the next half term, Years 5 and 6 will be linking all areas of the curriculum together for our Theme planning under the title of 'Survival'! We will be focusing on structure design, shelter construction, orienteering, Geocaching, first aid, cooking, team building exercises and how our body copes under different conditions with regards to nutrients and circulation; we will of course be blogging throughout to record our findings! If you see yourself as a budding Bear Grylls or have skills in architecture, building, mapwork, computing or any of the above, we would love you to be part of our adventure! If you feel you could help, even just for an hour, we would be very grateful. Thank you.



Valentines Disco 9th February

Tomorrow, the PTFA are having a Valentines disco! Having listened to some parent feedback about the 5pm start being a bit too early, we are changing the times. Please let us know if this works better for you!

Foundation, Years 1, 2 and Optional **Year 3: 5:45- 6:45pm**

Optional **Year 3, Years 4, 5, 6: 7-8pm**

Both discos cost £1.50. This also means that parents with children in both key stages will not have to wait so long to collect and drop off.

We understand that leaving young children can be worrying but there will be familiar staff on hand to reassure and to help. The PTFA would like to remind parents that unless you have agreed to help in an official capacity, you will be asked to leave. Please do not be offended by this as we have to ensure the safety of the children at all times.



Uniform.

Can we please remind you that: Nail varnish is not permitted, hair should be tied back; elaborate bows are not suitable for school uniform; socks should be ankle socks, not trainer socks; skirts should be just above the knee. A full list of our schools uniform can be found on the schools website

Diary Dates

February		
Thursday 9th		Valentines Lunch
Thursday 9th	5.45pm-6.45pm	Valentines Disco (FS, Y1,Y2 & Y3)
	7.00pm-8.00pm	Valentines Disco (Y3,Y4,Y5,Y6)
Monday 13th- Friday 17th		Half Term
Monday 20th	7.30pm	PTFA meeting at Padbrook Park
March		
Monday 6th-Wednesday 8th		Parents Evening
Friday 10th		Mother's Day Gift Stall
Friday 17th		Mother's Day Gift Stall
Tuesday 21st	1.50pm & 6.00pm	Drama Club performance for KS2 and Parents
Friday 24th	All day	Red Nose Day
Friday 24th		Blingo!
Friday 31 st		Last day of Term

April		
Tuesday 18 th		Non Pupil day
Wednesday 19 th		Start of Summer Term
May		
Monday 1 st		
w/b Monday 8 th		Year 6 SAT's week
Monday 29 th – Friday 2 nd		Half Term
June		
Saturday 10 th		Summer Fayre
July		
Friday 21 st		Last day of Term