

# Willowbank Weekly



[www.willowbank.devon.sch.uk](http://www.willowbank.devon.sch.uk)

18th January 2017



## Foundation.

We have had another very healthy week, doing lots of exercising and understanding how our body changes. We have been experimenting with a UV light hand machine, to check how clean our hands are and learning about germs. We have earned enough class merits to have our class treat, which was an activity session on the climbing frame. We have also been weather reporters and enjoyed using our imagination to create fabulous structures outside!



## Years 1 & 2

This week in Year 1/2 we have been looking at the weather. We have all turned into weather reporters this week. Each child has been recording the weather and will be for the next couple of weeks. We will then use the information collected to create a bar chart of Cullompton weather. We have explored using a compass and how to find North, South, East and West. We then used our new knowledge to discuss places that are North, South, East and West of Cullompton. This week we have also been continuing to develop our Three Pig Story, by changing the characters. There have been some great ideas.



## Years 3 & 4

The children in Years 3 and 4 are finding out about how to describe the world. They have been busy naming the continents and oceans of the world, and classifying life on Earth into groups such as mammals, birds and reptiles. We are discovering that our home planet is rich with interesting habitats and animals, and we are developing the language and understanding to communicate this.

Please can we encourage all parents and carers to read with their children at least three times a week. This will dramatically improve their ability to comprehend and enjoy the books they are reading.



## Years 5 & 6

Years 5 and 6 have been investigating life stories in our English work on biographies. We have learnt about Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to fly into space, and Nelson Mandela. We have been learning how to structure a biography, how to construct detailed paragraphs and how to use brackets, semi-colons and colons effectively. Did you know that Nelson Mandela's cell in Robben Island was barely longer than the length of him lying down with his arms stretched above his head?

In Theme, we are investigating our neighbours in the world. We have investigated countries and continents and are now focusing on human and physical geographical features. This week we are focusing on France and Europe; next week our focus will be on North America. Our displays in the hub will be updated each week as we learn new things.

We are looking for more parent helpers to help hear readers. If you could help, please come and speak to one of the Year 5/6 teachers. Ideally we are looking for help in the afternoons - could you come to school half an hour early one day and hear some readers before picking your child up?



## Sporting news

Well done to those children who ran their first mile of 11 miles in the Half Marathon Challenge at CCC last week. A special well done to Neil Q who finished 2nd in the year 6 boys category.



### **PTFA**

The first PTFA meeting of the New Year is tonight at Padbrook Park at 7.15. Everyone is welcome to come along and meet the gang and to get involved. It would be fantastic to see some new faces!

Hope to see you there.



### **No Nuts**

Please be reminded that Willowbank School is a nut free school. We have some children and staff at Willowbank with a nut allergy. It has been noticed some children are having mixed fruit and nut snack packs in their lunch boxes, we would ask that no nut products are brought into school.



### **Afterschool/Lunchtime clubs.**

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be **No Drama club** today and **no Taiko drumming** on Thursday of this week. Our new lunchtime running club started this week, this will be held on Mondays and Thursdays.



### **Parking**

Once again, parking around the school has caused concern. There have been several instances of parking which could put the lives of our children at risk and also seriously inconvenienced the local residents. The Highway Code is specific; there must be no parking on the yellow zig zag lines in the vicinity of the pedestrian gate. It further states that no parking is to take place opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, on a pavement unless local signs specifically permit it or across a dropped kerb.



### **ParentPay/ Welcome back lunch.**

Our Welcome back lunch will be on Thursday, if you have not already ordered and would like to, please see the office, where on this occasion we will be happy to order this for you. Thank you for your continued support and patience whilst we embed the new system, it is already having a positive effect on the school we continue to receive encouraging feedback from parents. We would like to allay any fears regarding children having to sit in alphabetical order, this is not the case, and children can continue to sit with their friends as done so in the past. Following feedback from parents, there was an issue last week where the vegetarian option had been selected but it was unclear as to which choice within the option had been order, where there is more than one choice of food within an option box, e.g. Salmon nuggets or Veggie nuggets please leave a comment in the parent message box to advise which of the choices your child would like. ParentPay only allows us to input 3 option boxes, please try to remind children what they are having each day.

## **Menu**

**Chicken Nuggets or Cheese wheel with spaghetti hoops and croquette pots  
Or Thai Green Curry with rice**



**Followed by Ice lollies, fruit, yoghurt or sugared doughnut**



**Prizes for FS, KS1 and KS2**



### Fizz pop science.

We have the opportunity of possibly offering an afterschool science club with Fizz Pop science, in April/May, there would be a cost involved to parents of £28.00-£38.50, depending on how many weeks the club runs. We acknowledge that this is quite costly; therefore we would like you to tell us if this is something that would be of interest before we move forward with this. Please come to the office or email on

admin@willowbank.devon.sch.uk

### Diary Dates

<b>January 2017</b>		
Wednesday 18th	7.15pm	PTFA meeting at Padbrook Park
Thursday 19th		Welcome back lunch
<b>February</b>		
Tuesday 7th		Whole school open afternoon
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 17th		Half Term
<b>March</b>		
Thursday 2nd		
Friday 24th		Red Nose Day
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>		Last day of Term
<b>April</b>		
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>		Non Pupil day
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Start of Summer Term
<b>May</b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>		
w/b Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Year 6 SAT's week
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Half Term
<b>July</b>		
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Last day of Term