

Willowbank Weekly



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25th January 2017

Don't forget to order school dinners by tomorrow!



Foundation

Foundation children have been captivated by the arrival of cold and frosty weather! We read the story of "Jack Frost" by Kazumo Komara, which led to children identifying areas around the school where Jack Frost had been. Lots of questions then arose such as why some areas were icier than others, why the fence was 'smoking' and later- "where had the frost gone?" We have been making Jack Frost traps and masks as well as writing questions for him to answer. Following on from the children's interest, we will be further investigating changing states.



Years 1 & 2

Year 1 and 2 have been working hard to improve their handwriting. Keep it up everyone! Thank you for all the engagement in the home learning; the children have shown real commitment (to their learning) and we have been impressed by the amount of learning being done. The children have all been sent home with a reading book this week which has been selected to support your child. Further information will follow. Please continue to read with your child three times a week. They need to read their book three times to build fluency and understanding.



Years 3 & 4

The children in Year 3 and 4 have been classifying animals according to their appearance and behaviour. They have been looking at examples of animals and asking questions in order to sort them into groups. This question includes whether the animal has feathers, or lays eggs; or has six legs (insects) rather than 8 legs (arachnids). This is in preparation for our visit to the Eden Project next week, where we will be classifying animals and plants. Perhaps the children could ask these questions with animals they see in other places or at home? What makes a mammal a mammal? What features do reptiles have that no other animal has?

We are really encouraged by the reading comments we are seeing in the children's Reading Record books. If you find a book in the library, or your child asks for a book from Amazon or from a book shop, but it does not have the book's Zone of Proximal Development on, you can look this up by searching on this web-site: <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> This will tell you what zone the book is in. Please note, however, that not all books are classified by AR.

Please can we remind you that the deadline for payment on ParentPay is this Friday, 27th January.



Years 5 & 6

Years 5 and 6 have been finalising their autobiographies on Nelson Mandela; children have been using their individual targets to edit and improve their work-these have included varying of detailed punctuation, using apostrophes, varied sentence structure and use of clauses in different places within a sentence.

As part of our theme working on “who are our neighbours in the world,” we have been thinking about how human and geographical features impact on daily life. On Tuesday, we have a special visitor coming to talk to us about his life in Arizona. Kyle will be talking about food and leisure activities, and we will learn about how these have been influenced by the physical and geographical features of Arizona.

Parents Evening

2 days – Tuesday / Thursday in the week beginning 6th March 2017

3.30 – 6.30

Please look for further communication from class teachers about appointments.



Punctuality and attendance.

A number of children continue to arrive to school late; this causes disruption to the class and a delay in learning. Our school policy is that registers are called promptly at 8.55am and 1.15pm. The registration period ends at 9.00am and 1.20pm.

Children arriving after this time will be marked as late after registration closes and will therefore be classed as an unauthorised absence for that session.



Afterschool and lunch time clubs.

Due to the overwhelming response and enthusiasm to lunchtime running club we have had to split the school into different days. Key stage 2 will now run on a Monday lunchtime and Foundation/ Key stage 1 will run on a Wednesday. Thank you for all of your supportive comments and encouragement.

Children attending after school clubs that finish at 4.30pm will need to be collected by an adult; this is due to the time of year when it is cold and often foggy, and therefore not safe for children to walk unaccompanied.

Reminder that creative writing will not take place on next Tuesday, 31st January, but will resume again on Tuesday 7th February.



Sainsburys Active kids Vouchers.

Another chance to help the children at Willowbank get active with some new cooking and sports equipment. The voucher collection box is located in the lobby area at the school reception. Let's start collecting!



Lost property

There have been a few items of lost property handed into the office this week, including a black and yellow torch, a blue purse with superman logo on the front, and a caring badge. If any of these belong to you, please go to the school office.



Class Passwords

Please talk to you children about the importance of keeping their class passwords safe and not to share these with other children. Our digital leaders met this week and their focus is on password safety online.

Photo permission and password forms

We are still missing some photo permission forms and Password forms for a few children; please return these to school so we can update our records. Spare copies of the forms can be obtained from the school office.

Diary Dates

January 2017		
Friday 27th January	9.30am	M & M productions-Cinderella
February		
Tuesday 7th		Whole school open afternoon
Monday 13 th - Friday 17th		Half Term
March		
Thursday 2nd		
Friday 24th		Red Nose Day
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
July		
Friday 21 st		Last day of Term