

# Willowbank Weekly



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

1st February 2017

**Don't forget to order school dinners by tomorrow!**

## Academy Update

Our application to convert to an Academy and join First Federation Trust has been submitted to the Department of Education for consideration. We understand the application will be reviewed by the end February at which point we hope to start consultation. We will keep you informed as soon as we have any further update.

## Foundation

NEWS UPDATE... The trapping of Jack Frost has been unsuccessful and he has not been seen all week! We have been using our imagination to paint pictures, make a collage and create an icy small world. We have also written a description of Jack Frost. We have been learning number values, counting the correct value of snowflakes and reading our red and green words in the snow. We have also had lots of fun pretending to go 'sledding' and throw 'snowballs'!



## Years 1 & 2

The children have been engaged in writing their own traditional tales. They came up with some interesting stories, where they used varying sentence starters and added a range of adjectives to make them more interesting. The children have been continuing to learn their number bonds to 10, and within ten. Please continue to

support your child to learn these.

It has been lovely to hear the children talking positively about the reading books they have been reading. Please continue to read with your children regularly. The children need to ensure they are changing the books once they have read them; each classroom has a basket/box to put them in, to indicate they need changing.

If you have any spare wellies and school trousers that you would be happy to donate, please give them to the Year 1/2 teachers.



## Years 3 & 4

The children in Years 3 and 4 have been brilliant at engaging with reading. As you will know, we have purchased the Accelerated Reader reading scheme that tests children's understanding of a book once they have read it. Previously, the children have only been able to read books that are in their ZPD range. However, we have noticed that many children want to read books that are outside their ZPD, and since our main aim is to foster a life long love of reading, we have decided to let children read the occasional book that is outside their range. They can still complete a quiz of a book that is outside their ZPD. So, if your child wants to read a Diary of Wimpy Kid or Captain Underpants, but they are out of their ZPD, please still let your child read them. They can then do a quiz. However, we still ask that every other book the children read is an Accelerated Reader book.

The basics of reading stay the same; at least three times a week to a person, and keep a record of what you've read.

We will leave school at 8.00am and return at 5.00pm on Friday for our trip to the Eden Project



### Years 5 & 6

In English this week we have become reporters! Year 5 and 6 have been enjoying investigating the features of newspaper reports. It would be great if you could share a newspaper report, or two, at home to look for: headlines, quotations (direct and reported speech) and the 5 W's (who / what / why / where and when the event happened.)

We are continuing to investigate Arizona and will soon be moving on to learn all about Uganda. We are now much more confident in using atlases, and in discussing human and geographical features. Can you share an atlas at home?

### Home Learning Updates

#### Year 5

Please look out for your child's purple spelling book which comes home each Friday; there are up to five spellings each week for your child to learn. Most importantly, they are asked to put these words into sentences so that they understand the meaning of each word in context. We encourage the children to use different strategies to learn their spellings, which I am sure they will love to share with you.

#### Year 6

We have revised the home learning for Year 6, to enable us to revise key concepts from the whole KS2 curriculum.

Your child will continue to bring home weekly spelling rules (with a list of words that fit the rule).

Please continue to practise these in a way that enables your child to learn how to spell these words and similar words that follow the pattern.

Your child now has a revision maths book – we will continue to adopt a daily maths schedule – please ensure they do one double page a day; there are two pages of notes to help recap the topic if necessary and a quick quiz at the bottom of the page to complete. We will go through these in our afternoon calculation sessions – any child who does not understand the topic, or who has not completed it, will be able to stay in for the first few minutes of lunchtime to complete it with an adult to support them.

### Pantomime time

Last week, the children were treated to a performance of Cinderella by M and M productions. This very amusing show was performed by only four actors who frequently changed costumes and scenes. The children loved joining in with the songs and the calls of 'It's behind you!'



### Valentines Disco 9th February

Next week 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. If you can help on the night, please get in touch via our Facebook page, by email or see Miss Mogford in Foundation or the Office. We would love to see some new faces!



#### Parent/Carer Contact details.

It is really important that we have correct and up to date contact details for you in case of an emergency, or if your child is unwell; please ensure these details are updated in writing and given to a member of staff in the office.



#### GoActive February Holiday Club.

There are still places available on all days during the week of February half term. Its great value at £13.00 per child, per day. If you would like to book a place, please complete and return the slip on the letter that recently came home with your child.

Spare copies are available from the office.

#### E-safety day, Tuesday 7th February.

There will be activities in class during the open afternoon. If you miss it, the information will be in the following week's newsletter

#### Chewing gum.

We have noticed that some children are chewing gum in the morning upon arriving at school which is subsequently; it is not being discarded appropriately. Please remind children that gum is not permitted in school.

**Family Photo Session** – Little Stars photography will be coming into Cullompton Pre-School on a Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017 from 9.30 am and will be available to take photographs of your children either individually, in a group or as a family. This is always a very popular event and appointments are open to everyone – Please contact Cullompton Pre-School on 01884 35018 to book an appointment.

#### Diary Dates

February		
Friday 3rd	8.00am -5.00pm	Years 3&4 Eden Project Trip
Tuesday 7th	All day	Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 7th		Whole school open afternoon
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)
Friday 10th	9.00am	Core values Assembly
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 17th		Half Term
March		
Monday 6th-Wednesday 8th		Parents Evening
Friday 10th		Mother's Day Gift Stall
Friday 17th		Mother's Day Gift Stall

Friday 24th		Red Nose Day
Friday 24th		Blingo!
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>June</b>		
Saturday 10th		Summer Fayre
<b>July</b>		
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Last day of Term