

Willowbank Weekly



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10th January 2017

Welcome back to school and to the spring term; we hope you all had a lovely restful Christmas. Well done to all pupils for looking so smart in their school uniform and for their positive attitude/approach to learning- a good start to the year!



Foundation

This week Foundation are learning all about being healthy and are reading a series of books called 'Fairytales gone wrong', by Steve Smallman. We will be finding out about healthy eating in our cafe role play area, we will also be practising brushing teeth and doing lots of exercises. Please support us at home by talking about how you stay healthy, and upload any comments or photos of healthy meals/ practices onto Tapestry.



Years 1 & 2

Welcome back! We hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas. The children have got back into the swing of things already and have been working extremely hard across all areas of learning. We have introduced the new book 'The Three Little Pigs' and have been retelling this in various ways: Finger puppets, masks and (ourselves) as the characters. We have begun our new Theme 'who are our Neighbours in Devon?' and have been focusing on where we are located within England and then also the wider world. A quick reminder to ask you to ensure your child has their PE kit in school and also a coat.



Years 3 & 4

The children in Years 3 and 4 had a visit by Neil from the Really Wild Encounter who is based locally in Cullompton. Neil brought with him his mobile rainforest, complete with living giant snails, cockroaches, bird eating spiders and reptiles! This visit was paid for by the money raised from the sale of our Christmas puddings last term, and from PTFA donations. This visit kicked off our Science work on habitats and living processes, and also provided us with some great opportunities for writing. It was fantastic to see how many children knew so much about animals, and how many brave individuals held the spiders and reptiles. It was great to see them all engaged in such an exciting experience.



Years 5 & 6

Years 5 and 6 have begun 2017 with two exciting topic days. On Wednesday, we held a Science day investigating different materials. Please ask us how we linked carpets and tricycles in the same day! On Friday, Year 5 held a History day investigating the Siege of Exeter in 1067, and the role that William I played in this. We learnt about the key role that Cullompton had - did you know that it was once lived in by Lady

Gytha (the mother of King Harold) and that it was the location of key negotiations between King William and the people of Exeter?

Year 6 have now begun swimming lessons - please remember your swimming kit each Friday until half term.

Awards Assembly

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us at the end of term for our termly awards assembly, celebrating the achievements of our pupils. Rosettes were awarded to the following pupils for achieving the most house points in each year group:-

Foundation- Lydia N, Tristan C, Flynn T and Amelie T.

Year 1- Sienna D, Myiah-Marie B, Ava C and Dylan P.

Year 2- Danny H, James N and Freya C.

Year 3- Jonah N, Erin T and Harrison C.

Year 4- Nathan J, Hannah W and Jonah P.

Year 5- Chloe C, Millie P and Olivia B.

Year 6- Nina C, Cody W and Neil Q.

Following a whole-school class vote, the 'Caring cup' was awarded to Madison H with Scarlett A and Layla E being nominated as runners up.

Golden leaves for upholding our core values were awarded to:-

Rebecca M, Rowan S and Oscar C for showing determination.

Chloe P, Tim H and Alex P for being respectful, and Tia H in recognition of her caring nature.



ParentPay

As I'm sure you are aware, ParentPay is now up and running: thank you for your patience and co-operation whilst we embed the new system. ParentPay is having a very positive effect on the school. We have received encouraging feedback from parents. There are a few parents still yet to make use of this facility. Please speak to the office if you require any help or guidance. Please may we remind parents that school dinners must be ordered by Thursday, at the latest, for the following week.

The year3/4 Eden Project trip is now available to be paid online along with year 6 swimming. The welcome back lunch menu is on ParentPay and replaces the cottage pie option which was available.



Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Christine Mogford who has worked at Willowbank for more than 20 years and has been associated with the school for many more. She retired at Christmas but will still look forward to being involved in the school when she can.



Parent Volunteers

We are looking for more Parent Volunteers to help out within the school, Years 3/4 would welcome any parent volunteers who are able to listen to 1:1 readers in the afternoons. It would be very much appreciated, if you would like to volunteer, please let the school office know.



Donations of clothing

We are in need of spare underwear and socks in school, particularly in size/ages 4-8. If you are able to donate any of these items we would be very grateful.



Afterschool Clubs

Unfortunately Reading club and Drama club are now full. 'Science and Wildlife Club will be starting for Key Stage 2 this Friday lunchtime. If your child is interested, please inform your class teacher by Thursday'. We still have spaces available on the Hockey and Gymnastic clubs with GoActive. Please note these are payable; should you wish to book your child a place, please obtain a form from the office. Mixed sports for **5/6** will be on Thursday 19th (instead of 18th). It will be back to Wednesdays, as normal, the week after, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Welcome back Lunch

It is our school Census on Thursday 19th January. The amount of funding the school receives is dependent on the number of children eating school dinners on this day, therefore a special lunch will be cooked for all children in all year groups, to ensure the school benefits from as much funding as possible. We would like all children to sample a school dinner, but if parents are concerned then they can send their child in with a packed lunch. This has been well attended in the past, and children enjoy the special lunch. Children in FS, Y1 and Y2 will not be charged for their dinner; however children in KS2 are still required to pay as usual.

Menu

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



Followed by Ice lollies, fruit, yoghurt or sugared doughnut



Prizes for FS, KS1 and KS2

Kidzone: Wednesday Evenings at 6.30pm, in St Andrew's School Hall. Will be restarting from Wednesday 11th January. Crafts, Games, Bible stories, Songs, Fun, Friends and Chat. Year 1- Year 6 welcome. For info contact Carrie: 33249 or email Run by St. Andrew's Church

Diary Dates

January 2017		
Friday 13th	2.30pm	Ofsted Parents meeting
Wednesday 18th	7.15pm	PTFA meeting at Padbrook Park
Thursday 19th		Welcome back lunch
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