

# Winkleigh Primary

## School

January  
2018



### 1<sup>st</sup> half term

Welcome back, we hope you all had a relaxing break over the festive period. The children have come back refreshed and well into their new learning. This term we have many exciting trips and activities planned to enhance the curriculum, as well as class assemblies and mother's day message to name a few!

### Parent Forum

We have now held two successful parent forum meetings with our members. The minutes are available on the website, under the 'Parent' tab. We have agreed that we will introduce a form which can be filled in and returned to school with suggestions for discussion. This will be available on the website or at the front desk soon. Our parent forum members are Ange Jones, Emma Rhodes, Tanya Beardon, Alison Sutherland, Xenia Robinson, Netti Habel and Liz Jones. Thank you for giving up your time to attend these meetings.

### Congratulations

It is always lovely to be able to celebrate children's achievements out of school as well as in school. We received this from 1<sup>st</sup> Dolton and Winkleigh Beavers and Cubs:

#### Chief Scout Silver Award

*Four pupils from Winkleigh School were recently presented with their Chief Scout Silver Awards by George Davey, Assistant District Commissioner for Mid Devon. Jack Boundy, Archie Bridgman, Penny Garland and Olly Tucker received their awards in recognition of working hard to complete the seven challenge badges that are required in order to gain the Silver Award. This is the highest achievement possible in Cubs and takes several years of commitment so they should be very proud of themselves.*

*Unfortunately, Jack is leaving Cubs; we're sorry to see him go - he's very skilful and knowledgeable but we hope he enjoys himself and has a good time in Scouts.*

*Nicky (Akela)*

## Chief Scout Bronze Award

Gavin Jones, Daniel Rhodes and Oscar Singer achieved the highest award that Beaver scouts can gain. This being the Chief Scout Bronze Award Badge. To gain this they had to achieve 6 challenge badges (most of these badges have up to 7 different goals) plus six activity badges. We are so proud of them.

Pat (Ahmeek)

## Water / snack

School policy is that children only have water in their bottle to drink throughout the day. Please do not put squash or juice in the bottle they have in the classroom. If you wish to give your child squash to go with their packed lunch please ensure this is a separate bottle kept in their packed lunch bag. Snack for morning break may be brought in, again this should be fresh fruit only. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Before School Club

Thank you again, to all those who continue to use and support our before school club. Thank you to Friends of Winkleigh who kindly donated £200 which enabled us to buy some lovely new resources for the children to use.

## Requests for time off school

We have had a number of queries recently about when children can be taken out of school. Please find guidance from the government below. I would like to stress that it is the government who dictates what is allowed with some discretion being given to Headteachers. As a school, the governors and I have decided that we will not, at the current time, fine parents for taking their children out of school. However, this is constantly being reviewed and advice from our Education Welfare Officer is always followed.

We would ask that where possible holidays are not taken in term time and that medical appointments are only made in school time if absolutely unavoidable. We must have a copy of the medical appointment card / letter for our records. With regard to funerals, our policy is that we will authorise one day of absence for a funeral of immediate family members and grandparents. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## **What the Law Says**

***The law requires parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.***

*The law allows schools to consider individual requests to authorise a future avoidable absence. However before the school can authorise any such requests, they must satisfy themselves that*

*there are exceptional circumstances which justify such a decision. It is entirely the responsibility of the parent submitting the request to provide sufficient information/evidence in order to establish this fact. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides.*

*If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance.*

*If the child is away from school for a total of four weeks or more, the school may have the option to take the child off roll subject to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. In the case of unexpected extended absence, it is advisable that the parent fully informs the school as to the reasons. If a child is removed from roll, there is no guarantee that the child will regain a place at the school.*

**Unavoidable absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons:**

- *Genuine illness*
- *Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible)*
- *Days of religious observance*
- *Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces*
- *External examinations*
- *When Traveller children go on the road with their parents*

## Safeguarding



The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and Devon and Cornwall Police

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Best Wishes

Victoria Fenemore