

Willowbank Weekly



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22nd November 2017

Don't forget to order school dinners by tomorrow!

Learner of the week

Well done to the following children for being presented with a Learner of the Week certificate:

Esther R-Robin
Sophie M – Siskin
Adam P– Linnet
Spencer H – Dove
Jack O – Goldfinch
George H- Heron
Lottie W– Avocet
Freya C– Kingfisher
Ella G– Buzzard
Poppy W– Hawk

Change to Year 5/6 Entry and Exit from School

After a review of our before and after school procedures, we have decided to change the way Year 5/6 children come into and leave school.

From Monday 27th November, we will open the brown wooden gate at the end of the staff car park for children to come into the Year 5/6 unit. Parents and Carers will be able to talk to teachers at the classroom doors and children will be able to come straight into class and get settled for the day. At the end of the day, children will be dismissed from the classroom doors. We would ask that if you are collecting your child, you wait at the bottom of the steps on the small playground. There will be a TA standing at the gate to ensure the children's safety.

We will also be locking the car park vehicular gates to ensure that there is no traffic movement from 8.40 – 9.00 and from 3.15 – 3.35pm.

We hope that this will encourage a smooth, calm start and end to the day and enable you to speak to your child's class teacher if and when necessary.

Attendance

Please try to make dental and medical appointments outside of school hours; any time missed from school is a missed learning opportunity for your child. Thank you



Lantern Parade

We have created a giant lantern to take part in the lantern parade. If you would like to bring your lanterns and parade with school, please come (with a parent or other grown up) and meet at 4.20pm in the Walronds garden. We would like two adult volunteers to carry the reindeer lantern-if you can help with this please contact the office. We

look forward to seeing lots of people on Saturday in the parade, children will not be required to wear uniform.



Children in Need 17th November

Thanks to your donations and contributions (both money and cakes) we raised an impressive £407.20 in total. Thank you also to the members of the PTFA and Year 6 pupils who helped with the cake sale.



Coffee morning

Many thanks to the Foundation parents who attended our coffee morning this week it was a great success. We hope you all enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know other parents. Look out for more events in the future.

PTFA

Thank you to those parents/carers who have purchased Christmas cards, this has raised £250.00 for the PTFA.

There is a donation bin in the playground at the start and end of the school day for you to drop off any Christmas fayre donations. Thank you



School Residential Trips

Just a quick reminder that the Year 4 and Year 6 residential letters have been sent home along with consent forms and payment details. A deposit is required to secure your child a place. Deposits for both are due by 1st December –also Year 5/6 trip deadline for payment and interest 24th November

Boots flu vaccines

These will be taking place on Friday 24th November, starting at 9.00am. Parents/Carers are welcome to be present at the time your child receives the vaccine. Foundation will go first and be followed by the next year group in order, up to, and ending with Year 4; we estimate each year group taking 30-40 mins each. Therefore if you wish to be present we ask that you follow the timings as estimated, as unfortunately we will be unable to telephone Parents/Carers to remind you.



Willowbank Christmas fayre

This year's fayre is on Friday 8th December at 2.30 – 4.30. All parents, carers and families are welcome to join us to start celebrating Christmas. As usual, each class will be running a stall and there will be plenty more on offer!

Santa is going to pay us a visit, but unfortunately there will be no grotto this year.

(Why not join Santa in his workshop and enjoy a wide variety of craft with Santa and his little helpers!?)

The Fayre is organised by the PTFA who are in need of help. You can help us by:

- Coming along to help set up from 1.15
- Help to run a stall (maybe with a friend so you can take it in turns)
- Help with donations of toys, books, tombola prizes such as cosmetic and smelly sets, bottles of wine etc.
- Help with donations of cakes or mince pies

The donation bin will be in the playground in the mornings and afternoons so please just pop your donations in there or hand them into the office. If you can help on the day, please speak to Miss Mogford or Mrs Ingram, or message us on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you at the fayre!

How we have helped school

The PTFA raise money to help the school to purchase things that make a difference to the children's time at Willowbank. We are delighted to tell you that we have agreed to help buy a new stage for the hall. Along with the PA equipment already purchased by the PTFA, we are well on our way to having a fantastic system to allow top quality performances. We have also bought storage for year 1 and Year 5/6.

If you would like to know more about the PTFA and how you can get involved please speak to Miss Mogford (Chair). We would love to see more people at our meetings and events.



Lost property

Brendon D in Heron class has lost his blue puffa style coat, which is named. Please check at home to see if your child may have picked it up by accident.



Contacting the school office

As our pupil numbers increase, so do the demands on the school office. We therefore ask that if your child will be collected by someone other than yourself please inform their class teacher in the morning either by a written note or verbally. In the case of an emergency/sudden change, please telephone the office.



Music lessons

Caroline Clapp offers Piano and Violin lessons-please telephone Caroline directly on 07411243058



Movember

Mr Duringer, Mr Keats (Go-Active) and Mr Reardon are growing moustaches in aid of Movember. There is a collection bucket in the school reception, if you would like to make a donation they would be very grateful. Thank you

Staff updates

Most or all of you will know Mrs Haddican, she has been a teaching assistant at the school for a number of years. She has recently changed her role within the school and is now our Family Support Advisor. She will support children and families within school. Mrs Haddican has been involved in implementing the school taking part in a project, please see details overleaf.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our 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 been exposed to, or been involved in, any domestic incident.

'Operation Encompass' will ensure that a member of the school staff, (known as a key Adult), is trained to enable them to liaise with the Police. Relevant information gained will be shared with the police in confidence and the school will be able to make provision for any 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 pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Miss A Grose

Head teacher



Foundation

This week we have continued to look at the book 'Oh No George'. We have had a go at writing a sorry letter to Harris his owner. Miss Mogford and Mrs Mogford kindly allowed Brave, a puppy, to visit the children this week. We thought of questions that we wanted to ask and then confidently asked them during the visit. We are looking forward to Miss Hayman's dog visiting tomorrow, where we then be able to make comparisons between the two dogs.

We have looked at length and size in Maths this week and talked about how to measure accurately. We have been focusing on developing our mathematical language to show our understanding. We continue to practice our Christmas production. Costume letters and how to get tickets will be sent out by the end of the week.



Years 1 & 2

Our first performance of 'The Magical Christmas Puzzle' will soon be here and we have been incredibly busy with our singing and acting. We have also been preparing props and would like to borrow any walking sticks that people may have at home. We would kindly ask you to label these so we can return them as soon as possible after the performances. We would also be really appreciative if you have any unwanted pillowcases that we

could have to help us with our prop making. Of course, along with our rehearsing we have been continuing our English, Maths and Theme lessons. Year 2 have just completed their shared write based on the story 'Wanted: The Perfect Pet' and children will be embarking on writing their own individual stories. They will be encouraged to use their knowledge of commas in a list and expanded noun phrases. Year 1 are continuing to explore adjectives and have been writing phrases and sentences to describe the items and costumes Mr Benn picked up during his adventures. During their Maths sessions, Year 2 will be solving worded problems using their knowledge of number facts. Year 1 will be solving a range of addition and subtraction problems and using a variety of visual methods to do this. They will be encouraged to begin thinking about number facts that they already know.

Could we also remind you that if your child has words for our Christmas play, that they have them in school at all times. This will help us to make the most of our rehearsing time.



Years 3 & 4

The displays within the hub are now being updated to include the children's most recent stories. Please have a look at them during the open afternoon. The children and staff are proud of the progress they are making.

During Theme, the children are becoming more confident in their understanding of aspects of sound/light. They are practising sharing their knowledge by explaining to others, writing their ideas or completing diagrams.

Our new Maths topic is multiplication and the children are learning about arrays and their link to multiplication. During the week we would like them to be 'Going on an array hunt!' When they are out at the shops with you, or at the library or sports centre, etc, see if they can spot an array. Please see examples below. If possible, take a photo for the class display, or draw a picture to show what it looked like, or even describe it with sentences. Many thanks



Years 5 & 6

Year 5 /6 have completed their newspapers. The improvement in writing was fantastic - come and have a look at your child's writing window to see how much progress they have made in handwriting, sentence openers, punctuation and conjunctions. Year 6 will be publishing 'Willowbank Express' full of stories about Willowbank this half term. If you would like to have a copy, we will be collecting donations that will support the extra funding of the trip to @Bristol in December.

In Maths, Year 5 children have been learning about square and cube numbers; Year 6 children have been developing their division skills. We are really working hard on linking strategies to a visual

image and being able to explain our maths using technical vocabulary. Times tables are improving across the unit - well done for all the practice! Keep going!

Theme this week was based around the key question: What is Light? We learnt about light sources, that light travels in straight lines and those angles of incidence are equal to angles of reflection. We practised using a protractor and measuring angles. We also developed our science investigation skills by thinking about the need to repeat results and developed our construction of bar charts to support our conclusions.

The unit has been very active this week. On Wednesday, several children represented us at the Athletics event at CCC. The children participated really well and were great sportsmen and women. Fifteen children represented us on Tuesday singing for a 'Soup and Sweet' afternoon. The feedback was really positive; thank you for being such great Willowbank ambassadors.



First absence calls

If your child is going to be absent from school you must tell us. If you know your child will be absent in advance, please complete an S2 Absence request form or produce an appointment letter or a written note to the office. Currently if we are unaware of the reason for a child's absence we will make a "first absence call", firstly to the parent/carer who the child lives with and then to the other parent (even in circumstances where the parents are separated) If we fail to make contact with either parent, we will then go on to telephone other members of the family, who we have contact details for, to establish the whereabouts of the child. In some cases, a home visit may be carried out. All Devon schools have been notified of a national tragic event -we have a duty to safeguard our children.

After school clubs-Safeguarding your children

In order for us to ensure we are safeguarding your children, we need to know if there is an occasion on which your child is unable to attend an after school club that they have signed up for. Please inform the school office, either in writing or in person. Please do not inform your child's class teacher as due the morning rush messages are often not passed on. Between now and February half term no children will be allowed to walk home alone from an after school club because of the poor light.

We are also aware that there has been concern over the busy end of sessions. This should now be rectified.

Diary Dates

November		
Saturday 25 th	4.30pm	Christmas lights switch on
Tuesday 28 th	2.45pm-3.10pm	Open afternoon for current Parents
December		
Tuesday 5 th	2.00pm	KS1 performance ' The Magical Christmas Puzzle'
Tuesday 5 th		Bags to school collection
Wednesday 6 th	2.00pm	KS1 performance ' The Magical Christmas Puzzle'
Thursday 7 th	5.30pm	KS1 performance ' The Magical Christmas Puzzle'
Friday 8 th	2.30pm	Christmas Fayre
Monday 11 th	2.00pm	FS Nativity
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Wednesday 13 th	2.00pm	Drama club production for children in school

Wednesday 13 th	6.00pm	Drama club production for Parents and families
Thursday 14 th		Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th	ALL DAY	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM
January 2018		
Tuesday 2nd	ALL DAY	NON PUPIL DAY
Wednesday 3rd	ALL DAY	NON PUPIL DAY
Thursday 4 th		Start of Spring Term
W/B 22 nd		Parents Evenings
February		
7th		Valentines disco
W/B 12th		HALF TERM