

Willowbank Weekly



www.willowbank.devon.sch.uk

15th 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:

Landon C-Robin

Bobby-John B- Siskin

Ava D-P- Linnet

Reggie P- Avocet

Danny M and Tala S- Kingfisher

Kane B-H - Buzzard

Millie P- Hawk



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 bust end of sessions. This should now be rectified.



Children in Need 17th November

This year we will be supporting this worthwhile charity by becoming spotty for money!

Children in need is on Friday the 17th November, 2017. Children are asked to wear their school uniform but will be able to accessorise themselves in spots. You can wear spotty socks, spotty hairbands, Pudsey ears, face paints, scarfs

etc. There is a suggested donation of £1 from each child on this day.

We will also be holding a cake sale after school on Friday. Donations of cakes for this would be gratefully received. We kindly ask for donations of Gluten Free and Dairy Free cakes too (please

remember to clearly mark these). We thank you in advance for your support with this worthwhile cause



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

Quiz night *Cancelled*

Due to a lack of interest, it is with regret that the Quiz night has been cancelled. Please see Mrs Ingram who will refund your money.



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.

(BUT 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.



Uniform

Can we please remind you that: nail varnish is not permitted; hair should be tied back; elaborate bows are not suitable for school uniform; socks should be ankle socks, not trainer socks; skirts should be just above the knee, the top button on shirts should be

fastened and shoes should be black, trainers are not permitted. A full list of our schools uniform can be found on the schools website.

Lantern Parade

Last week we told you the children in school were involved in making lanterns for the lantern parade later this month, we hope to see as many children as possible join the parade which starts at 4.30pm from the Walronds. Please use the link to the Town Council website to find out more information. http://www.cullomptontowncouncil.gov.uk/_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=8790



School information

Please visit our school website where you will find an update to some school information.

Contacting the school office

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

Bags to school

Your child will be bringing home a collection bag this week, in case if you have any unwanted items of clothing/bedding or fabric that you no longer require and are willing to donate, the bags will be collected on Tuesday 5th November.



Music lessons

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



Movember

Mr Durringer, 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



Coffee morning

Mrs Haddican, our new Family Support Advisor, has arranged a coffee morning for Parents/Carers of our FS children on Tuesday 21st November 9.00am-10.00am in the school hall. Please look out for posters displayed around school. We look forward to seeing you there.



Donations needed!

We are in need of wool for use at lunchtimes-if you have any that you are willing to donate to the school please drop it into the school office-We are as always very grateful.

Boots flu vaccines

These will be taking place on Friday 24th November, (the time of which is still to be confirmed) 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 30-40mins 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.



Foundation

This week we are reading the story 'Oh know George!' We are talking about feelings and developing our vocabulary about how George feels in the story. We have discussed who George could be and had a go at using our sounds to write labels.

We have also started practising our Christmas play songs and are developing actions.

In Maths week we have learnt 9 and 10 and talked about how to write it. We have discussed one more and one less. We have also practised careful counting and know why it is important to touch each item that we count.

Just a reminder that as the weather starts to change, please can all children wear winter coats. We are learning both inside and out, so need to keep warm when working in the outside area.



Years 1 & 2

This week, Year 2 children are continuing with their book 'Wanted: a Perfect Pet'. They will be learning about subordination and co-ordination and using 'and', 'or' and 'but' within their sentences. Children will be writing their own ideas about how a monkey can disguise itself as a cat in order to be a perfect pet. Year 1 children are beginning to explore the story 'Mr Benn – Spaceman'. They will use this story to learn what an adjective is and begin to describe objects based on their own experiences. We have already received a letter from Mr Benn, within our Science session, and helped him to sort a variety of objects by using our different senses. Year 2 children have enjoyed a practical Mathematical lesson on 'time' and they will continue to extend their knowledge of 'quarter to' and 'quarter past' throughout the week. Year 1 will be using their knowledge of number lines, addition and subtraction to begin explaining how they problem solved.



Years 3 & 4

It is always a pleasure to read the children's stories, where they can demonstrate the skills they have learnt during the lessons. This week, the children will be writing new stories where their characters will go to space. Once written and edited, they will write them neatly for the Writing Window displays within our hub, where they will be able to compare their previous writing and see progress they have made.

The children can now use a written strategy to answer addition and subtraction questions. Please ask them to show you what they know. They are also aware of the importance of estimating answers so they can check if their answers are probably right or definitely wrong.

We are now improving understanding of sound/light for science. The children are being encouraged to really question, and give evidence to support their answers. eg which light source is the brightest?



Years 5 & 6

Years 5 and 6 have had a very exciting week! We have written our articles for our newspaper; Year 6 children were lucky enough to meet and interview a real journalist when he visited school to write about our Christmas lantern. He explained how to write a catchy headline and answered questions about how to make our writing engaging. See the article he wrote for the paper here:
<http://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/willowbank-pupils-help-christmas-lantern-751300>

Friday night saw us heading back to school for the sleepover. 52 pupils joined in - we made pizza for tea, played games and took part in Forest school in the dark, making a campfire and toasting marshmallows. We built spaghetti and marshmallow bridges and had a pyjama party in the hall watching a film. The children worked brilliantly as a team; their sweeping and hoovering skills were put to great use on Saturday morning!

We have investigated the Solar system in theme - learning about the changes in scientific thinking (ask us about the geocentric and heliocentric models), how to use coordinates and finding out lots of facts about the Solar system. This week we are learning about light and developing our understanding of angles.

The range of books that we are reading is really improving. We have been thinking about how to choose books to challenge and develop our reading skills; we are encouraging children to select books at the upper end of their reading range and asking them to try new authors. Please keep reading lots at home and keep checking that you really understand what unfamiliar words mean - it really helps!

Diary Dates

November		
Friday 17th	ALL DAY	Children in Need- Spotty for money
Friday 17 th	7.30pm	PTFA Quiz night
Saturday 18 th	10.30am-12.30pm	Open Day for Parents of children Sept 18
Tuesday 21 st	9.00am-10.00am	Coffee morning for FS Parents/Carers
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
Monday 11 th	5.30pm	FS Nativity
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 2 nd	ALL DAY	NON PUPIL DAY
Wednesday 3 rd	ALL DAY	NON PUPIL DAY
Thursday 4 th		Start of Spring Term
W/B 22 nd		Parents Evenings
February		
7th		Valentines disco
W/B 12 th		HALF TERM

Cullompton Pre-school are holding their annual Christmas Bingo on Thursday 16th November at Cullompton Town Hall. Doors Open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30pm. Come along and enjoy the fun.