

Winkleigh Primary

School

April 2019



Looking back

We have had a fantastic term with so many activities going on. Pre-school enjoyed a morning of pancake races with the toddler group. As always they had a lovely time. Year 1 and 2 visited Queen Elizabeth's Secondary school and took part in a multi skills festival with local schools. This is part of the PE package we buy into as a school. It provides opportunities for different year groups to participate in a variety of activities. The children learnt lots of new skills and had a fun packed afternoon.

Year 3 visited Kent's Cavern as part of their topic work, again they reinforced their learning about the stone age and much more!

Year 5 spent the day transforming themselves into Victorian children and stepped through the doors of Powderham Castle to spend a day on work experience as a member of the household staff - Victorian style!

I hope all the Mums and Grandmas that came in for the mother's day massage enjoyed their treat. Thank you to Mrs Gent for organising this whole school event. It was lovely to see so many Mums in school. We hope you felt pampered by your children!

Year 5 Compass For Life Project

Year 5 have been working on a project this term called Compass for Life (compassforlife.co.uk/education) It provides students with a formula that empowers them to take responsibility for their own learning and to achieve their ambitions in partnership with their class teacher. All children wrote letters and sent them to a business or cooperation as part of the project. The responses the children received back were fantastic. One child wrote to Sky and a whole team turned up as a surprise visit. The children have been really inspired by this project and will continue along the journey. We hope that it will inspire children to believe they really can do anything with hard work and determination.

Daily Mile

Our daily mile track has now been installed, unfortunately the grand opening had to be postponed due to the weather. We are hoping to hold this in the summer term now, when I am sure the weather will be brighter!

Staff Development

At Winkleigh we do invest in staff development to ensure our teachers are equipped with the most up to date training and knowledge to support our children. We are delighted to announce that once again Mrs Manning has been selected (after interview and exams) to become a Babcock Year 6 Writing Moderator. There are only 9 moderators from Devon schools so we are very lucky that Mrs Manning has once again been selected.

This means that Mrs Manning will be moderating the Year 6 SATs writing across various schools in Devon. This is a great opportunity for Mrs Manning and as a school we are very lucky to have this experience in-house as it supports all our writing judgements.

Statutory Tests

As you may be aware the government has statutory tests for Year 1, 2 and 6 over the summer term. The dates are below.

Year 1 phonics screening – week beginning Monday 10th June

Year 2 SATs (maths, reading and writing) – week beginning 20th May

Year 6 SATs (reading, maths and spelling grammar and punctuation) – week beginning 13th May

The SATs writing assessment aspect for Year 6 continues into June and is not completed during the SATs week.

Please be aware that if your child is in one of the above year groups, any holiday requests during this time will not be permitted.

We will also be taking part in two pilot schemes -the new Baseline pilot which is for reception age children as well the times tables check for Year 4 children.

Most children in Key Stage 1 are not aware they are being tested and see the papers as fun quizzes! In Key Stage 2 children are more aware but we do reassure the children and try to allay any concerns they may have. Once again we will be offering Year 6 children our pre-SATs breakfast in school. We have found in the past that this is a lovely way for the children to relax together before taking the tests!

Budget

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition for fairer funding in Devon schools. As you will be aware Devon gets significantly less for each child than most other local authorities. The news has been full of how these cuts affect local schools. We are in a position where we now have to make difficult choices on how to spend our limited funding.

School funding has not kept pace with the increase in costs since 2010. It is becoming increasingly difficult and verging on almost impossible to balance the budget with the funding that schools receive.

As funding has become tighter, schools have had to cut back on:

- Teaching and non-teaching staff
- Support for more vulnerable pupils
- Small group work for children who are not thriving in school
- Teaching resources (parents being asked to pay for books and materials)
- Subject choices in secondary schools
- Range of activities for primary pupils
- Extra curricular activities provided free or subsidised
- Repairs to buildings
- Renewal of equipment

In September 2018 the government increased Teacher pay above the expected level. Additional funding for 75% of this increase was received by schools in 2018/2019 and will be received in 2019/2020. However, beyond 2019/2020 it is not anticipated that this additional funding will continue.

In September 2019 the government will increase Employer Teacher Pension Contributions from 16.48% to 23.68%. Additional funding will be received for 2019/2020 but again beyond this it is not anticipated that additional funding will continue.

The national minimum wage increased on 1st April 2019 resulting in increased costs for schools.

These additional costs amount to approximately £32,000 per year for Winkleigh Primary School. Funding for a proportion of these additional costs is at present only confirmed for 2019/2020. Beyond that there is no indication from central government that these additional costs will be funded.

This leads me onto thanking FOWS for the fundraising they do as every extra penny helps.

FOWS

As a school we have been very lucky over the years to have an active fundraising committee and this committee is no exception. They have been incredibly busy this term fundraising. The new Mother's Day Present Shop was a huge success. The looks on the children's faces after choosing their gifts was wonderful to see. They were all so excited about choosing a gift for their Mums and eager to show staff what they had chosen. We hope you all liked your secret present. There were some wonderful gifts to purchase ranging from fresh flowers, bulbs, smellies, scarves, chocolates, the list goes on!

£1106 was raised from the Fashion Show event held in March

£509 from the Mother's day massage teas and coffees, Mother's Day Present Shop and Easter disco

£285 from the Bacon Rolls for Businesses morning.

Thank you once again to our amazing group of volunteers and to all the parents who support these events. It really does make a difference to the children at Winkleigh. So far this year FOWs have purchased:-

- 4 iPads
- 2 book cases
- Library chairs
- Playground activity pack
- Programmable control cars
- £500 towards library books
- £100 towards Kents Cavern trip

Each year FOWs donate £200 per class to subsidise trips too.

Volunteers in school

Thank you so much to all our volunteers who come in to school regularly to hear our children read. We really value the time they give to our children. Thank you.

Safeguarding

In school, we take our duty of care very seriously for all our pupils. We work hard to ensure that pupils in school are in a safe environment. All our staff are trained to ensure we have the highest levels of safeguarding and are always on hand to listen to children if they are concerned about things. However, this may not be the case for some children once they are out of the school environment. Over the holiday period or, at any time, if you have a concern regarding the well-being of a child - any child - then you, as members of the public, also have a duty of care to that child. If you are in any doubt about what that child is experiencing or have any concerns regarding how safe they are, please ring the Multi Agency Safeguarding (MASH) where you can talk to someone about your concerns and ensure that a child will be supported. The number to dial is: 0345 155 1071.

The NSPCC and Childline have a wealth of resources for parents and carers to help keep their children safe from abuse. The Underwear Rule, for example, contains guidance on having simple conversations with children to keep them safe from sexual abuse. More information is available at nspcc.org.uk/underwear and nspcc.org.uk/shareaware. We hope you find this information useful

And finally....

Have a lovely Easter break, hopefully the sun will continue to shine and we look forward to seeing the children back refreshed and ready for the summer term on Tuesday 23rd April.

Best Wishes

Victoria Fenemore