

Winkleigh Primary

School

October
2017



1st half term

This half-term has flown by. I think we are all wondering where the time has gone. The children have settled well into their new classes. In September we welcomed Mason, Owen, Isabelle, Rosamunde, Alanna, Archie, Isaac, Thomas, Zac, Harry, George, Wilfred, Callum, Holly, Thomas, Archie, Tam, Etta, Poppy, Molly, Tabitha, Jayden, Jac, Josie, Henry, Olivia, Lexie, Violet, Emily and Bentley into our Owls reception class. You would not believe that they only started in September. They have settled into the routines and grasped the expectations of our school well and that is thanks to Mrs Winsor. We also welcomed eight new children across the year groups. They have all settled really well and made new friends. It is always lovely to see how welcoming our children are.

Looking Back

So much went on in school this half term. Year 1 /2 visited Trethorne which I know they thoroughly enjoyed and even the weather was kind to them.

Year 3 visited Lyme Regis and had a brilliant day searching for fossils. Although it was a long way to go, it really was worth it and was a great way to end their topic. The children were really excited with the fossils they found.

Year 4 had a great day team building at Haven Banks. They took part in raft building, dragon boating and many other team activities. They had a really exciting day. Lots of the children overcame their fears of water and were really proud of their achievements. Well done to you all.

We hope you enjoyed our new Harvest Festival celebration in school. The response from the children was wonderful; they loved making the animal vegetables and the scarecrows. We were truly amazed at how creative everyone had been. The choir, as always sang beautifully thanks to the hard work of Mr Davis and Mrs Sambou who give up lunchtime every week to coach them. We look forward to hearing them at the carol concert and the Christmas Fair.

Year 6

I would like to express my thanks to the Year 6 children who have written letters to companies far and wide asking for donations for our Christmas fair. We have currently had over 15 responses which is

wonderful! I think they sent out over 50 letters so we are expecting an amazing raffle at the fair! The children have loved receiving letters back.

Foundation Pod

We currently have over 50 children registered in our foundation pod. We have some sessions that are fully booked and have a waiting list. Mrs Roadnight and her team are doing a great job. We are always amazed at how well even the two year olds come into school and eat their lunch in the hall. We love seeing them in big school! The topic this half term has been people who help us. Thank you to Sargent Conway, Torrington dental practice and the school nurse who have all talked about their roles in the community. The focus has been keeping safe and healthy. Lots of conversations around healthy lunchboxes and how to keep your teeth clean have been going on amongst the children. Thank you to all the parents who came to the 'Invite a Tree to Tea' afternoon. The children enjoyed a range of activities with a woodland focus. Thank you to Kat Reid-Wolfe, one of our local childminders for bringing this worthy cause to our attention. We raised £38, for The Woodland Trust.

Parent Help

We would like to say thank you to all those parents who volunteered to help with reading after half term now that the children are settled. We do appreciate the time you give up to support all our children. It has a really positive impact when children can be heard read more frequently. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please speak to our admin team who will find a slot for you in the timetable and give you the necessary safeguarding information.

Before School Club

Thank you to all the parents who have supported our before school club. We are very lucky to be able to offer wrap around care. It also makes our school more appealing to families when choosing a school. As a school we are passionate about keeping the club open. However, we are currently not breaking even which means that it has to be subsidised from our curriculum budget which is only £6000 per year. This has to buy all the resources, stationery and ICT equipment. It does not stretch very far! Please keep supporting this club. Thank you to Miss Brook for making before school club so exciting.

Morning / End of the day routines

Please ensure that your child arrives in school between 8:50 – 9:00am. The teachers start the morning task from 8:50 and then register at 9:00. When children come into school at 8:50 they use the time to respond to the teachers marking. If they miss this they are missing out on valuable learning experiences.

Lessons then begin promptly at 9:05. It can be disrupting for the class if a child comes in after this time. Thank you for your support with this.

We will continue to review the early pick up policy, as we acknowledge that at times this has not gone as smoothly as hoped. The school is under no obligation to allow children to leave before the end of the day, which is 3:30. Assemblies are an important part of the curriculum and may sometimes run over their allocated time. A final decision as to whether the early pick up continues will be made for summer 2018.

Uniform and PE kits

The children arrived back in September looking very smart. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child/ children have the correct uniform. It is vital that all children have their PE kits in school very day as PE is part of the curriculum and children need to have the correct kit to participate.

Parents' evenings

Thank you to all those parents who attended our parents' evenings this week. We do appreciate you keeping to your allocated time slots. We hope you have found these useful in discussing how your child has settled into their new class.

Thank you - PARKING

We would like to say a really big thank you to all those parents who have been parking more considerately. We have had several comments from the bus drivers who are finding it easier to get through. We really do appreciate your cooperation. It has made life easier and safer for all road users and local residents.

Lost Property

We now have quite an extensive collection of lost property building up. Please could we ask you to **label every item of school uniform (including coats, shoes and PE trainers)** hand written name or initials on an inside label is adequate or if you prefer something more permanent, you can order stick-on labels from My Nametags and raise funds for school. Use code: 32434 on the My Nametags order form. Forms are available from the Admin desk.

Parent forum

Please see attached letter if you are interested in becoming part of our new parent forum or have any items that you would like discussed.

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

We hope you all have a relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 30th October.

Best Wishes

Victoria Fenemore