

Dear Parents/Carers,

Half term is here and it feels wonderful. Most of the other authorities in the country broke up last week and will be enjoying that first day back on Monday while we shall be lying in bed and wondering how best to fill our week off. (To be fair, I can dream all I like. In reality, Mrs T hasn't told me what I will be doing yet).

Monday was interesting. As Storm Imogen swept through the parish of Wraxall, things got a little busy in school. If wet playtimes whip the children up no end, then gale force winds turn them practically feral. Factor in the intermittent loss of power, tearing off of the Reception Area's shelter roof and no outdoor play... Well, let us just say it certainly put hairs on all our chests. (You know the score by now: Mr Fossard weeping in a corner and Susanne even more feisty than usual). Possibly the trickiest moment came when we almost lost half of Year 5/6 when they came across to the main building for Collective Worship. Luke and Jess had to be extricated from the sheep in the next door field, while we are still missing Jack and Luke who were last seen disappearing off towards Nailsea. If any one does happen to see them, please pick them out of the nearest bush and return to their parents c/o Wraxall School.

Tuesday was internet safety day, when we talked about what we can do to make the internet a safer, kinder environment to visit. Amongst other things, we thought about how tone is often lost when we email, blog, tweet etc and how what you meant to say can easily be lost in translation. We discussed what we should do if we came across anything hurtful or worrying: always tell an adult and do not respond before thinking through the potential consequences of their actions. Will they, unintentionally, make things worse? There are lots of useful links on our website which can help you if you want to learn more about keeping your children safe when they are using the internet.

All week, Year 1/2 have been writing their stories explaining how the animals were chosen to have the years named after them in the Chinese culture. Their writing has really come on over the last few months and some of their pieces were just brilliant. By way of pulling all their knowledge together, they belatedly celebrated the Year of the Monkey. Lanterns have been decorated; dragon puppets constructed and dragon dances performed. Lots of the children came dressed in far eastern clothing, or silk jarmies in the case of Mrs Yandall and Mrs Brown. There were more fans and chopsticks than you can shake a stick at. Just to round off the experience, the children (and quite a few of the staff too, if truth be known) dined on Chinese takeaway at lunchtime. Olivia had the bright idea of using the chopsticks in her hair to attack her lunch. Although, it did fall down a touch when she tried to reinsert them into her barnet once she had finished. It turns out that Chicken Curry was a bit of a favourite yet they were more than a little ambivalent towards the pork in a schezuan sauce. (Honestly, I cannot tell you how long it took me to work out how to spell 'schezuan'... and I'm still not sure it's entirely right)

For the last time this term, our Stars of the Week were Zachary in Reception, Hannah & Frankie in Year 1/2 and Woody & Louis P in Year 3/4. A lovely way to round things off. The House with the most conduct marks this term was Griffins and Griffins also had the highest number of work marks. Big congratulations to Harvey, Benjamin and Sam who all received their Gold Star Badges.

Our book review comes from April this week and concerns 'Angels Unlimited – Winging it' by Annie Walton. *Mel Beeby is an angel and is trying to earn her official angel name. After several long challenges she makes one unfixable mistake... what is she going to do?*

As a bit of advanced notice, we would like everyone to dress up as a Dalmatian for World Book Day on March 3rd. If all the children and all the staff dress up like this, we will have 101! If you cannot, no worries but it would be great if we could do this.

Parents' Evenings will be on Monday 7th March for KS2 and Wednesday 9th March for KS1 and will run between 1:30 and 7:00 o'clock. You will be asked to sign up via eSchools nearer the time.

After the success of last weekend, it is almost impossible to explain how excited I am for the rest of the 6 Nations. I wonder if we should try and organise a school trip to Twickenham next year? Purely educational you understand. Now, if only we knew a couple of parents with some rugby connections...

Have a lovely holiday. Play safely and take care. We shall see you all on Tuesday 23rd February.

Mr Tucker

Coming up the first week back:

Monday - INSET DAY (please phone Kerry should you wish to take advantage of the Premier sport fun day 07772 268554)

Tuesday - Year 3 & 4 swimming

Thursday - Year 5 & 6 trip to @Bristol

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 3rd March - World Book day: Please come dressed as a Dalmation

Monday 7th March - KS2 Parents Evening (1pm-7pm)

Wednesday 9th March - KS1 Parents Evening (1pm - 7pm)

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September 2016 - Inset days

New School Menu

Please find attached a copy of the new menu for Spring and Summer 2016. Unfortunately we have not received paper copies to distribute to you as yet.

FWSA Dates for your Diaries

The quiz night is fast approaching – Friday 11th March. Get those babysitters ready and please come along and support this event.

It is a great social evening and really, really good fun. You do not need to be in a team in advance. Teams can easily be put together on the night.

The quiz will be held at Long Ashton Village Hall, Keedwell Hill and it is 7.30 for 8pm start.

There will be a well stocked bar and this year hot food will be available in the form of a tantalising curry – what more can you ask? Come along and support the event. They are always good fun.

NEXT TEXTILE RECYCLING COLLECTION - FRIDAY 6 MAY

This fantastic fundraising programme recycles old and unwanted textiles (clothing, shoes, handbags, belts, hats, curtains, bedding, towels etc.) and turns it into cash for the school. So please get collecting over Half Term and Easter - why not ask you family, friends and neighbours to join in!

Thank you, FWSA

Church news

Thanks to everyone who came and supported our panto, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed performing it. We raised a fantastic sum of money of over £1700, which will be split between Great Western Air Ambulance and Church Charitable Funds. THANK YOU!

Sunday 21 December 10:00 - All Together In Church (ATIC) with Communion, All Saints' Wraxall Church

A service of music, words and prayer for all ages.