

Winkleigh Primary

School

March 2018



Looking back

We have had a fantastic term with so many activities going on. In spite of the weather Squirrels and Owls enjoyed a fun filled day at Rosemoor. Year 3 finally made their trip to Kents Cavern, this was third time lucky as the snow and ice caused much disruption. Year 5 enjoyed a day at Exmoor. Their day was adapted again due to the weather. Year 1 and 2 had an exciting day at Tiverton castle, learning about life in the past. Year 4 enjoyed a day of science experiments with sciencedipity.

The whole school learnt about planets and the solar system with our planetarium day. Each class visited the dome for different experiences.

I hope all the Mums and Grandma's that came in for the mother's day massage enjoyed their treat. Thank you to Mrs Gent for organising this whole school event. Thank you to everyone who sends in the contributions, without these the trips would not be able to run, as the school has no additional funds to subsidise these.

A HUGE well done to year 2 and Year 5 who recently participated in a workshop to remind them of the importance of fire safety. The trainer was so impressed with our children's knowledge, understanding and attitudes. The children scored exceptionally highly in the quizzes that followed. Well done, as always the children are a credit to our school.

Parent's Evening

Thank you to all the parents who came to parents' evening. We almost had 100% attendance which is brilliant. We hope it gave you an insight into your child's / children's progress over the term. Thank you to everyone for keeping to time it does make the evenings run smoothly and ensures that parents are not kept waiting.

Kitchen News

It has now been well over a year since the school took over the running of the kitchen. Julie Stallard and her team are now cooking over 620 meals a week which is a huge increase from previous years. All our meals are freshly cooked in our kitchen each day.

Alongside the two main options there are always baguettes and jacket potatoes served with freshly made salad every day. This is followed by a cooked pudding twice a week with fresh fruit and yoghurt served daily. The children seem to be really enjoying the menus at present. The feedback from the children has been really positive. School council have been working with Miss Dunn finding out what children like and would like to change regarding their meals. Some quotes from the children below:

'I love the sausage rolls' Hazel Yr 3

'I like the bean wraps' Kai Yr 3

'I like the fish and chips they are so crispy' Oliver Yr 3

'My favourite meal is the fish goujons and chips' Isla Yr 3

'I like the southern bites, the fish is yummy' Bryn Yr 2

'I like the batter on the fish' Maisie Yr 2

'I like the baguettes especially tuna' Alfie Yr 2

'I like the jacket potatoes, you get to choose a filling' Daisy Yr2

Thank you to the kitchen staff for their hard work and enthusiasm in continuing to provide healthy, tasty meals for our children.

Water bottles

I am anticipating that when we return for the summer term the weather will be warmer! All children need to have a water bottle (marked clearly with their name) in school which can be topped up throughout the day. We avoid cups where possible to reduce the risk of passing on germs.

Welcome back

We are looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Luscombe who has been on maternity leave. Mrs Luscombe will be working in our foundation unit alongside Mrs Roadnight and her team for the summer term getting our Squirrels ready for school in September.

Staff development

At Winkleigh we invest heavily in staff development and training 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 Mrs Manning has been selected (after interview) to become a Babcock Year 6 writing moderator. 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. Mrs Manning will continue to work in Year 6 in the mornings alongside other teachers in the afternoons.

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 maths, reading and writing SAT's – week beginning 21st May

Year 6 SAT's – week beginning 14th May

It is really important that children are in school for these statutory tests. 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! We will be offering Year 6 children our SAT's breakfast in school. We have found in the past this is a lovely way for the children to relax together before taking the tests! More details to follow after Easter.

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....

It is with great sadness that this term we see Ms Taynton retiring. Ms Taynton has been at Winkleigh for over 13 years and has been a truly dedicated, committed and fantastic teaching assistant.

There are so many things I want to say about Ms Taynton and what a wonderful person she is. This is the one part of my newsletter that she is not editing. (Hope it all makes sense Lis, I'm trying not to use the word fantastic too much – but you are!!)

Those years have flown by and I know that she has touched the lives of so many children over the years with her passion for the library and reading. She has inspired them to develop a love of books and a want to read.

I think, as a staff, we have all learnt from Ms Taynton's expertise and knowledge over the years, especially when it comes to the use of English language. She has always been a font of knowledge.

Ms Taynton has been more than a teaching assistant, she has always been there for our children. She has selflessly given her time and expertise to so many. Ms Taynton dedicated her break times and lunchtimes in the library. She always had time for children; she would always stop what she was doing and take time to listen to them.

Seeing children walking down the corridor clutching books wrapped in brown paper with a gift tag describing what the book is about is a memory I shall hold close. Ms Taynton never did judge a book by its cover!

You will be missed. Our very best wishes and thoughts go with you. We wish you a happy retirement and hope you have the time to sit down, rest and enjoy a good book in the garden.

Best Wishes

Victoria Fenemore