



Volume 13 Issue 2 1st October 2013

Harvest Festival Monday 7th October

Reception to Year 3 @ 9.30am

Year 4 to Year 6 @ 10.45am

We will be holding a Harvest Festival Assembly on Monday 7th October and **everyone is welcome to come along**. We will be supporting the Cambridge Foodbank again this year, a charity who provides local individuals and families in need, to receive short-term emergency food.

Please note that the Food Bank are unfortunately unable to accept any fresh produce. The list below reflects their current stock needs. Please ensure that all donations are in date and undamaged.

- Tinned Rice Pudding/Sponge Pudding/Other puddings
- Tinned soup/tomatoes/ fish/ pulses/yellow pasta e.g. spaghetti in tomato sauce
- Granulated sugar—500g & 1kg
- Jam
- Snacks
- Treats e.g. Small bars of chocolate; small packs of sweets
- Pasta 'n' sauce mix – packets/savoury rice - small packs/instant noodles - cup

We would be very grateful if your child is able to bring any of the above items into school in the morning of Monday 7th October. All produce will be displayed in the new hall for the duration of the assemblies and then taken to the Food Bank for distribution. We hope you can attend your child's assembly and thank you for your support.

The WSA will be serving refreshments between the two harvest festival celebrations in the Old Hall. We will also give you an update on WSA events and plans for the year. Please come and join us for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Feast Week Farmers' Market and Car Boot Sale – Saturday 5th October

The annual Feast Week Farmers' Market and Car Boot Sale will be held at the school this Saturday from 9am to 1pm. The day promises to be full of fun for everyone. Stalls, animal corner, bouncy castle, car boot sale and refreshments. Admission is free! Please do come and join us!

The WSA still have car boot pitches available at £10. Please text Kathryn Wright on 07939 106686 or email willinghamschoolassociation@gmail.com

Payment must be in advance of the car boot sale. Please make cheques payable to Willingham School Association and hand in to the School Office.

Nearly New School Uniform Sale: The WSA will also be selling nearly new school uniform on Saturday at the car boot sale.

Willingham Holiday Club

Following the success of the Summer Holiday Club, Danny Carminati will be running another holiday club during October half term from 9am – 3.30pm with an early option from 7.45am that includes breakfast and a late option until 5.30pm that includes a snack. Forms for this holiday club have been sent out on Parentmail, but if you require another copy, please contact the School Office. If you would like more information, please email Danny at dcarminati@premiersport.org

Website

We are pleased to inform parents that our new website will be 'going live' very soon. We hope children and parents find this a useful site, giving up-to-date information about the work of the school, up-coming events, access to useful documents and forms, easy payment for dinners, uniform etc.

Teacher Emails

We have been very encouraged by the positive feedback about the convenience of being able to email your child's class teacher directly. Please feel free to make use of this important channel of communication, aimed at helping us working in partnership with you to support your child's learning.

Parent Consultations – Wednesday 13th November and Wednesday 20th November

We offer parents 3 scheduled consultations with class teachers throughout the year to discuss how your child has settled in, their academic progress and ways you can support your child at home with their 'next steps'. You will be receiving further details after the half term break.

Love in a Box

As you will know, our school are supporting this charity whose purpose is to provide a special gift for children in other parts of the world who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present. Our families have been invited to fill a shoe box with 'goodies', wrap it with Christmas paper (lid separately) and bring it into school. This event is being coordinated by Mrs Ayers who will send out further information closer to the collection date. In the meantime, please start collecting your goodies!

Coats

As the less predictable weather is approaching, could you please remind your child to bring in a named coat everyday. This should be able to withstand a light shower, as it is important that, unless it is raining heavily, the children can go outside during the day to get fresh air and stretch their legs.

Free School Meals

Children from households with lower incomes may be entitled to free school meals. Families who are currently paying for school meals will save around £400 a year for each primary school child if they are entitled to free school meals

- Schools will receive additional funding each year for every student who is registered for free school meals, to support them to achieve
- Primary school children who are eligible for free school meals are entitled to a two course meal worth £2.10 each day
- Other pupils are not aware of who is and is not in receipt of free school meals.

All children who are at school; and are under 19 at the start of the academic year (4 September 2013) and are claiming or have parents who are claiming:

- Income Support or
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or
- Income-related employment and support allowance or
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or
- Child Tax Credit but who are not entitled to working tax credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190 or
- Guarantee element of state pension credit
- Note: Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school meals.

If you don't want your child to have the school meals, they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school will still receive the additional funding.

Please note that if your child was already receiving free school meals at the end of the 2012/2013 school year, their entitlement will continue and **you do not need to re-apply** for the new 2013/2014 school year.

If you think that you may be eligible for free school meals, please use the following link to access the online application form or printable PDF file <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Please contact the School Office if you have any problems filling in the form/accessing the website.

Holiday Requests

At the beginning of this new school year, a reminder to all parents that schools are no longer able to authorise requests for term-time holiday. It is only in what the Headteacher considers to be 'exceptional circumstances' that an absence can be authorised. Whilst we do recognise the frustration caused for families because of the significant cost differences in term-time and school holiday time bookings, periods of absence of even one week from school can have a significant impact on your child's learning when they return. Parents of any pupils whose attendance falls below the 85% threshold will automatically receive a letter notifying them of this and to offer support, if needed, to improve attendance.

Performances

At intervals throughout the school year, all pupils participate in a performance of some sort. This term the following performances will take place and details of ticket purchases will follow in due course.

Year 6 Performances

22nd October 7pm and 23rd October 7.30pm

Reception Classes

10th December 2.30 – 3.30pm

11th December 6 – 7pm

Donation of Toys

Having a clear out? We would love to receive some of your old toys for use in the playground. We are especially interested in cars, trucks, trains, dinosaurs, farm animals, small plastic toys and marbles. It would also be great to receive some garden jenga bricks. Please leave any donations with the School Office for the attention of Steph & Chris.

Design the front page for the December issue of *Willingham News*

This competition is open to all children aged between 7 and 11 years old.

Entries should be submitted on A4 paper and must not be computer-generated. Remember to put your name, age and contact details on the reverse side. Hand your entry into the School Office (before half term) or at the Library.

The closing date is **30th October**. We look forward to lots of exciting, colourful and imaginative entries. Thank you from the *Willingham News* team.

Dates for your diaries

Below are a number of important dates for your diary for the remainder of the term. Further details will follow closer to the events as they arise.

3rd October – Year 5 PE Festival at CVC 9.30 – 11am

3rd October – Swavesey Village College Open Evening for current Year 6 children

4th, 5th & 6th October – Willingham Feast Weekend

5th October – Farmers Market/Car boot sale at school 9am – 1pm

7th October – Harvest Festival Assemblies – Reception to Year 3 @ 9.30am/Year 4 to Year 6 @ 10.45am

18th October – ‘Love in a Box’ Fundraising Day

21st October – Year 6 Performance Dress Rehearsal

22nd October – Year 6 Performance 7pm

23rd October – Year 6 Performance 7.30pm

24th October – Foundation Stage Phonics meeting 3.30pm

25th October – Mrs Williams Art & Craft with Year 3 – 3.15 – 4.15pm More details to follow

28th October – 1st November – Half term break

4th November – Children back to school

6th November – Individual school photos

13th November – Parent consultation meetings 3.30 – 7.30pm

15th November – Children In Need Charity Event – more details to follow

20th November – Parent consultation meetings 3.30 – 5pm

27th November – Scholastic Bookfair

1st December – WSA Christmas Fayre

9th December – Foundation Stage performance dress rehearsal

10th December – Foundation Stage performance – 2.30pm

12th December – Foundation Stage performance – 6pm

20th December – Last day of term

6th January – Professional Development Day – school closed

7th January – Children back to school