



Volume 13 Issue 3
25th October 2013

We wish everyone a good half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 4th November.

Sports Event

Well done to all the Year 6 boys who took part in the Impington Village College football tournament on the 17th Oct. They played close and hard fought games and ended up in 7th position out of 14 teams. Of the 5 games we played we won 1, drew 2 and lost 2. The boys played with great passion and determination and our 2 loses were only by a 1-0 margin. Thanks to Mr Wilson for organising this event.

French

<http://jeannotlapin.wikispaces.com/> is a secure website designed by myself for children from Y2 to Y6 who are learning French at Willingham Primary School.

This Wikispaces offers an assortment of French songs that every child learns in class.

Please don't hesitate to encourage your children to visit the site. Music and songs can be an invaluable tool in language learning. Happy French! Madame Millard

On- Line Payments

Many parents are already making use of our on-line payment facility. Please remember that you can pay for school meals and trips via this easy to use method.

Love in a Box

We were delighted with everyone's response to our request for Christmas boxes, to support this very worthy charity. The funds raised through the children's Love in the Box stalls day, last Friday, will easily cover the costs of transporting the boxes that we have already received. Any additional funds will be put towards purchasing items with which to fill further boxes. At the time of writing, the total number of boxes donated is 113 and the total funds raised for transport is £429.10. Thanks to Mrs Ayers who has led this very successful fund-raising event. Finally, a huge thank you to all (pupils, parents and families, WSA and staff) for your generous support.

The Brian Retallick Lunchtime Cup

We are delighted to be introducing a weekly whole school award for a pupil who has been recognised by the midday team of staff for showing excellent and exemplary behaviour. The cup will be presented to the chosen pupil on our Friday Celebration Assembly and will be displayed in the pupil's classroom for the week. As a mark of this achievement, the pupil will be awarded a certificate to take home to keep.

Brian was a midday supervisor who worked at the school for a number of years and sadly passed away earlier this year.

Year Six Performance of Porridge

The Year 6 pupils have given two amazing performances of the play 'Porridge' this week. Thank you to all the children and the Year 6 staff (and parents too for the excellent costumes) for their hard work in making this production a success. It was a performance to remember!

Higher Level Teaching Assistants

We are delighted that, after a demanding selection process, followed by a rigorous external assessment of their skills and experience, two colleagues have been recruited from within the school to become Higher Level Teaching Assistants, to teach across the school. Both Cecilia Pipe and Sara Varty now provide teaching cover when the main class teachers are released from their classroom duties for planning, preparation and assessment purposes. Whilst all Literacy and Mathematics lessons are taught by the main class teachers, both Mrs Pipe and Mrs Varty teach other foundation subjects, (e.g., Music, Religious Education, Art). We are sure you will join us in congratulating Sara and Cecilia on their achievements and wishing them the best in their new roles.

School Council

On Wednesday 23rd October the Old Hall became a Polling Station for the morning so that each class could elect their representatives on the school council. A large number of children had put themselves forward for election and had been given the opportunity to explain the reasons as to why they should be elected. Following the secret ballot, we are delighted to announce that the following children were elected to represent their classes on the school council for this academic year.

Mrs Palmer-Jones' class	Finlay Davidson and Isabella Benson
Miss Watson's class	Charlie Swann and Lilia Florence
Mrs Latham/Wicks' class	Matthew Crook and Megan King
Mrs Ayres' class	James Rayner and Daisy Blood
Miss Nuzum's class	Jake Johnston and Emilia Blood
Miss Cocks' class	Charlie Rice and Bonnie Stanford
Mr Wilson's class	Charlie-Joe Milburn and Amelie Harding
Mrs Horne's class	Harry Heighes and Tilly Godden
Mrs Hill's class	Alex Parker and Alexandra Nelson
Mrs Veeneman's class	Brendan Rose and Rosie Llewellyn
Mrs Hammersley's class	Rebecca Cook and Angel Glen

Headlice

There have been a number of cases of head lice in different year groups. Please can we ask you all to take time to check your children's hair regularly and treat the whole family if necessary. It is very important to continue to comb hair each day even after treatment has been applied to help eliminate any re-infestation. Please encourage children with long hair to tie their hair back.

Autumn is here!

We have been left in little doubt about the change in season with wind, rain and evenings drawing in. Even when it is raining, we do try to ensure that the children have an opportunity to stretch their legs and have some fresh air. It makes a big difference to their ability to concentrate during lessons. Thank you for ensuring that your child is wearing closed in, low heeled shoes and a warm, waterproof coat. This way, when the children come back into school for lessons, they can be dry, comfortable and ready to learn.

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

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. Please hand your entry into Willingham 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.

School Development Plan

Each year, the school identifies a number of areas on which to focus, relating to various aspects of school life. Whilst many relate to areas such as premises, staff training, finance etc, our main priorities relate to teaching and learning and, ultimately, to raising standards. Our main teaching priorities this year are:

- Supporting children in developing secure methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide at age appropriate levels.
- Supporting children in becoming writers who are confident in producing grammatically correct and accurately punctuated writing.
- Supporting children in developing different strategies to help them spell a wide range of words correctly.

'Grasping the Basics' Workshops 28th November 6 – 7pm

We will be running an open evening where all parents and children are invited to come along and find out how we teach a range of basic literacy and numeracy skills in school. There will be an opportunity to have a go at some of the Maths and English activities that the children themselves carry out in each year group. We hope that as many parents as possible will come along to this evening, the aim of which is to continue to work in partnership with you to support your child's learning.

Attendance

You will be aware that the school is no longer able to authorise term-time holidays. We do appreciate that there is a wide range of other understandable reasons why requests for leave are made. Whilst every request for authorised absence is considered on its own merits, it is now only in 'exceptional circumstances' that leave will be approved. However, despite this, during this academic year so far 1.13% of pupil absences have been unauthorised. My reasons for sharing this statistic with you are twofold.

- Firstly, it goes without saying that every day and every lesson count – where a child is absent, he/she is missing a learning opportunity and subsequent lessons assume that prior learning (during a child's absence) has taken place. Of course, teachers support children who have missed a lesson or even a series of lessons, but even this extra help cannot make up for extended periods of absence.
- Secondly, as a school, our effectiveness is measured by Ofsted, using a number of indicators, one of which is pupil attendance. At the end of last school year, Willingham Primary School's attendance was 94% compared with the National figure of 95%.

For these reasons, we urge parents and carers to please think very carefully before taking children out of school unless it is absolutely necessary, and even then, for the shortest time possible. Thank you for your understanding and for your on-going support of the school.

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.

25th October – Mrs Williams Art & Craft with Year 3 – 3.15 – 4.15pm

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

19th November – Parent consultation meetings 3.30 – 5pm – **Year 1 only**

20th November – Parent consultation meetings 3.30 – 5pm

27th November – Scholastic Bookfair

28th November – 7pm' Grasping the Basics' Workshop – Open to all parents/carers and children

1st December – WSA Christmas Fayre

9th December – Foundation Stage performance dress rehearsal

10th December – Foundation Stage performance – 2.30pm

11th December – Christmas lunch at school – pupils only

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

w/c 20th January – Mock SATs week – Year 6