



Volume 13 Issue 5  
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## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*The Autumn term is always the longest in the school calendar and, by the end of term, pupils and staff are ready for a well earned break.*

*I would like to thank the team of staff at Willingham Primary School for all their hard work and commitment to ensure that we provide every child with the best educational experience possible.*

*Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and, on behalf of the staff and governors, wish you and your families a restful Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*Vyv Francis*

### **Church Carol Services**

(9.45 – 10.15am for Reception to Year 3 and 10.45 – 11.15am for Year 4 to Year 6)

we do hope that parents and other family members are able to join us for this special Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary and All Saints church on Thursday. Please return the permission slip for your child to attend and please help us with supervision of the children to walk from School to the church and back again if you can. Please let the School Office know if you are able to help.

### **Reminder!**

Could all parents who have not as yet returned their consent forms for their child to participate in the Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary and All Saints Church, please do so as soon as possible. If you have lost your letter, you may email us your written consent or send a short signed letter, giving your permission. We hope that as many parents as possible will join us for this event.

### **Cross Country Competition**

Over four hundred children from South Cambridgeshire schools took part in the South Cambs SSP Year 5 & 6 Cross Country competition which was held at Royston Heath on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

The children all ran their hardest and were positioned well up the leader board in the individual events, with Harry Hall, (Year Five) winning his category. In the team event, Year Five boys came overall second. Year Six boys came tenth and Year Six girls were 15<sup>th</sup>. Well done to Matthew Rose, Brendan Rose, Henry Pipe, Teddy Chamberlain, Rosie Llewelyn, Rebecca Cook, Tilly Godden, Tom Newman, Harry Hall, Oliver Mills, Archie Munns and Oliver Butler.

Very well done to all those who entered and, of course, congratulations to the winners. Thanks to all the parents who supported us on the day and also to Mrs Horne who organised and led this event. Full results are available to download from the South Cambridgeshire Schools' Sports Partnership website.

### **Foundation Stage Nativity Production**

Big congratulations to the Foundation Stage children who acted and sang with such confidence and enjoyment last week to a very appreciative audience. Well done to all!

### **Christmas Tree**

A big thank you to Mr Coe who kindly donated the Christmas tree in our entrance area. It has helped us all to get into the Christmas spirit!

### **Grasping the Basics Evening**

We were delighted with the number of parents and children who attended this session, where parents were able to talk to teachers across the school to gain a clearer idea of how we teach basic reading, writing and mathematics skills.

### **Christmas Parties**

Every year group has its own special Christmas Party. Class Christmas parties this year are as follows:

19<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon – Foundation Stage party

18<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon – Year 1 party

19<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon – Year 2 and Year 3 party

18<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon – Year 4 party

17<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon – Year 5 party

20<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon – Year 6 party

Children are expected to come to school in uniform but they may bring in a change of clothing for the afternoon party in a clearly named carrier bag, please. Each class has made its own arrangements with parents, regarding party food. If you are unaware of your child's class arrangements, please do ask their teacher.

### **Retallick Cup**

Congratulations to the winners of the Lunchtime Retallick Cup since the last newsletter:

**Freddie Wilson** – For comforting another child by offering to swap places with her during role play.

**Joshua Palfreyman** – He always helps to tidy up and is always polite. He either offers his help or just gets on with it.

**Molly Wolton-Carr** – For sitting with a Year 1 child and encouraging him to eat his lunch.

**Theo Thomson** – For being a good sportsman, for playing fairly and for helping to tidy up.

Apologies to Oliver Mills who was mentioned in the last newsletter for the Retallick cup, he is in Year Five not Year One.

### **Classes with Highest Attendance**

Very well done to the classes this month with the highest levels of weekly attendance:

18/11/13 Class 9 Mr Wilson 98.08%

29/11/13 Class 6 Mrs Latham/Mrs Wicks 98.72%

02/12/13 Class 9 Mr Wilson 97.32%

09/12/13 Class 10 Mrs Horne 95.83%

### **Reading Volunteers**

A big thank you to the parents who are volunteering in school, helping in the classrooms, hearing children read etc. We are very grateful when parents offer to give regular time to the school, however little, to support in whatever ways they can. Some parents prefer to help in ways other than directly supporting children, and that's fine. We always have jobs to do around the classroom and school, more generally, including mounting work, sorting books etc. If you have any time that you could spare to help in school, we would love to hear from you! In the first instance please email your child's class teacher. Thank you.

### **Parent Questionnaire**

We have already had 73 questionnaires returned to the school! We very much appreciate you taking the time out of your busy week to complete this annual questionnaire. Whatever your views, it is vital that we hear them. They provide staff and Governors with a clear and current idea of how parents view the school and the quality of provision we are making for your child. It provides us with important information as we set our priorities for the year ahead.

### **Website Launch!** [www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.willingham.cambs.sch.uk)

The Willingham Primary School and Honey Pot Pre-School new website has now been launched. It has had in excess of 105,000 hits so far by approximately 900 unique users! The early feedback we have received from children, parents and extended family members has been very positive. This is very much 'a work in progress', but it has already become very much a forum through which the children can celebrate their achievements. If you have not already done so, why not pay the site a visit and enjoy some of the videos, podcasts and photographs, capturing the children enjoying their learning this term.

### **Dance Lessons**

Jack Stinton has been working with the children from Reception to Year 6 over the last half term. They have enjoyed these lessons which culminated in a whole class dance sequence, some of which are on our website.

### **WSA Christmas Fayre**

Thanks again to our hard working WSA for planning another very successful fundraising event – the Christmas Fayre. The event was well supported by school families, local residents and other members of the community. The Infant Choir, led by Mrs Palmer-Jones, performed a number of songs to visitors.

### **Driving Carefully Outside School**

We have sadly, had another two ‘near misses’ outside school at collection time this term. A very small minority of drivers are persistently parking across residents’ driveways, on the yellow markings in front of the school entrance and on the double yellow lines at the end of Thodays Close. This really does put our children at unnecessarily high risk of getting hurt. To the small minority, please, please don’t do it!

### **Staying Safe**

As we reach the depths of winter, and the natural daylight diminishes, please remind your child of the importance of wearing light, fluorescent and reflective clothing.

Please ensure that, if your child rides to school, they wear a helmet, highly visible clothing and that they dismount before crossing the staff car park. We would also advise that all scooters and cycles are padlocked when stored on the school site.

### **Children in Need**

We would like to thank parents for supporting the Children in Need day and your generous donations. Along with Honeypot Pre-School, together we raised a fantastic £593.81 for this very worthy cause.

### **School Council**

The School Council meet on a fortnightly basis to discuss any issues the members have been gathering from their classes and to discuss how we can improve our school. They are currently information gathering on a daily basis from their classes to find out the children’s views about school dinners. This data will be analysed by Governors who are working with the kitchen staff and the outcomes will help them to plan future menus in the New Year.

### **Dates for your Diaries**

19<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Concerts at St Mary and All Saints, Willingham  
19<sup>th</sup> December – WSA Disco  
20<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term  
6<sup>th</sup> January – Professional Development Day – school closed for pupils  
7<sup>th</sup> January – Children back to school  
w/c 20<sup>th</sup> January – Mock SATs week – Year 6  
23<sup>rd</sup> January – Panto in school – Thanks to the WSA for making this possible  
11<sup>th</sup> February – Year One Performance - 1.45 – 2.45pm  
13<sup>th</sup> February – Year One Performance - 6.30 – 7.30pm  
14<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of half term  
17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February – Half term  
24<sup>th</sup> February – Professional Development Day – school closed for pupils  
25<sup>th</sup> February – Children back to school  
4<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Mid Year Reports to Parents  
7<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 Sports Festival at CVC  
12<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Consultations – 3.30 – 7.30pm  
19<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Consultations – 3.30 – 5.00pm  
19<sup>th</sup> March – 24<sup>th</sup> March – Book Fair  
31<sup>st</sup> March – Years Two and Three Performance - 2.00pm – 3.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> April – Years Two and Three Performance – 2.00 – 3.00pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> April – Years Two and Three Performance - 6.30 – 7.30pm  
4<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term  
7<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Holiday  
22<sup>nd</sup> April – Professional Development Day – school closed  
23<sup>rd</sup> April – Children back to school