



Volume 13 Issue 6
17th January 2014

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a good Christmas holiday. We have a term full of exciting events and activities and look forward to continuing to work with you in supporting the children in their learning.

'Lunchtime Improvements' Coffee Morning - Wednesday 22nd January @ 9am in the Old Hall

As part of our Lunchtime Improvements, we are holding a coffee morning next week, to which all parents and carers are invited. The children are working together to share their ideas of how we can improve lunchtimes for them so that they feel relaxed, refreshed and ready for their afternoon lessons. We hope to find out your views (good and bad) on the lunchtime 'experience' for your child. We look forward to seeing you there. If you are unable to attend but have ideas or comments, please feel free to write or email in.

Pupil Voice

The School Council meet every fortnight to discuss topical issues. On 11th February, Years Five and Six members of the School Council will be attending a Governors' Meeting to talk about their work, their plans for the school and how the governors might be able to support their initiatives. They will also gain a valuable insight into the important role of school governors and how these formal meetings run.

Jack Stinton - Dance Clubs

We are happy to announce that Jack Stinton, who came in to teach dance choreography last term, is happily returning to take three separate clubs within school. He will be offering a paid street dance session every Tuesday from 4:35pm - 5:35pm. This follows on from his successful feedback within school. There will be an additional two breakfast clubs to 'Get Active'. Both clubs will run from 8:00am - 8:45am in the new hall. The Tuesday session will be for Years 1,2 and 3, whilst the Thursday session will be aimed for Years 4,5 and 6. **These clubs will begin the week commencing Tuesday 28th January. NOT 21st as advertised in the timetable already sent by parentmail.** If your child would be interested, please look out for letters going out next week. If you would like your child to attend but may have difficulty with payment of the full cost, please make an appointment to see Mrs Francis who will be happy to discuss the matter confidentially.

Parent Questionnaires

We are still receiving completed Parent Questionnaires from last half term. If you have not as yet completed one, we would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to do so. We have, to date, received questionnaires representing 135 of our 345 pupils. Obviously, the more views we can gather, the more accurate a picture of parents' views we can gain. The information coming from these questionnaires will help in our planning further school improvements.

Uniform and PE kits and reminder about second hand uniform available

It has been good to see, at the beginning of the term, most children coming into school, smartly dressed in uniform and ready to learn. We have a very simple uniform at Willingham that the pupils are encouraged to wear. This is a yellow or grey sweatshirt/cardigan or grey fleece, a white or yellow shirt and grey or black trousers or skirt. School uniform including sweatshirts, fleeces, polo shirts and t-shirts can be purchased from the school office. A quality second-hand uniform shop is run throughout the term periodically on a Friday afternoon.

PE and Games Kit

It is important for pupils to wear correct clothing for physical activities. For PE children require a yellow/white t-shirt and dark shorts. For games and activities outside, children need a yellow/white t-shirt and dark shorts, trainers/boots: shin pads for football and hockey. Tracksuits or sweatshirts may be worn for games during the winter months. *All clothing should be clearly labelled.* For Health and Safety reasons jewellery MUST NOT be worn for sporting activities and long hair should be tied back.

Jewellery and other adornment

The only items that are considered appropriate for school are watches, and studs or sleepers worn in pierced ears. If your child is unable to remove earrings themselves, please either remove their earrings before school or provide Micropore tape to be kept in the child's PE bag. Your child should be able to cover their own ears with the tape. The school does not allow either jewellery or cosmetics including nail varnish to be worn. Please note that staff are not allowed to remove or look after jewellery for children. The safest place is at home.

Parent Helpers

We are very keen to have as many parents, extended family members and friends of the school coming in to help in the classrooms, ideally on a regular basis, for however much time you can spare. You would not necessarily need to work in your child's class. If you preferred, you could work with an older or younger age group. There are many ways you may be able to help us.

Below are just some of them!

- Listening to children read
- Filing pupils' work
- Mounting work for displays
- Any other interests or skills you may have that could be of help!

If you think you may be interested in coming into school, please contact your child's class teacher, in the first instance, either in person or via email. Thank you.

Attendance

As you will know, since September 2013, Head teachers have been unable to authorise requests for absence, unless they consider the circumstances of the request to be 'exceptional.' We are working closely with the Local Authority's Educational Welfare team in an effort to reduce rates of pupil absence. A letter will be sent out to parents before half term, reiterating the government legislation in relation to parents taking children out of school without prior authorisation and the role of the school in its implementation.

World Book Day-Thursday 6th March Dress up for Book Aid International!

Help change the lives of thousands of children on World Book Day! Please donate the suggested amount of £1 for your child to dress as their favourite book character and, by this, help this charity send books to children in Africa. Who will you be? There are lots of great, easy tips for brilliant costumes on the Book Aid International website: www.bookaid.org/worldbookday. You can also send your fancy dress photos to the website for a chance to win a National Book Token.

Music in Assemblies

The new 2014 National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

'Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians'

Therefore, in assemblies we will be listening to a range of composers as we arrive and leave. At present, we are following a timeline of British Classical Music.

Pantomime – WSA

We are delighted that the WSA have kindly funded a pantomime for the children on 23rd January. There will be two showings of Aladdin, so that all can enjoy the performances in comfort. Thank you to the WSA.

Christmas Story Writing Competition

We are delighted to announce that the winners of our Christmas Story Writing Competition are: Polly Davison (Year 6) and Robert Luca (Year 1). The quality of entries was very high and it was very difficult to choose our winners from so many wonderful stories. Congratulations to Robert and Polly! They will both be able to choose one of our lovely new books as a prize. Their fabulous stories will feature on our website, so you will be able to read them there. The other entrants will all receive a bookmark, as an appreciation of their great stories and hard work.

Cross Country Event

Harry Hall came first in the Schools' running event at Milton Country Park on Sunday 13th January. Well done to Harry. You set an extremely fast pace!

Parent View

Parent View is an online questionnaire which gives you, the parents and carers, the chance to tell us what you think about your child's school. Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of the school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. By sharing your views, you'll be helping the school to improve. You will also be able to see what other parents have said about the school. To find out more about Parent View or to contribute to it, log onto parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Teaching and Learning Review

On 3rd and 4th February, a Teaching and Learning Review will take place at the school, led by a team of members of the Local Authority's School Improvement Team. The purpose of this two-day exercise is to support the school in its ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for pupils, evaluating a number of aspects of the school's work. Following the visit, a plan of recommended actions will be implemented.

Parking

A reminder to parents who drive into Thodays Close, to please ensure that you do not obstruct residents' driveways. Thank you.

Donations of underwear

Our Foundation Stage teachers and lunchtime First Aider are asking for donations of any spare/outgrown underwear, in good condition you may have for those occasional, inevitable accidents.

Bracelet found

A charm bracelet has been found on the playground. If you or your child has lost a bracelet and think this may be yours, please let the office know.

Attendance

Last week Mr Wilson's class won the award for best attendance, this week Miss Nuzum's class won the award. Congratulations to both classes. Please help your child's class attain this award by ensuring good, regular attendance.

Brian Retallick Cup

Last week, Josh Parker won the cup for showing consideration for another child in the dining hall. This week, Jordan Harper-Scott has been chosen for always being kind and helpful.

Staffing

Gina Balaam, the Honey Pot Pre-School manager, has resigned her post to take up a new post in adult education. Gina has been involved in the pre-school for 24 years. We are sure you will join us in thanking Gina for her hard work on behalf of the many children she has taught during this time.

Wendy Leaney, who has worked as a Teaching Assistant at Willingham School for 11 years, is also leaving the school. Wendy has not only supported the children in the classroom during this time, but also led the cookery sessions across the school. We thank Wendy for her hard work at Willingham and wish her the best for the future.

Poppy Collection Volunteer

David Rooney, a local resident of Willingham, has requested that we ask if any of our parents would be willing to take over the co-ordination of the November Poppy Collection in Willingham, on behalf of the Cambridge British Legion. Support would be given to any volunteers. If you are interested, please contact David Rooney on 01954 261259.

Dates for your diaries

Below are a number of important dates for your diary for the remainder of the term.

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

22nd January - 9.00a.m. Old Hall – ‘Lunchtime Improvements’ Coffee Morning

23rd January – Pantomime – Aladdin – courtesy of the WSA

24th January – WSA – Cheese and Wine Evening with Hemshals community Farm

29th and 30th January - Pro Kick Sponsored Event (Information sent out 17/01/14)

2nd February – 2.00p.m. – 4.00p.m. – WSA Beetle Drive (Information to follow)

3rd and 4th February – Local Authority Teaching and Learning Review

7th February – Years 4-6 – American Football taster session (during school day, information to follow)

7th February – Years 1 upwards – WSA Film Night

10th February – Year 1 Dress Rehearsal – Costumes required in school

11th February – 1.45p.m. Year 1 Performance – information re tickets to follow

11th February – Pre school Phonics Meeting – 6pm (Honey Pot parents only)

13th February – 6.30p.m. Year 1 Performance – information re tickets to follow

17th – 21st February – School Closed – Half Term Holiday

24th February – Professional Development Day (Children not in school)

25th February – School Opens – Children return

26th February – Year 5 Deep Water Swimming begins (information to follow)

5th March – Year 5 Deep Water Swimming

6th March – World Book Day – Dress up as favourite Book Character

7th March - Year 3 Sports Festival at Cottenham Village College. (Info to follow)

12th March - Year 5 Deep Water Swimming

12th March – 3.30p.m. – 7.30p.m. Parent Consultation Evening

19th March –Year 5 Deep Water Swimming

19th March - 3.30p.m. – 5.00p.m. Parent Consultation Evening

20th March – Book Fair after school

21st March – Book Fair after school

24th March – Book Fair after School

26th March –Year 5 Deep Water Swimming

28th March – WSA – Easter Disco (Information to follow)

1st April – 1.45p.m. Year 2/3 dress rehearsal (costume required)

2nd April – Year 5 Deep Water Swimming

2nd April –Year 2/3 Performance – information re tickets and times to follow

3rd April – Year 2/3 Performance

7th April – 21st April – Easter Break

22nd April – Professional Development Day

23rd April – School Opens – Children return