



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy Christmas!

We have had a wonderful couple of weeks at the school. At the Christmas service the children read and sang beautifully, thank you to Bethan Howe our Parish Assistant for organising the service and working with the children to prepare. We have also had the Christmas jumper day, school Christmas meal (huge thanks to June, Hazel, Kim and Sue) and all the celebrations around this time of year which have been wonderful. The children have enjoyed them immensely and so have the staff!

The big event this month has been the production, and what a production! Christmas with the Aliens was wonderful. The children's voices were loud and clear and the singing was really impressive. Huge thanks to all the staff involved, to Ian Cumming for filming both productions, to Tim Brown for playing the piano but special thanks to Mrs Forshaw and Mr Few who led their classes and the production.

A big thanks to the PTFA this term – we have already had a successful disco, cake sale, class hamper and film night which have raised lots of money. Thank you for supporting them and helping out, it is amazing how much can be raised in our school, and it is really appreciated. Also, big thanks to Aga Opalka and Suzanne Northfield for the ever successful book sale – it is becoming more and more popular.

We have also had some amazing donations to the school this term, Sarah Hull has successfully applied to her workplace, CP Foods, for a community funding project and we have had a cheque for £250 come to us. Together with the fantastic amount of £200 raised at the production we are going to spend this on music and performing arts. The money from the cake sale has already paid for a music workshop for the school which we hope will take place in March. Lastly, our magnificent Christmas tree was donated by anonymous parents. We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations.





# Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School

## School Newsletter: December 2017

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We have also considered raising money for others in our community not just the school. The opposite advent was hugely successful and Jimmy's Night Shelter were very appreciative of the donations, thank you. Today, our last day of term, was National Christmas Jumper day <https://christmasjumperday.org> and we asked for children to come dressed festively. We have had some donations from children already and should you wish to put some spare change in a collection towards this amazing charity then children will be in the playground this afternoon at the end of the day.

So onto next term. The children start back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January. This is NOT a teacher training day like other schools, we are having ours next Monday and Tuesday when other schools are open. Building upon our strong links with the Faculty of Education we would like to welcome Miss Withey and Mr MacKenzie who join Squirrel Class for the first half term.

The school is looking at Earth and space and I have already organised a Stargazing evening on 8<sup>th</sup> January from 5pm-7pm. There will be a visit from Dr Matthew Bothwell from the Institute of Astronomy to start the evening and then activities in the classroom and stargazing in the playground. Refreshments will be available and we hope you will be able to join us for a wonderful evening.

Lastly, have a fantastic Christmas and very Happy New Year. Your children are fantastic, have made great progress and are a pleasure to work with. We look forward to seeing them and you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Many thanks,

Richard Brown





Dear All,

Well what a busy but productive Autumn term it has been for the whole school community and I know that everyone is looking forward to a well-earned rest. As we approach the end of school for the year, it is inevitable that our minds may start to drift away from the demanding work of day-to-day (school) life. I do hope that in all the preparations and hustle and bustle that can characterise this time of year you and your family are able to take time to enjoy yourselves.

We have a great deal to be thankful for at Great Wilbraham and I am sure that you would like to join myself and the Governing Body in thanking Mr Brown and all the Staff for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children. Our dedicated team in whatever role they have, put so much into making the school what it is and for providing the very best education and support for each and every child at the School.

I would also like to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term. It has been a great privilege, when visiting the school, for me to see the children working hard and enjoying their time in school. Every child has contributed to the School journey and I hope that each child feels very proud of their achievements.

As Chair of Governors can I also take this opportunity to thank you, our supportive parents, particularly those who have managed to find time to volunteer within the school, on trips and as part of the PTFA. I feel, over the last few years, the school's partnership with parents has strengthened. This has helped us to achieve the best outcomes for the children. By working together, we can ensure that the children enjoy their time at Great Wilbraham, make good progress and leave as responsible, well qualified, mature young people, ready to make a valued contribution to society. As a school we have received, this term, so many positive comments about the children's behaviour and attitude from a range of visitors to the school and you should all feel very proud of your children.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, may I wish you and your families a very happy and magical Christmas and may you all have a wonderful 2018. Eat and drink sensibly and if you don't there's always a new year's resolution to placate the guilt.

Kind regards

Brendan

Meeting of the Governing Body: 9 November 2017

#### Administrative Business

- no issues arising.

#### Operational Business

- Governors discussed the 'school readiness' document and anticipate this will be forwarded in the summer term to parents of children already at the school and to those families with children starting Sept 2018. The aim will be for families to be more informed as to the academic, personal and social skills and expectations that come with the move into a new year group (or indeed, starting school).
- The Governing body reviewed and signed off the (very long) Health and Safety policy.
- The Governing body reviewed recent learning walks completed by named governors in the areas of Behaviour, Science and Design Technology and heard feedback from training undertaken by the named governor in the area of Early Years provision.

#### Strategic Business

- Mr Brown and the school were visited by our local MP Lucy Fraser. Mr Brown has offered her details of the challenging financial climate the school operates in. It is anticipated that she will offer representation to the Dept of Education regarding the sterling effort Mrs Crisp and he make to financially manage the school.
- The FGB were made aware of the planning stage of a proposed housing development in Six Mile Bottom and which would, if given the go ahead, fall in GWPS catchment area.
- Following representation from the Parish Council the FGB discussed the issues related to the increasing problem caused by parking during school drop- off/pick up, particularly in terms of the immediate risks to young people, parents/carers and other members of the public.

#### **Next FGB meetings**

Thursday 1st February @ 6.30pm

Thursday 22nd March @ 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th May @ 8am (Budget ratification)

Friday 6th July – Governor morning from 8.45am





## Dates 2017 - 2018

### Autumn Term 2017

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - School closes

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December—Staff Training Days

### Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January—School opens

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January—2 trainee teachers supporting Mr Few in Squirrel Class until 9th February

Monday 8th January—Stargazing Evening 5pm—7pm

Tuesday 9th January—Epiphany Service at Great Wilbraham Church—2.15pm

15<sup>th</sup> January - National closing date for primary places

Thursday 18th January—Census Day—all KS1 children to be offered a meal

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Parent Drop-in 2.00 - 3.15pm

Thursday 1st February—Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Thursday 1st February—Governors Meeting

Thursday 8th February—Fieldmice Class Assembly and 'Book Look'

12<sup>th</sup> —16<sup>th</sup> February—Half Term

Thursday 22nd February—Team of Yr 5/6 players to Tag Rugby tournament

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Drop-in 2.00 - 3.15pm

Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th February—Parent Evenings

Thursday 1st March—World Book Day

Thursday 1st March—2 teams of Yr 5/6 players to Quick-sticks hockey tournament

Monday 5th March—KS2 Choir Festival at Burwell VC—more details nearer the time

Thursday 8th March—Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day Lunch

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Class & Group vista photos

Thursday 15th March—Badger Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Wednesday 21st March—trainee teacher supporting Mrs Neish in Badger Class until 8th June

Thursday 22nd March—Governors Meeting

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Service 2.15pm—Little Wilbraham Church

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Spring Concert 9.15am

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Lunch

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – School closes

### Summer Term 2017

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April—School opens

Tuesday 24th April—4 Year 5 pupils to Maths Challenge at Bottisham Primary

Thursday 26th April—National Child Measuring Programme—Yr R & Yr 6

Monday 30th April—Hedgehog Class trip to Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studios

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – May Day holiday

Wednesday 9th May—Governors Meeting

Thursday 10th May—Group of Yr 4 to mini tennis

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> –Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS

Thursday 17th May—Census Day

Monday 21st—Friday 25th May—'Creative Week'

Tuesday 22nd May—Sports Morning

Friday 25th May—Open Morning & Picnic Lunch

28<sup>th</sup> May—1<sup>st</sup> June—Half Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Staff Training day

Tuesday 5th June—Pentecost Service—2.15pm

Thursday 7th June—group of Yr 5/6 pupils to Quadkids athletics

Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening Check Week

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Father's Day lunch

Tuesday 19th June—Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Thursday 21st June—Yr 3/4 to Youth Games

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th July—KS2 Play—more details nearer the time

Friday 6th July—Reports sent home to parents

Tuesday 10th July—Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Thursday 19th July—Leavers Service 9.15 am

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July—School closes

## Dates 2018 - 2019

### Autumn Term 2018

Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th November—Badger Class to Aylmerton Field Studies Centre