



Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School

School Newsletter: April 2019

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HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful term of learning since Christmas, there has been so much going on since my last newsletter I will try to remember everything that has happened!

Tuesday this week the Easter service was held at St Nicholas's Church in Great Wilbraham, we took the decision to move the service here rather than St John's due to the predicted bad weather. Rev Alice, Father Miles and the Parish Assistant Bethan organised the service about the symbolism around Easter and the children were brilliant in the service. Thank you for coming; it is really pleasing to see so many families at the services.

Wednesday this week Mr Few organised the exceptional Spring Concert. I think it was the best one I have seen since being at the school. The range of exceptionally talented musicians showing confidence to perform in front of a large audience is inspiring to me and hopefully other children who may wish to take up a musical instrument in the future. Huge thanks to all those who attended and to all the staff and adults who have helped; in particular to Mr Few, Gill Humpries & Tim Brown. Congratulations to all the children who performed, we are really proud of them all.

Sticking with music, Hedgehog class represented the school at a choir festival held at Burwell Village College (Primary) last week and sung Footloose in front of all the other schools. Well done Mr Few for organising this and helping them learn a very tricky song!

I held the school parent forum and we discussed the school communication policy, complaints procedures, harassment policies and reviewing the home school contract. A separate parentmail will be sent today with the minutes and links to copies of the policies on our website.

Friday last week was the incredibly popular Mother's Day lunch which was very well attended. With the school roll increasing, spaces were limited but it was wonderful to see so many people. Thanks to all the kitchen staff for their hard work and effort and to Mrs Lockwood and Mrs Crisp in the office for the organisation of places. Also thanks to the members of the community who came into Hedgehog class for the afternoon to make Mother's Day posies for the children to take home.

It was a busy day last Friday – we also had Mike Mullen, an ex-professional BMX rider who came in to inspire children about resilience and hard work. He even showed a trick or two, I was a bit nervous being at the end of the line lying down as he jumped over five adults – children were encouraged to NOT try that at home!

In the run up to the science week and as part of their habitats topic, Badger class went to Wicken Fen. They did pond dipping and minibeast hunts before going on the boardwalk to spot different habitats. The children were brilliant, thanks to Mrs Neish for organising the day.

That Friday, the PTFA held their first Beetle Drive which was really well received by the children and everyone who attended had a fantastic time. Well done to Oliver who won the competition and huge thanks to all the adults who came to help and to the PTFA for their hard work with this activity. The PTFA have been very busy this term and had a record number of teams for the popular Quiz and Chips nights. A great night was had by all and well done to the winners!

Hedgehog and Badger classes have both held class assemblies this term, sharing their learning about habitats, the human body, evolution and all the maths and English they have been doing. It was great to see so many parents come into the classrooms afterwards and look at the books with the children, thank you for making the effort to attend – the children really appreciate it.





The science week was also fantastically well received and we had visitors from the Department of Engineering at Cambridge University, Faculty of Education and parents and engineers coming in to talk to the children. The work on display at the Friday exhibition was fantastic and lovely to have so many families come in to see what the children had been doing.

Fieldmice children learnt about DNA from Dr Bateman and carried out experiments with Dr Haywood (thanks to both of you for coming in); Squirrel class made safari vehicles, with Hedgehog class making motorised versions, Hedgehog and Badger classes worked with engineers on the 88 pianists project and of course the Raptor Foundation delivered a great talk to the school and a wonderful flying show – the first time I have ever had owls and hawks flying about in a school hall full of children!

Thank you to all those who sent in kind comments about the science week and how much their children enjoyed the week; your feedback is really appreciated. The standard of science learning has been brilliant and has meant that we have lots of information for the Primary Science Quality Mark which I finished the application for last week. The home science challenge for the next few weeks is discussing why fish can't live on land. If children want to find out more and bring some work in for a special science assembly next term it would be great – Megija brought in some pictures of her avocado plant growing in response to the big seeds growing big plants topic and received a Headteacher's award in the process.

Comic Relief day was on the last day of our science week and raised a brilliant total of £135.

The Life Education Bus from Cambridgeshire County Council came to the school and worked with all the year groups including Nursery covering subjects from the PSHE scheme of work about keeping safe. It was an incredibly worthwhile activity and all the children got a lot from it. The following day was World Book day and the children (and staff) enjoyed dressing up as book characters and sharing their favourite stories. We have also had Bikeability for Hedgehog class and they showed great resilience and skill completing the course which was extremely well led by the teachers from Outspoken.

Unfortunately both the hockey and rugby sports events that were planned this term were both postponed and we are saddened that the children were unable to participate. There are more opportunities next term and of course we have our sports morning coming up too.

Phew! What a busy few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work, the pupils for being a joy to work with and to the families continuing to support the school.

Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing the children on the Tuesday 23rd April.

Richard Brown

Home science challenge BELOW and on next page

Why fish can't live on land?



Discussion over dinner

What do you already know or think you know about the relationship between fish and animals that live on the land?



- Why are fish good at swimming?
- How would fish move on land as they don't have arms or legs?
- Would fish be able to breathe on land, how do they breathe in water?

What would fish eat if they lived on land?

Investigating ideas

Further questions:

- What do you know already about fish?
- What do you need to know?

How would you research and find new information?

Awesome outcomes

Find out about an unusual fish and create a picture/information text/poster.

Design your own fish that could walk on land? How would it adapt?

Create an explanation text about how fish swim or breathe?

Here's the science bit:

Fish cannot live on land because they have features that only allow them to live in water. These features include: gills for breathing underwater, scales and fins for swimming, and camouflage to blend into their surroundings.

Science is full of exceptions however, and you might want to let your class know that there are some fish that can live on land! One such fish is the lungfish, which breaths air like humans.

Take it further

Amphibians, such as frogs, spend time living in both the water and on the land. Challenge the class to think about why frogs can live on land but fish cannot.

There's lots more information about the Lungfish, including a fascinating video, in this [National Geographic article](#). Have a think about some other environments and how animals might be suited to living in them with our [Tricky living](#) or [Terrific tree dweller](#) Odd One Outs.

Highest year group attendance to date: Year 3 with 97.59%

Reminders and Notices

Clubs

The following clubs will be running next term:

Monday	Code Club	3.20—4.20	29/04, 20/05 (only these 2 dates this half term) 10/06, 17/06, 24/06, 01/07, 08/07, 15/07
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Free club - please enrol in advance by emailing admin@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk. Open to KS2 children.

Tuesday	Hockey	3.20—4.20	30/04, 07/05, 14/05, 21/05 04/06, 11/06, 18/06, 25/06, 02/07, 09/07, 16/07
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£20 for the half term or £35 for the complete term paid in advance. Please book and pay via Agora or with Mrs Lockwood. Children will need suitable indoor and outdoor sports kit. Open to Years 2-6. Free to children enrolled in Discovery Club but places still need to be booked.

Wednesday	Athletics	3.20—4.20	01/05, 08/05, 15/05, 22/05 05/06, 12/06, 19/06, 26/06, 03/07, 10/07, 17/07
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Club run by CR Sports – 11 sessions- total cost £40 (or £4 pw). Please book via Agora or direct with Mr Brown. Children will need suitable indoor and outdoor sports kit. Open to Years R-6. If attending Discovery Club afterwards please pay for the club and then pay Discovery Club Top Up charge.

Thursday	Multi-Sports	3.20—4.20	02/05, 09/05, 16/05, 23/05 06/06, 13/06, 20/06, 27/06, 04/07, 11/07, 18/07
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Sport

We have really been concentrating on creating an active lifestyle for all children within the school this half term. This has been extremely successful thanks to the Year 5/6 Play Leaders, who are responsible for planning and running fun, active sessions for all the children in the school at lunchtimes. They have done a fantastic job at engaging all the children from Fieldmice to fellow Badgers! This has made a great impact on the school!

Miss K Luddy, PE Co-ordinator

Governors

The Governing Body plans to meet on Friday 3rd May and Friday 12th July.

To contact the Governing Body please email clerk@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk or speak to any of the Governors; details of who they currently are can be found on the school website -

www.greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk/

Governors

PTFA

A busy Spring Term has seen a film night, quiz night, Beetle Drive and a tea and cake sale. In total, over £1,000 has been raised. This is a significant sum and we are very grateful for the generous support from all of you in trying to help improve the school's facilities.

But our work is never done! To this end we have prepared a leaflet on ways you can further help the school. It also explains what the money raised will go towards.

PTFA Committee

Amazon Wish List

Alongside the fantastic How To Help Your School from the PTFA we have also set up an Amazon wish list where you can have a look at the books that each class teacher has handpicked based on the children's wishes or recommendations for that year group. If you would like to donate a book to that class or to the school, follow the links below and click on the book you are most excited by! If you buy a book directly from the wish list it will then be removed so there is no danger of the same book being bought again and again.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3720H81OHLMT?ref=wl_share Hedgehogs

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/221KGJ24UU6CF?ref=wl_share Badgers

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2AU30U4L8WXOT?&sort=default> Fieldmice

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1F9KJG3OPCF22?ref=wl_share Squirrels

These books will then go straight onto the class bookshelf where your children can enjoy these fantastic books.

Thank you very much,

The Staff at Great Wilbraham Primary School



Proposed Dates 2018 - 2019

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 16th April—1st round offers made for Reception

Tuesday 23rd April – school re-opens

Thursday 25th April—Team of Year 5 taking part in Maths Challenge

Monday 29th April—Squirrel Class to Sedgwick Museum

Friday 3rd May – Governors Meeting

Monday 6th May – May Day holiday – school closed

Tuesday 7th May—PTFA Meeting 9am

Monday 13th –Thursday 16th – KS2 SATS

Thursday 16th May—Team of Year 3/4 to mini tennis

Friday 17th May—PTFA Bingo

Monday 20th – Friday 24th May – Activity Week

Monday 20th May—Hedgehog Class to Layer Marney Tower (tbc)

Tuesday 21st May – Sports Morning

Wednesday 22nd May – Y6 Beacon Event—Teversham School

Thursday 23rd May – Open Morning & Picnic lunch

Friday 24th May – school closes

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May – half term

Monday 3rd June – staff training day

Tuesday 4th June – school re-opens

Tuesday 4th June—group of pupils to Energy Challenge at Dullingham—pm

Wednesday 5th June—Swimming starts for KS2

Thursday 6th June—Year 5/6 to Quadkids event

Week beginning 10th June - Phonics Screening Checks

Tuesday 11th June—Malcolm Baker from BVC to visit Yr 6 pupils

Wednesday 12th June—Introduction to Brass Assembly—Michael Dawson

Friday 14th June – Fathers Day lunch

Monday 17th June—Reception vision screening

Thursday 20th June—Year 3/4 to Sport for All event

Friday 21st June - Squirrel Class Sharing assembly and Book Look

Friday 28th June - Fieldmice Class Sharing assembly and Book Look

Saturday 29th June—Piece of Cake 10k Run & School Fete

Wednesday 3rd July – KS2 play—9.30am dress rehearsal and 6pm performance

Thursday 4th July – KS2 Play—6pm performance

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th July—Year 6 to BVC Induction Days

Tuesday 9th July—'Move Up' afternoon

Friday 12th July – Governor Morning

Monday 22nd July—KS1 and KS2 trips— More details soon

Monday 22nd July—No Nursery Provision available on this date

Tuesday 23rd July - Leavers Service 2.15pm

Wednesday 24th July – Leavers Assembly 9.15am

Wednesday 24th July—School closes

2019 - 2020

Autumn Term 2019

Tuesday 3rd September—staff training day

Wednesday 4th September—School Opens for Years R—6

Monday 9th September—School Opens for Nursery

Monday 21st—Friday 25th October—half term

Monday 28th October—staff training day

Friday 8th November—Individual & Family photos

Monday 2nd December—Pantomime to school—pm

Thursday 19th December—School Closes

Friday 20th December—staff training day

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January—staff training day

Tuesday 7th January – School Opens

Monday 17th—Friday 21st February—half term

Monday 16th March—Class Photos

Friday 3rd April—School Closes

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April—School Opens

Monday 4th May—May Day Holiday

Friday 22nd May—staff training day

Monday 25th—Friday 29th May—half term

Tuesday 21st July—School Closes