



# Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School

## School Newsletter: November 2016

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## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term break.

We have already started well this half term and there is some wonderful work happening across the school. Badger class have been designing biscuits and have plans to use the 3D printer to produce Christmas decorations; Fieldmice have been learning all about ice and have their own igloo and Squirrel class have been working hard on number bonds and learning all about the legend of how the turtle cracked his shell. There have been some peculiar events happening in Hedgehog class though. The children have been telling me all about a strange character called Mr Bunting who visited this week and they are adamant there is a giant pink dinosaur holding a cupcake in the classroom. Clearly Miss Luddy 's work on developing creativity in the class is coming to fruition.

I regretfully have to inform you that due to personal circumstances Mr Cherry will be leaving us at the end of term. This was unexpected but he and his family need to relocate and we wish him every success. Mrs Neish, our Senior Teacher, will be taking Badger class from January and will get to know the children over this half term. She is a very experienced KS2 practitioner and actually taught Y6 last year at her previous school. Badger class are in very safe hands and we are fortunate to have a teacher with expertise across the age ranges. We will therefore hold interviews over this half term for the KS1 position and endeavour to employ the best candidate ready for January. Already we have an advert out and I am in discussion with various educational establishments to employ a high quality teacher for January.

Next week KS1 and KS2 are going to the cinema to watch Ice Age which links with our topic on Living Planet. It will be an excellent stimulus for inspiring writing and I know Badger class are making biscuits for the trip. We think this is an excellent opportunity for a free school trip and hope that you are going to be able to sign the permission forms sent out earlier this month.

Date changes: please note that we have had to alter some of the dates for next term. Sharing assemblies next term will be on Tuesday mornings and then revert back to Thursdays in the summer term. We hope you will be able to join us. I would also like to confirm the dates for the Church services. We will hold a Christingle service as part of our Christmas service in December but then also hold another service on 17th January. Feel free to join us on both occasions, it was good to see so many of you at the Harvest festival.

This term we will be sending out information on a charity collection to replace the Christmas shoebox appeal. After discussion with governors and ourselves, Rev. Alice suggested an alternative Advent calendar. We will be putting out a numbered box for donations each day throughout December to go towards Jimmy's night shelter. We will send you a list of suggested donations for each day—for example toothpaste on the 1st December, pasta on the 2nd December—later this month.

Lastly, I delivered an assembly about keeping safe on Hallowe'en and fireworks night. I hope everybody who goes out this weekend for Bonfire Night stays safe and enjoys themselves. We look forward to seeing all the children back on Monday for another week of engaging and creative learning.

Richard Brown





## Children in Need

We are having a non-uniform day on Friday 18th November in aid of Children in Need. The theme this year is spots, so please bring a donation of £1 and dress in your spottiest outfit!

We will also be holding a loose change collection.

## Individual & Family photos

Please return all orders for photographs by Friday 11th November.

Late orders will incur a postage charge.

## Help needed!

Can you offer any help during the school day to hear readers or be involved in the school?

Are there any experiences or knowledge you can talk about with the children that relates to our topics? *To check what topics each class is looking at please see page 5 of this newsletter.*

We would love to encourage you to come in and help.

Please see your class teacher about how you could be involved, we would love to see more parents in school.

## House names

The school held a referendum last year to change the names of the school houses—we are now gathering ideas!

We have had lots of ideas from the children but we would like your help and input too! Ideas so far include elements, authors, Cambridge Colleges, trees and road names.

If you have any further ideas please let me know—we want to have a school vote on it this half term and establish the houses in the New Year.

## Coming up this half term:

**Wake Up and Read**—once a half term there will be a chance for parents and children to share books in the classroom from 8.40-9.00 am. we would love you all to come and join us.

**Fieldmice and Squirrels—15th November**

**Hedgehogs and Badgers—16th November**

**Book Look**—once a term we would like to invite you to look through your child's book and see their progress. Both sessions start at 2.30 pm.

**Fieldmice and Squirrels—6th December**

**Hedgehogs and Badgers—9th December**

**Cinema Trip**— we have secured free tickets for all children in years 1—6 to go to see **Ice Age—Collision Course** at Cineworld Haverhill on 10th November as part of our Living Planet topic.

## Discovery Club

There is a new look to the staffing team at Discovery Club this half term.

Mr Haynes continues to run the club and is now supported by Richard Smith, Katie Luddy and Izzy Barham.

If you have any queries regarding Discovery Club please contact Mrs Crisp in the School Office.



## Dates 2016 - 2017

### Autumn Term 2016

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Year 1 – 6 to Cineworld, Haverhill  
 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November – NHS Vision Screening for Yr 1  
 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – 'Wake up & Read' sessions in Fieldmice & Squirrels 8.40–9.00 am  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November – 'Wake up & Read' sessions in Hedgehogs & Badgers 8.40–9.00 am  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November – applications open for Reception places in September 2017  
 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly  
 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need Spotacular  
 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November – PTFA Indulgence Evening  
 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – GenR8 Assembly  
 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Governors Meeting  
 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly  
 Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Badger Class to Cross Country  
 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Vaccinations Yrs 1,2 & 3  
 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Lunch  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Panto to school  
 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 'Book Look' in Fieldmice & Squirrels 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – 'Book Look' in Hedgehogs & Badgers 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – PTFA Christmas Disco – Memorial Hall  
 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December am – Dress rehearsal  
 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Service including Christingle  
 Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Performance –pm  
 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Performance – eve  
 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - School closes  
 Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Staff Training Days

### Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – School opens  
 15<sup>th</sup> January - National closing date for primary places  
 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Church Service  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Census Day – all KS1 pupils offered a school meal  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Life Education Centre visiting school  
 Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Badger Class Sharing Assembly  
 Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly  
 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Governors Meeting  
 13<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – team of Yr 5/6 to Tag Rugby tournament

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February – PTFA Quiz Night  
 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day  
 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – 2 teams of Yr 5/6 to Quicksticks Hockey tournament  
 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly  
 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Governors Meeting  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief  
 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Service (TBC)  
 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Spring Concert  
 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Lunch  
 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School closes

### Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – School opens  
 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Balanceability sessions for Reception & Year 1  
 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Class & Group photos  
 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – team of Yr 5/6 to High Fives Netball tournament  
 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day holiday  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Governors Meeting  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Yr 6 & Reception height & weight checks  
 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS  
 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Census Day – all KS1 pupils offered a school meal  
 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly  
 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Sports Morning  
 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Badger Class Sharing Assembly  
 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Staff Training day  
 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – School opens  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June – 2 teams of Yr 5/6 to Quadkids athletics  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Phonics Screening Week  
 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly  
 Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June – PTFA Summer Fete (TBC)  
 19<sup>th</sup> June – International Week  
 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Open Morning and Picnic Lunch  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly  
 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Governors Meeting  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – School closes