



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Parent/Carer,

This half term has been incredibly busy and it is amazing when reflecting how much has happened in the past few weeks. Badger class had their residential trip to Aylmerton and were superb; they had a great time and came back thoroughly exhausted! Squirrel and Hedgehog classes had a free trip to the cinema – thanks to the PTFA for funding the opportunity and to Mrs Crisp for sourcing the free tickets! We also had children from Badger class represent the school at the Fulbourn Remembrance service and they did the school proud – thank you Ellen, Lucy and Daisy.

Over the past couple of weeks both Hedgehog and Badger classes have presented their learning in two excellent celebration assemblies. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who organised the assemblies, it was clear how much learning was taking place and thank you to all those who were able to attend, the children really appreciate it. November seems to have flown by and already we are in the preparations for Christmas. The Christmas service is being organised, the school are learning songs for the December production, cards have been designed and delivered and the PTFA are working hard on events leading up to the end of term including the school disco at the Memorial Hall and mince pies at the Christmas Production.

### Fundraising

The cheese and wine evening was held a couple of weeks ago and although the numbers were lower than anticipated, it was a great evening and still raised nearly £200 for the school. More good news on the fundraising front is the completion of the school chosen as the charity preference with your Co-op card. 1% of all the purchases made at the Co-op went towards the school fund and on Monday we will be presented with a sizable cheque from the manager of the local branch in Fulbourn! We desperately need new IT in the school and this will go towards some much needed updating of our current provision.

### Opposite Advent

In December we will again start our 'opposite advent'. Every day that we are in school throughout December we will put out a box for donations to Jimmy's night shelter. Each week will have a different theme – it could be socks, hats, gloves, pasta, tins – donations will be warmly welcome. We feel it is a great opportunity to give back to others at this time of year and we wouldn't be asking for a lot individually, but together we can make quite a difference.

### Reading and Book Sale

The children are progressing really well throughout the school and across the curriculum, I have taught every class in the past month and have to say how impressed I am with their knowledge and progress. Children's reading is great across the school but can I take this opportunity to ask





that children are not progressed through the reading book banding without prior agreement with the class teacher please? Children may have the decoding of the text but we need to ensure the comprehension of what they have read as well. Please speak to the your child's teacher if you feel they are ready, and feel free to try different texts at home, but in school we will not progress a child unless we feel they are ready. To promote reading and provide different texts we have the book sale coming up on the 10<sup>th</sup> December for your child to save for. Every Friday morning in the playground children can save a small amount towards the book sale which we hold once a term. They get first choice before the public sale after school.

### Safeguarding

Thank you to all those parking safely and the calm way in which children enter and exit the school but please could you refrain from bringing bikes and scooters on the playground, there are lots of young children on the playground and I wouldn't want children to be hurt. Can we also remind you that both children and parents need to dismount from their bikes at the school gates and wheel bikes when on the premises. Also, please let the school know if there are any changes to picking up procedures and if there are any changes in medications that we need to know about. Thank you to the parents who respond to our questions about medication when we need clarity, we want to ensure the correct procedures for everybody.

### Attendance

Attendance has been fantastic this term but we know children will be ill at some point.

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is unable to come to school via the [admin@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk) email or contacting the school directly.

We are monitoring attendance this week and have been amazed at how many children have had 100% attendance during the first half term.

### Science

The science question this newsletter was reinforced in my Monday assembly this week. **How can we reduce, reuse or recycle plastics in our school?** If you could discuss what you do at home and what we could do better at school it would be brilliant. I have a new science display board and I would like to fill it with ideas for our science questions. If any children could produce an A4 poster showing an invention or idea for how the school could answer the question it would be brilliant – I would like to reward anyone who does this in next week's celebration assembly.

I have produced a science vision and principles document which was devised with ideas from staff, parents and children and hope to share this with you by the end of term; it will encapsulate what we are trying to achieve here in promoting science throughout the school. Whilst talking about science, thank you to the parents who have already offered their support for a science week next term. At parent forum I had some very keen parents who were willing to offer their time and expertise. We are going to hold our science week (and a half) from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> March and already have some exciting events planned. In the next few weeks I will send out a letter with a curriculum map for any parents or family members who are able to contribute to the different topics we are studying throughout the year. One fantastic event we have already got planned is the 88 pianists project working in collaboration with the Department of Engineering on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. The whole day will be spent by Hedgehog and Badger classes learning about the science of sound, pianos, mechanisms and creating their own invention!

Richard Brown

**Highest year group attendance to date: Year 3 with 98.87%**



## Christmas Arrangements reminders and notices;

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – *Panto*** to all school aged children during the afternoon funded by the PTFA

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December – *Bags 2 School collection*** – please do not bring items before this date

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December – *Dress Rehearsal*** – 9.30am

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December – *Book Club Book Sale*** – open to parents from 3.00pm

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – *Afternoon Performance*** 2.00pm – The PTFA will be selling mince pies after the performance from the Group Room and there will also be a silver collection

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - *Evening Performance*** 6.00pm – mince pies will be on sale beforehand and there will be a silver collection at the end

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – *Christmas Lunch*** – please see separate email with regard to booking. All bookings for both child and adult meals must be made by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Places will be limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. Adult meals will need to be paid in cash at the school office.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – *No Nursery Lunch Club***

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – PTFA *Christmas Disco*** at Memorial Hall – more details soon

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – *Christmas Service*** at Great Wilbraham Church 2.15pm – All Welcome

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – last day of school

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – *No Discovery Club***

**Christmas Performances** – tickets will be distributed in advance – if you haven't put in your ticket request form yet please do so by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at the latest.

**Opposite Advent for Jimmy's** – We will once again be running this from the beginning of December. There will be a box in the playground before school each day for your contributions; an email has been sent out with all the details.

**Hamper Raffle** – The very popular Hamper Raffle will take place on the evening of the Christmas Performance. **Each class has chosen a theme and we would appreciate donations to make their hampers really special.**

Donations should be taken to classrooms by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

We can then pack and wrap the hampers ready for the draw at the Christmas production on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Tickets for the hampers will shortly be on sale at the office for £1 per ticket or £5 for 6.

This year's class themes are:

Fieldmice: Bottles

Squirrels: Sparkly

Hedgehogs: Chocolate

Badgers: Red & Green

**Christmas Cards** – children should place any Christmas cards that they want to send in the red post box in the entrance hall. This will be out from the beginning of December.



## Proposed Dates 2018 - 2019

### Autumn Term 2018

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November—Year 5 & 6 to Cross Country  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Panto to school – pm  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am – Dress rehearsal  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Performances

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December—KS2 STEM Day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – PTFA Childrens Disco  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December— Christmas Service 2.15pm  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – school closes

### Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January – staff training days  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January – school re-opens  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany Service Great Wilbraham—**time tbc**  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January – National closing date for Primary places  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Census Day - all KS1 children to be offered school lunch

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January—Year 5 Health Ambassador Training

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Governors Meeting

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January—KS2 trip to the Natural History Museum

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February—Parent Forum 9am

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February—NSPCC Assemblies and Yr 5/6 workshop

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February—Team of Year 5/6 to Quicksticks hockey event

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February – school closes

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – half term

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – school re-opens

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – parent consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – parent consultations 4.00 – 7.00pm

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March—Bikeability Level 1 for Year 3/4

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – PTFA Quiz Night

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March—Life Education Centre visit to school

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Badger Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March—Team of Year 4/5/6 to Tag Rugby

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Class Group photos

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – PTFA Film Night

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Governors Meeting

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Mothers Day lunch

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Easter Service 2.15pm – Little Wilbraham

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Spring Concert

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – PTFA Cake Sale & Easter Tea

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter lunch

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – school closes

### Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – school re-opens

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Governors Meeting

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – May Day holiday – school closed

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> –Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May—Team of Year 3/4 to mini tennis event

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May—PTFA Bingo

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Activity Week

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Sports Morning

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Y6 Beacon Event

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Open Morning & Picnic lunch

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – school closes

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – half term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – staff training day

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – school re-opens

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June—Swimming starts for KS2

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June—Year 5/6 to Quadkids event

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Squirrel Class Sharing assembly and Book Look

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening Checks

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Fathers Day lunch

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

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

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – KS2 Play—6pm performance

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Governor Morning

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Leavers Service 2.15pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers Assembly 9.15am

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