

Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School

School Newsletter: July 2019

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HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Families,

It is the end of a great year and what fantastic weather to finish on! We have endeavoured to keep the children as sheltered and cool as possible and appreciate all the children coming into school with water bottles and wearing hats.

The Key Stage 2 performance of Hoodwinked at the beginning of July was superb. There was some fantastic singing and performing on stage, well done to the children and in particular to Mrs Neish and Miss Luddy, ably supported by Ms Chapman and Mrs Raw, who worked tirelessly to get the show ready. The children's enjoyment was plain to see on stage and it is very rewarding to see such fabulous performances. Some of the solos and comedic roles were superb – watch out for some of our children on the West End!

Earlier in July 5 children from Badger class participated in a local Energy Challenge and won the area final to go through to the grand final at Granta Park. They were exceptionally engaging and knowledgeable when interviewed by the scientists about their project and although they didn't win the overall prize, I thought they did brilliantly and I was very proud of them.

The school has had a successful year both with results and awards achieved. This term we have been successful in achieving the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) Gilt award after a huge input into science which I expect to be sustainable into next year and beyond. I feel that the teaching and learning of science has improved over the year and the children have benefited.

In addition, we heard only last week that the school has been awarded, for the first time, the Activemark GOLD award. We have always achieved Silver but to gain Gold this year is testament to the efforts Miss Luddy has put in with PE and School Sport – well done and thank you! But it doesn't end there, Miss Luddy has plans for an all weather mile a day track to be installed on the school field next year.







On Monday most of the school were out on two brilliant trips. KS1 had a wonderful day out at Mountfitchet Castle and Toy Museum. The children had a great time learning about castles and trying on some of the armour! KS2 had an inspiring trip to the Houses of Parliament and Downing Street. They learnt about democracy, British Values, met our local MP Lucy Frazer and went inside both the House of Lords and House of Commons. Having their picture taken outside 10 Downing Street capped off a wonderful day. Thank you to all the adults who went on both trips, but particularly to those who organised and ensured the children have a great time. These trips take a lot of preparation and I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all the hard work and effort not only to the teachers but to all the support staff and especially Mrs Crisp and Mrs Lockwood in the office.

Two weeks ago I also attended Parliament, this time by invite from our MP Lucy Frazer with ten other headteachers (ranging from Sixth Form colleges to primary schools) to discuss school funding with Nick Gibb. There is a spending review coming up and it will be interesting to see if there will be any change in our circumstance after putting forward our case for Cambridgeshire schools.

This term both Fieldmice and Squirrel classes have held a class assembly and both were was wonderful to see, thank you to Mr Few, Mrs Forshaw, Mrs Turner, Mr Haynes, Mrs Rodbard and Mr Smith who worked so well with the children to perform such a great assemblies. I hope the parents enjoyed them as much as I did! Squirrel class was particularly well timed as Mr Few started his paternity leave the Monday afterwards. Whilst on the subject, I would like to thank Mrs Noble for taking Squirrel class for two weeks. She was brilliant with the children and we cannot thank her enough.

Today we see the end of the primary school journey for our year six pupils. To have seen how much they have advanced since I first met them nearly four years ago is fantastic and I'm sure Mrs Neish will agree with me that they have progressed hugely. The Leaver's Assembly this morning was wonderful and demonstrated a lot of their talents—the song was particularly moving! Any child who has joined the year group has contributed well and we all wish them every success as they move on to their respective secondary schools. Good luck!

Many parents have asked what they could do over the summer to support their children further. The school readiness document was sent out last week that might give some ideas but anything that fits in with your holidays and schedule is useful. I have put some ideas down below but also attach the Cambridge Museums guide of what's on over the summer:

- Telling the time, paying for ice creams, estimating the cost of a meal encourages mental arithmetic in real situations without needing a worksheet!
- Visiting museums, talking about art, building a sandcastle visiting some glorious parts
 of our country (or the world) enhances art, design, science, history and geography.
- The children also have access to the timestablesrockstars and ActiveLearn online learning over the summer. Teachers have opened access to all the games and set relevant tables for the summer, the odd login and 10minute activity will do wonders for the children.



• Of course keeping up with reading is hugely important – and you can get involved in this years reading challenge at your nearest library.

Whilst on the subject of reading, I would like to thank Aga Hextall and Suzanne Northfield for their help and support in running the book sale so efficiently. It was marvellous to see it at the summer fair and the book savers bought some bargains at our book sale yesterday. The school library benefits from the proceeds as a result.

I last wrote just before the summer fair and would like to thank everybody for their help in making it such a successful event. There was a huge amount going on and I thought the gymnastic displays were brilliant entertainment and the challenges on the field went down really well. Well done to all the PTFA led by Eleanor Laws, everyone worked so hard in the heat and it was a fantastic event.

The second Piece of Cake 10k was held in the morning and huge thanks to Ian Cumming in organising the very successful event (and cake) which also raised a lot of money for the school. Mrs Crisp gave up her Saturday morning and was invaluable helping with registration and at the finishing line – she was a very proud mum when her son came in first place! We would like to make this event bigger next year, any help people could offer in marshaling or being part of a committee would be welcomed. In September we will start preparing for Piece of Cake 2020 (2020 sounds very futuristic but is only a few months away!) and any help would be appreciated – contact pieceofcake 10k@gmail.com

We have now completed our first year with our school meal providers, LunchtimeUK. I must thank them and especially June and Hazel in the kitchen for the seamless transition. The take up of school meals has increased and it is so good to see all the fresh ingredients and for the children to have access to fresh fruit every day in addition to their desserts.

As you will have noticed the fencing and new gates have been installed to ensure the security of our site. The playground gate will be locked from 9am to 3.10pm and your help with this has been appreciated. We have other work happening on the site over the summer – much needed redecoration internally and externally and various repairs within the building. The school will look much brighter and revived in September.

I hope everybody stays safe in the hot weather, On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you all a safe and exciting summer; please make sure you all have a fantastic holiday. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Richard Brown

Highest Year Group Attendance this year Year 3 - 97.67%



Dates 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

Tuesday 10th September—Mad Science Assembly

Tuesday 10th September—Full Governing Body meeting

Monday 23rd September—Mad Science Club Friday 8th May—May Day Holiday starts

Tuesday 24th September—Reading Challenge medals presented in assembly

Monday 21st—Friday 25th October—half term

Monday 28th October—staff training day

Thursday 7th November—Flu Vaccinations for Years R to 6

Friday 8th November—Individual & Family photos

Thursday 14th November—BVC Parent dropin—more details in the autumn

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
Friday 8th May—May Day Holiday
Thursday 21st May—School Closes
Friday 22nd May—staff training day
Monday 25th—Friday 29th May—half term
Monday 1st June—School Opens
Tuesday 21st July—School Closes









Congratulations to our Year 6 Prize Winners

Also to those children with 100% attendance throughout the whole school year



Lucy will be meeting residents to talk about her work and to hear about any issues you have.

NEXT MEETING

Great Wilbraham Open Meeting

Tuesday 20th August 2pm-4pm at

Wilbraham's Memorial Hall



Lucy Frazer MP

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