



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a very busy start to the academic year and it has been extremely pleasing to see how far the children have progressed already. Fieldmice class have settled in brilliantly, they are into their routines and I was very impressed with the phonics they are doing. Squirrels are producing some fabulous writing and have been developing some excellent mental maths. Hedgehog class have been to Ely Cathedral and were extremely well behaved completing activities with other schools all based upon the commemoration of the end of WWI. Children in Badger class have produced lots of work in their books already and the development so far has been really impressive. On a personal level it is a delight to teach any of these classes, the children are wonderful to work with and keen to learn.

Road Safety

One area of the curriculum I have been teaching to Badger class is that of road safety. This came from discussions with the Parish Council who raised concerns over parking at drop off and pick up times. The concerns mainly come from parking on the grass or even on the verge by the Angle End turning. The Parish Council asked whether we could produce some posters to promote safer parking. I have been working with Badger Class on this and they will be passed onto the Parish Council soon. Whilst on the subject, please let me remind you that the Memorial Hall car park is only a short walk away and parking there will help our children get to and from school safely.

Science

I have also been teaching about rocks to Hedgehog class and will be promoting science this year. One way of doing this will be to add a science question in my newsletters and reinforcing these within my assemblies. My assembly on Monday contained a story called 'The Magic Stone' and this linked to a science question – do rocks stay the same forever? Children in Hedgehog class have been fascinated with the different rocks we have been studying and have been comparing metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks. Look out for the science question with ideas on what to discuss – it could be an interesting conversation over the dinner table, if you visit a beach or even just talk about buildings in the street.





Phonics and times table workshops

I would like to thank Mr Few for delivering the phonics workshop to parents a couple of weeks ago and also to Miss Luddy who delivered a workshop about times tables on the same day. Whilst the Year One phonics screening check has been in place for a few years now it is also a key part of aiding children to read. The new statutory times table check which is due to take place in 2020 for Year Four pupils is being trialed in 2019 and we will be working towards preparing the children for this. Knowing the times tables is key to children's knowledge and understanding in Years Five and Six and helps build calculation knowledge. I hope the parents who attended came away with useful hints and tips for helping their children at home with phonics and/or times tables and once again I thank the teachers for their time.

Teacher communications

Thanks also to all the teachers for providing the welcome evenings which I hope you found informative. The staff did a great job and I would like to thank those parents and carers who attended. This week was another chance to meet your child's teacher and discuss their progress at the parent consultations; I hope you found the meetings useful. Don't forget that this year there is an admin@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk email account for you to use should you need to organise a meeting with a class teacher or inform them of any issues. So far it has been really effective.

PTFA

The PTFA have already held a Film Night and a cake sale, both of which were a great success, and should be thanked for their time and hard work. This week they held their AGM and details of this meeting will come out soon.

Parent Forum

I held our first parent forum of the year on Tuesday 2nd October at 8.50am and there was a lot of positivity about science and promoting the subject throughout the curriculum and at home. We also went through the new policy for attendance and discussed how to reward excellent attendance.

Harvest Service

Yet again I was amazed at how generous the GWPS community are with the donations for the Harvest Festival. The service itself was wonderful, the classes sharing poems, learning and artwork. Thanks to the Church and Rev Alice for hosting at Little Wilbraham Church.

Thank you for your continued support, there is a real buzz about the school and the children are a pleasure to work with. Have a great half term and don't forget that **Tuesday 30th October** is the start of the second half of the Autumn term, on the Monday the school is closed for a teacher Professional Development day.

Richard Brown

Highest year group attendance to date: Year R with 98.82%



Science thought: Do rocks stay the same forever?



This image shows the world-famous stone Moai statues of human figures carved by the Rapa Nui people on Easter Island in eastern Polynesia between the years 1250 and 1500.

Think about the appearance of the stone statues and consider whether or not these rocks have stayed the same over many years. The aim isn't to find right answers, it's to explore ideas and find out what they know.

Can you describe the appearance of the stone statues?

Is there anything interesting about them?

Can you see any changes to the rock?

What do you think might cause rocks to change?

Can you think of any other examples of rocks that have changed over many years?

Explain what you think about whether rocks stay the same forever and why they think this.

Maybe go on a rock hunt and find different types of rocks!

Proposed Dates 2018 - 2019

Autumn Term 2018

Wednesday 31st October – National closing date for Secondary places

**Thursday 1st November—Height & Weight checks
Yr R & Yr 6**

Monday 5th November – Bonfire Lunch

Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th November – Badger Class Residential Trip to Aylmerton

Thursday 8th November—Squirrel & Hedgehog Class

English trip to see Peter Rabbit at cinema

Friday 9th November – Individual and Family photos

Friday 9th November – PTFA Cheese & Wine

Tuesday 13th November – Governors Meeting

Wednesday 14th November—Parent Forum

Thursday 15th November – Badger Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

**Friday 16th November—Children in Need Day—
dress in spots!**

Wednesday 21st November - Flu Vaccinations - R-Yr 5



Friday 23rd November – Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look
 Friday 30th November—Year 5 & 6 to Cross Country event
 Monday 3rd December – Panto to school – pm
 Monday 10th December 9.30am – Dress rehearsal
 Tuesday 11th December – Christmas Performance – 2pm
 Wednesday 12th December – Christmas Performance – 6pm
 Friday 14th December – Christmas Lunch
 Friday 14th December – PTFA Childrens Disco
 Tuesday 18th December– Christmas Service 2.15pm Great Wilbraham Church
 Wednesday 19th December – school closes

Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th January – staff training days
 Monday 7th January – school re-opens
 Tuesday 8th January – Epiphany Service 2.15pm Great Wilbraham
 Tuesday 15th January – National closing date for Primary places
 Thursday 17th January – Census Day - all KS1 children to be offered school lunch
 Tuesday 22nd January – Governors Meeting
 Friday 1st February – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look
 Friday 8th February – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look
 Tuesday 12th February—Team of Year 5/6 to Quicksticks hockey event
 Friday 15th February – school closes
 Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February – half term
 Monday 25th February – school re-opens
 Monday 25th February – parent consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm
 Tuesday 26th February – parent consultations 4.00 – 7.00pm
 Friday 1st March – PTFA Quiz Night
 Thursday 7th March – World Book Day
 Friday 8th March - Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look
 Monday 11th March – Class Group photos
 Thursday 14th March - Badger Class Sharing Assembly

and Book Look
 Thursday 14th March—Team of Year 4/5/6 to Tag Rugby event
 Friday 22nd March – PTFA Film Night
 Tuesday 26th March – Governors Meeting
 Friday 29th March – Mothers Day lunch
 Tuesday 2nd April – Easter Service 2.15pm – Little Wilbraham
 Wednesday 3rd April – Spring Concert
 Thursday 4th April – PTFA Cake Sale & Easter Tea
 Friday 5th April – Easter lunch
 Friday 5th April – school closes

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – school re-opens
 Friday 3rd May – Governors Meeting
 Friday 3rd May - Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look
 Monday 6th May – May Day holiday – school closed
 Monday 13th –Thursday 16th – KS2 SATS
 Thursday 16th May—Team of Year 3/4 to mini tennis event
 Monday 20th – Friday 24th May – Activity Week
 Tuesday 21st May – Sports Morning
 Wednesday 22nd May – Y6 Beacon Event
 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
 Thursday 6th June—Year 5/6 to Quadkids event
 Friday 7th June - Squirrel Class Sharing assembly and Book Look
 Week beginning 10th June - Phonics Screening Check Week
 Friday 14th June – Fathers Day lunch
 Thursday 20th June—Year 3/4 to Sport for All event
 Wednesday 3rd July – KS2 play—9.30am dress rehearsal and 6pm performance
 Thursday 4th July – KS2 Play—6pm performance
 Friday 12th July – Governor Morning
 Tuesday 23rd July - Leavers Service 2.15pm Great Wilbraham
 Wednesday 24th July – Leavers Assembly 9.15am
 Wednesday 24th July—School closes