



# Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School

## School Newsletter: February 2019

Volume 7, Issue 5

[www.greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk)

01223 880408

[office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk)

### HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Families,

Brrr! It's been a bit chilly this week! Thank you ever so much for your cooperation with the school when the playground has been icy, we have worked hard to make the site as safe as possible – Mr Haynes has worked incredibly hard outside of school hours and we owe him a great deal of thanks. We aim to keep the school open as much as possible and the decision to close the school is not taken lightly. If however, due to unforeseen circumstances or bad weather this course of action is necessary then you will be able to find out through our school website, the Cambridgeshire County Council website or on the radio (see earlier Parentmail sent on Monday).

Squirrel Class Assembly—The children did a fantastic job this morning demonstrating their learning so far this term. They have enjoyed the topic and demonstrated their learning about plants, commutativity and creative writing with confidence and enjoyment. Thanks to Mr Few and Mrs Turner for their continued efforts and also to Miss Van and Miss Moss who have worked brilliantly with the children and delivered some excellent lessons. They will be leaving us at the end of half term and we wish them every success for the rest of their course.

Natural History Museum—It was a long journey there and back but thoroughly worthwhile for the children to have the opportunity to be in such a magnificent building and a visit that enriched their topic learning. To see the dinosaur exhibit, the massive blue whale and Mary Anning findings after learning about them in lessons were really exciting. Thanks to all the adults who gave up their time attending or organising the visit. A lot of work goes into these opportunities and whilst we can offer them we would like to; we really appreciate those who provide us feedback, we have had some really positive comments but are always looking to improve. The best comments however must be reserved about the children; they were amazing and easily the best behaved school there.

Piece of Cake 10k—After a successful trial last year we would love to be able to make this a big event in June. But we need help! There is a lot already organised but we really would value someone to lead a team of willing volunteers. Please get in touch with the PTFA if you are able to help; this could mean a lot to the school financially and could raise the profile of the PTFA and the school.

Upgrades in the classroom—We have been very fortunate to have been able to fund one new touchscreen in Squirrel class and one in Hedgehog class using school funds and the money from the Coop Community Fund. This will make a massive difference to the children's education and whilst we are keen to be able to install the same into the other two classrooms we will have to raise more funds. As we speak, the PTFA are applying for grants to help facilitate this but if anyone knows of avenues we could go down for funding or companies who donate to schools then please let us know. We already have a plasma screen from a company who were upgrading their own offices that will be used in our group room but if there are any other options then please get in touch.

Science week—Plans are being made for Science Week which will be shared after half term – visiting scientists, engineering projects and a falconry display are just some of the events that will take place during the week. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March in the hall from 2.30pm however, we will have an exhibition of work completed during the week; you are welcome to join us before pick up. This is also Red Nose Day so we will allow children come wearing an item of red on that day too. If you feel that you can help with your expertise during science week our key themes are about plants, animals and humans.

The science home discussion topic this month is below: why do animals eat different things?

Parent forum agenda—On the agenda for next week's parent forum (Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 9am) will be science capital (all will be explained at Parent Forum what it is!) science home activities and use of mobile phones on the school site.

Have a great weekend and see you next week,

Richard Brown





## Highest year group attendance to date: Year 5 with 97.04%

### Reminders and Notices

#### Attendance and the School Day

Please can you ensure that your child/ren arrive at school at the correct time in the morning and are collected promptly at the end of the school day (we understand that the weather/traffic occasionally influence things). School opens at 8.40am and registration is at 8.50am. If children arrive after 8.50am please bring them in the front door to sign in. If they get here after the register has been done then this counts as an unauthorised absence for attendance figures.

School finishes at 3.15pm for all children in Years R, 1 and 2 and at 3.20pm for those in Years 3 - 6. We know that sometimes there are exceptional circumstances which mean parents are occasionally late to collect their children but we do provide an after school club Mondays to Thursdays so if you are not going to be able to collect your child on time please book them into Discovery Club. If children are not collected on time and we have not received a message from parents to say they are arriving imminently then they will be asked to join Discovery Club whilst attempts are made to contact parents. A charge will be made for the time spent in Discovery Club.

#### Communication

Please can we ask that you read communications sent home from school and respond promptly to requests requiring permission etc. Staff at school spend a considerable amount of time chasing parents for responses to ensure that their children can take part in trips and events. In future we will be limiting the times that we remind people. There are lots of ways that we share information with you so please read newsletters, check the school website, look at Parentmail, etc.

#### Keeping Safe

Please can we remind you that children should not be using the play equipment before and after school. We have also noticed some children (and adults) riding their bikes into school. Bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the school premises; please dismount and mount bicycles outside the gate and wheel bikes when on the premises. Thank you.

We would also like to remind you that the school car park should not be used by parents dropping off or collecting their children. Please park safely and considerately using the memorial hall car park, the lay by opposite the school or the road towards Little Wilbraham (beyond the yellow lines).

Finally please can we ask that parents do not stop to talk to children over the playground gate when collecting at lunchtime or calling in to administer medication for example. Please come into school and we will collect your children for you.

#### Sport

This term in PE we will be focusing on gymnastics and team games. Some Badgers will even get the opportunity to compete against other schools in a hockey and rugby tournament. Hedgehogs will also get the chance to compete against one another in friendly house tournaments that will take place during their PE lessons.

We are hoping to get the Gold Sports Mark award this year for all the wonderful PE and extra activity that we do here at Great Wilbraham and this will begin by having Badger class leading games and activities on the playground at lunch time!

#### Governors

The Governing Body plans to meet on Tuesday 26th March, Friday 3rd May and Friday 12th July

#### *Dear parents, carers and families,*

I hope your start to 2019 has been as you hoped. Certainly, I have been pleased with the continued efforts made by our School - the teaching staff, support staff and children have all returned from the Christmas break (which seems a long time ago now) with a sense of enthusiasm and positivity that has come to be the hallmark of Great Wilbraham.

The Full Governing Body continues to play its part in ensuring the School meets the needs of the children (previous minutes are available from the Clerk). With this said however I feel it is important that I highlight one of the major challenges that all schools, including ours, face.



As you are no doubt aware school's have experienced significant funding issues since 2010 as central government allocations have not kept pace with increasing costs. This has meant schools have been required to make hard choices regarding budget allocations. GWPS has not been immune to this situation and whilst the sterling efforts made by both staff, the PTFA and yourselves have ensured that these budget constraints have not been to the detriment of the children's learning it is nonetheless a situation that is of significant concern to us. With this in mind I would ask that you consider signing the Central Government e- petition that is currently open.

The petition, organised by Andrew Ramanandi, a Headteacher for a primary school in the North East of England and supported by Jonathon Lewis (Service Director of Education for Cambridgeshire County Council), would, upon reaching 100,000, signatures require Parliament to again consider debating the school funding crisis. The link for this petition is <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/232220>

Of course, as you would expect, the FGB alongside the school staff will strive to mitigate the implications of decreasing funding, however going forward, this is likely to be increasingly challenging and will likely require difficult choices to be made. I hope therefore you will join me in signing this petition to ensure that Great Wilbraham Primary School is funded adequately and fairly so that we can continue to provide the best learning environment for our children that we have all come to expect.

**Kind regards**

**Brendan Reid, Chair of Governing Body**

## **PTFA**

The PTFA has swung into action this term and has a number of events planned for both young and old. Next Friday (February 8th) is a film night for Years 1-6, while the second half of the term brings the well established and immensely fun 'Quiz and Chips' (March 8th) with a new, and equally fun, Beetle Drive (March 22nd). Plans are also afoot for an Easter Tea Party. These events are also part of our fundraising efforts for the school. We are looking to raise enough to update both the school's IT equipment (whiteboards, laptops etc) and its outdoor facilities. Please do support us when you can. All help and assistance is really very much appreciated.

**PTFA Committee**

## **Proposed Dates 2018 - 2019**

### **Spring Term 2019**

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

Thursday 7th February—Parent Forum 9am

Thursday 7th February—NSPCC Assemblies and Yr 5/6 workshop

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

**Friday 8th February—PTFA Film Night**

Tuesday 12th 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 1st March—Bikeability Level 1 for Year 3/4

Wednesday 6th March—Life Education Centre visit to school

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day—dress as your favourite book character**

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

**Friday 8th March—PTFA Quiz Night**

Week beginning 11th March—Science Week

**Monday 11th March—Hedgehogs STEM Day with visiting engineer**

**Monday 11th March—Science Week Lunch**

**Thursday 14th March—Outreach visit from Raptor Foundation to all classes**

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

**Friday 15th March—Comic Relief—wear one item of red and bring £1 for Comic Relief**

**Friday 15th March—Science Week display available to parents from 2.30pm**

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

**Tuesday 19th March—Badger Class visit to Wicken Fen**

**Thursday 21st March - Badger Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – PTFA Beetle Drive**



**Monday 25th March—Year 3/4 to Choir Festival—Burwell**

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

**Friday 29th March—BMX Assembly plus workshop for Year 5/6**

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 9.15am

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 16th April—1st round offers made for Reception places**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday 17th 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

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

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Saturday 29th June—School Fete**

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

***Please see below for the Cambridgeshire Term Dates for the 2019/2020 academic year. Please note that there will be 5 Staff Training Days to be added when these are set.***

| <b>2019/2020 academic year</b> |                            |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | <b>Starts</b>              | <b>Ends</b>                |
| <b>Autumn term begins</b>      | Wednesday 4 September 2019 | Friday 18 October 2019     |
| <b>Autumn half term</b>        | Saturday 19 October 2019   | Sunday 27 October 2019     |
| <b>Autumn term continues</b>   | Monday 28 October 2019     | Wednesday 18 December 2019 |
| <b>Christmas holiday</b>       | Thursday 19 December 2019  | Sunday 5 January 2020      |
| <b>Spring term begins</b>      | Monday 6 January 2020      | Friday 14 February 2020    |
| <b>Spring half term</b>        | Saturday 15 February 2020  | Sunday 23 February 2020    |
| <b>Spring term continues</b>   | Monday 24 February 2020    | Wednesday 1 April 2020     |
| <b>Easter holiday</b>          | Thursday 2 April 2020      | Sunday 19 April 2020       |
| <b>Summer term begins</b>      | Monday 20 April 2020       | Friday 22 May 2020         |
| <b>Summer half term</b>        | Saturday 23 May 2020       | Sunday 31 May 2020         |
| <b>Summer term continues</b>   | Monday 1 June 2020         | Tuesday 21 July 2020       |
| <b>Summer holiday</b>          | Wednesday 22 July 2020     | Tuesday 1 September 2020   |