



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Parents,

Christmas is nearly upon us and the Autumn term has zoomed by. Since my last newsletter we have had a trip to the cinema which was very successful and children enjoyed themselves immensely—the learning from their work this term came to the fore as some children were talking about the poles, earthquakes, lava and pyroclastic flow during the film! Last week, Badger class went to Eagle Labs in Cambridge and spent the day designing and making a Christmas decoration using 3D printers which was a brilliant way of using their computing knowledge.

The school has been looking and sounding very festive. We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas service on Tuesday and would like to thank Rev. Alice and Tim Brown for leading and playing the organ during the service. Special thanks to Susie Rogers who helped teach the children Stille Nacht which sounded wonderful. We have also had our Christmas production of 'A Gift for All' this week—the singing heard around school has been super and I hope you all enjoyed it; I thought the children were magnificent and I would like to thank the staff who did a great job but particularly Mrs Neish who led the production and again to Tim Brown for playing the piano.

The Book Sale this term was a great success. We have more children than ever saving towards books and the largest selection for them to choose from. Massive thanks to Aga Opalka and Suzanne Northfield for running the sale; your help was really appreciated.

Thank you ever so much for your donations for the Jimmy's Night Shelter 'opposite advent' which has been very successful and they are very appreciative of the donations. Thank you to Holly Tilbrook and Rev. Alice who came up with a variety of ideas for the Christmas Charity. We were also able to raise money to Oxfam through donations after the nativity—thank you to Ellen and Lucy in year 4 who presented at the School Parliament and persuaded them to adopt Oxfam as our chosen charity for the year.

As agreed at Parent Forum we believe children should have rest and not have project homework over the holiday. However, if the children could keep up with reading it will be of great benefit to them. The occasional login to Mathletics and/or Spellodrome would also help but the key message is for the children to enjoy the long break and come back ready and refreshed for the New Year.

This week the performance tables were released for all schools. I am pleased to announce that we are in the top 100 schools in Cambridgeshire and have above national results for reading, writing, grammar and the combined score. This was using the new curriculum and assessments and we are focusing upon maths across the school as an area to develop this year.

We have tried using online surveys to gather opinions about the house names this term and this has been successful from our point of view. If this is convenient we would like to utilise this method more often to garner views about the school. I had mentioned to parents in Fieldmice class about a phonics and reading evening to offer advice on phonics and how to read with children. I am more than happy to facilitate this and will send round a proposed date and quick survey to parents with children in Squirrel and Fieldmice class.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Cherry for his time at this school and wish him all the best in the future. Mrs Neish will be taking over in Badger Class from January and I would like to welcome Mr Few who joins us in the New Year to take over Squirrel Class. Mr Few has just returned from travelling and is an experienced KS1 practitioner; we are very pleased to have him on board and the children have had the chance to spend time with him today. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing you next term on the 4th January.



Richard Brown





Lateness

If the bell has gone and the children have gone in please take your child to the office. We ask that you do not bring your child into the classroom as it is disruptive for the class who have already started the day and we need to safeguard the security of the building.

From next term the side gate will be locked after 8.55am.

Book Look and Sharing Assemblies

We have offered opportunities to see your child's books and read with your child this term and would like to do more. There are sharing assemblies for every class next term where you are invited to come in and learn about what the children have been doing during the term. Afterwards we would like to invite you to have a 'book look' in the classroom with your child.

Parent Forum

There will also be dates for parent forum released next term—your thoughts and opinions on how to improve the school are valued and already the parent forum has helped influence homework expectations and reading throughout the school. Many thanks to those who are able to come.

Attendance

The class with the best Attendance in December is:

Badger Class

Reminders about attendance will be coming out in the New Year.

House names

The votes are in, counted and verified. Thank you to those who replied we had a great response rate.

All the children, governors, staff and parents have had the opportunity to vote for the house names and we can reveal that the house names starting next term will be:

Temple

Rectory

Hall

Manor

School performance tables weblink

https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=873&geographic=la&phase=primary&orderby=ks2.0.PTRWM_EXP&orderdir=asc&datatype=percent&sortpolicy=inversepolicy&page=2

Coming up next term:

Sharing assemblies and Book Look

Badger: Tuesday 31st January

Hedgehog: Tuesday 7th February

Squirrel: Tuesday 14th March

Fieldmice: Tuesday 21st March

World Book Day: Thursday 2nd March

Hedgehog Production: Wednesday 15th March

Comic Relief: Friday 24th March

Spring Concert: Wednesday 29th March

Spring Term overviews will be emailed soon but our topics are all about Homes and Habitats.

Donations for Charity

This term we have raised £50 towards the Poppy Appeal and over £100 for Children in Need. The 'opposite advent' was a fantastic success and we were able to collect a huge amount for Jimmy's Night Shelter. Thank you for your generosity.



Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear parents, carers, family and friends of GWPS

I thought I would write to thank you all for your support over this last year.

In whatever capacity; PTFA, volunteering in school or on outings, buying 'stuff' at the Summer fete, cheering at sports day, getting in for assemblies and open mornings, singing along at the Christmas concert, helping with homework, reading with your child (or children) for at least 5 minutes every day - in whatever capacity, the school would not be the same without your ongoing support and dedication.

It is a testament to the staff, the children and yourselves that everyone who visits the school is always struck by how interested the children are in their learning and how happy they all seem to be.

On behalf of the Governing body I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a wonderful 2017.

Kind regards

Brendan Reid



O Come let us adore Him! All Welcome!

Christmas

in the Wilbrahams

Christmas Eve

Carols by Candlelight 3pm

St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham

Midnight Mass 11pm

St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham

Christmas Day

Parish Communion with Carols 9:30 am

St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham

Holy Communion 3 pm

St George, Six Mile Bottom



ALL WELCOME!

The Staff

At

*Great Wilbraham Primary
School*

Wish you all

A Very Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year

*We look forward to seeing you
all on Wednesday 4th January*





Dates 2016 - 2017

Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 4th January—School opens

Friday 13th January—Vision Screening for Reception Pupils

15th January - National closing date for primary places

Tuesday 17th January – Church Service 2.15pm—Great Wilbraham Church

Thursday 19th January – Census Day – all KS1 pupils offered a school meal

Thursday 19th January – Life Education Centre visiting school

Tuesday 31st January – Badger Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Wednesday 1st February—Magical Maths Assembly

Tuesday 7th February – Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Wednesday 8th February – Governors Meeting

13th—17th February—Half Term

Tuesday 21st February—KS2 visit to the Natural History Museum in London

Thursday 23rd February – team of Yr 5/6 to Tag Rugby tournament

Friday 24th February – PTFA Quiz Night

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March—Author Angela O'Donnell visiting Squirrel & Hedgehog Classes

Thursday 9th March – 2 teams of Yr 5/6 to Quicksticks Hockey tournament

Tuesday 14th March – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Wednesday 15th March—Hedgehog Class Play—Mystery at Magpie Manor—6pm

Tuesday 21st March – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Wednesday 22nd March – Governors Meeting

Friday 24th March – Comic Relief

Tuesday 28th March – Easter Service—2.15pm

Wednesday 29th March – Spring Concert—9.15 am

Friday 31st March – Easter Lunch

Friday 31st March—School closes

Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18th April—School opens

Wednesday 19th April – Wednesday 24th May – Balanceability sessions for Reception & Year 1

Tuesday 25th April – Class & Group photos

Tuesday 25th April – team of Yr 5/6 to High Fives Netball tournament

Monday 1st May – May Day holiday

Wednesday 3rd May – Governors Meeting

Thursday 4th May – Yr 6 & Reception height & weight checks

Thursday 4th May—4 Year 5 pupils to Maths Challenge at Bottisham 4.30—6.00pm

Monday 8th – Thursday 11th – KS2 SATS

Thursday 18th May – Census Day – all KS1 pupils offered a school meal

Thursday 18th May – Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Tuesday 23rd May – Sports Morning

Tuesday 23rd May—pm—Badger Class to Bill Tutte Maths event in Newmarket

Thursday 25th May – Badger Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

29th May—2nd June—Half Term

Monday 5th June – Staff Training day

Tuesday 6th June – School opens

Thursday 8th June—2 teams of Yr 5/6 to Quadkids athletics

Monday 12th June – Phonics Screening Week

Thursday 15th June – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Saturday 17th June – PTFA Summer Fete (TBC)

Thursday 22nd June—Yr 3/4 to Youth Games

26th June – International Week

Thursday 29th June – Open Morning and Picnic Lunch

Thursday 6th July – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look

Wednesday 12th July – Governors Meeting

Friday 21st July—School closes

