



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an excellent start to the school year for the children and the progress I have seen in the books has been tremendous. The presentation is fantastic and I have been very impressed with the use of sentences and descriptive language. Badger class have been writing some excellent instructional texts and poetry; Hedgehog class have been describing historical artefacts; Squirrel class have been writing their own versions of a book called Knuffle Bunny and Fieldmice class are forming their letters and labelling captions.

Writing is an area we are keen to promote and we want to be able to inspire children to write in a number of genres. One such style is poetry and we are really pleased to announce that the poet Brian Moses will be visiting our school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. He will be working with children throughout the day but has also offered to do a family poetry workshop on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the evening from 6.00—7.30pm. We think this is a wonderful opportunity to hear from an inspiring poet who is passionate about books and inspiring the future authors of the world. We would like as many people as possible to attend for this one-off event and hope you will join us. Further detail will be announced shortly so please put this date in your diary and look out for the ParentMail.

<http://www.brianmoses.co.uk>

I had feedback from the parent forum that a mid month interim newsletter with details of events and dates coming up was useful and to have ParentMail about school events once a week was helpful. From now on we will send out school related news on a Wednesday in one ParentMail (if possible) and external activities news will continue to be sent home on a Friday. You may receive additional Parent-Mail during the week but these might be reminders or time critical notices / letters.

I hope the children have a very relaxing half term and don't forget we have a professional development day on the 30<sup>th</sup> October so the children don't come back until the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Lastly, huge thanks to Mrs Samantha Brown who has been a Teaching Assistant in Badger and Squirrel class since September and is leaving today, she has made a great impression with the children and aided their development enormously. She was working on a temporary basis whilst we were in the process of employing a Teaching Assistant to replace Mrs Horsfield who left last term and I would like to welcome Ms Alice Chapman who will be joining us after half term on a permanent basis.

Many thanks,

Richard Brown





## Report from the Chair of Governors:

Dear Parents,

It's now been a month since the return to school for the young people and I'm sure the Summer holiday is a distant but warm memory. What is apparent, having visited the school for a 'learning walk' with Dee Modric-Webb and Mr Brown, is that the young people and staff have returned with a positivity that is palpable.

As I have mentioned before, the principal role of the Governing Body is to offer a strategic oversight of the school. Further to the work conducted both at our Full Governing meetings and small sub-committees, this strategic role also involves spending time in the school within the framework of the 'learning walk'. Allowing us an opportunity to move around the school, observe learning and talk to the young people, staff and any volunteers the 'learning walk' fulfils part of our role in monitoring the school's strategy in relation to learning and developing a rounded understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. To this end, each 'walk' is completed by a Governor who has a specific oversight of either a specific area of learning or a more general theme and then reports back to the Full Governing Body.

Myself and Dee's recent walk focussed on the provision of Design Technology and Science across the key stages as well as 'behaviour'. Whilst I will offer a summary of these learning walks following our next FGB I think it is worth remarking that both Dee and myself were struck by the purposefulness and focus of the young people we saw and spoke with. The young people, across all the year groups, seemed happy, engaged in what they were learning and keen to contribute when asked. There was a buzz across the school that was a privilege to witness.

### Meeting of the Governing Body: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017

This is principally an administrative meeting and as such is mainly spent on ensuring that the governance of the FGB is fit for purpose for the forthcoming year. To this end, I was returned as the Chair of Governors for the academic year and Dee was voted in as Vice-chair of the FGB. As a FGB we agreed our standing orders and committed to our 'Code of Conduct'. Finally, dates for future FGB, sub-committee meetings and learning walks were agreed. If you wish to know who the link-governor is in relation to each specific area of learning, Sue Lockwood (Clerk to Governors) can provide you with the details; she can be contacted on [slockwood@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:slockwood@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk) or [clerk@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk)

As governors, we are always keen to hear about you and your children's experiences, positive or not so. This said, it is important to stress that our role is about oversight rather than the day-to-day business of the school. To this end, if there are specific issues related to your child's school experience I would encourage you to contact the class teacher at the earliest opportunity either verbally or via email so that the issue might be addressed appropriately and in a timely fashion.

The Governing Body plans to meet on

Thursday 9th November @ 6.30pm

Thursday 1st February @ 6.30pm

Thursday 22nd March @ 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th May @ 8am (Budget ratification)

Friday 6th July – Governor morning from 8.45am

**Brendan Reid (Chair of Governors)**





The children were very lucky to have a visit on Tuesday from Max MacGillivray and Ian Cumming.

Max told them all about how he & his friend Gareth had travelled by motorbike from London to Cape Town last year visiting fresh produce growers and educating children on great fresh food!

Whilst Max was entertaining and educating the children with his tales Ian was decorating a wonderful fruity cake in the shape of Africa. The recipe for Ian's cake is shown on the right of this page.

The children got very involved in this exciting assembly and Mr Brown had a go on the motorbike although he was very concerned that he would be getting a good soaking whilst he was on it (ask your children about this)!

To find out more about the Great Fruit & Veg Adventure please visit their website [www.thegreatfruitadventure.com](http://www.thegreatfruitadventure.com)

### **Recipe for Ian's Mango Cake**

6 large eggs  
120g veg oil  
225g caster sugar  
seeds from 10 cardamom pods  
300g mango pulp  
75ml water  
large pinch of salt  
300g self raising flour  
  
250g mascarpone cheese  
200ml double cream  
100g mango pulp  
Juice of 1 lime  
Zest of lime  
50g icing sugar

Blueberries to decorate

*Separate the eggs into mixing bowls. Whisk all other ingredients except flour into yolks. Add flour and whisk again.*

*Using a clean whisk beat egg whites to stiff peaks then fold into yolk mixture. Put in 2 x 23cm tins and bake for about 25 mins in 160C oven.*

*Beat all icing ingredients together until thick.*

*Once cakes are cool cover in icing & decorate with blueberries.*







## Dates 2017 - 2018

### Autumn Term 2017

23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October—Half Term

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October - INSET

31<sup>st</sup> October – National closing date for secondary places

31<sup>st</sup> October—Open Door Event for aspiring teachers or those contemplating a return to teaching—please see separate flyer

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Individual & Family photos

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Brian Moses Family Writing Event - 6.00—7.30 pm

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Brian Moses visit to school

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Bonfire Lunch

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November - Flu Vaccinations - R - yr 4 pupils

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November - Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November—Children in Need Day

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Yr 5/6 to Stibbington—Evacuee Day with lunch provided—please see separate letter

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Yr 3/4 to Cambridge Museums—separate letter out shortly

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November - Badger Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November—Book Club Book Sale—pm

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Yr 5/6 to Cross Country at Netherhall

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Drop-in 2.00 - 3.15pm

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Lunch—booking will open after half term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Panto to school 2pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am – Dress rehearsal

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2.15pm – Christmas Service to include Christingle

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Performance – 2pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Performance – 6pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - School closes

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December—Staff Training Days

### Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January—School opens

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January—Epiphany Service at Great Wilbraham Church—2.15pm

15<sup>th</sup> January - National closing date for primary places

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January—Parent Forum 8.50 am

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Parent Drop-in 2.00 - 3.15pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February—Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and 'Book Look'

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February—Governors Meeting

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February—Fieldmice Class Assembly and 'Book Look'

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February—Half Term

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February—Team of Yr 5/6 players to Tag Rugby tournament

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Drop-in 2.00 - 3.15pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March—World Book Day

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March—2 teams of Yr 5/6 players to Quicksticks hockey tournament

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day Lunch

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Class & Group vista photos

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March—Governors Meeting

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Service 2.15pm

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Spring Concert 9.15am

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Lunch

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – School closes

### Summer Term 2017

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April—School opens

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – May Day holiday

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May—Group of Yr 4 to mini tennis

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May—Sports Morning

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May—Open Morning & Picnic Lunch

28<sup>th</sup> May—1<sup>st</sup> June—Half Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Staff Training day

Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening Check Week

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Father's Day lunch

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