



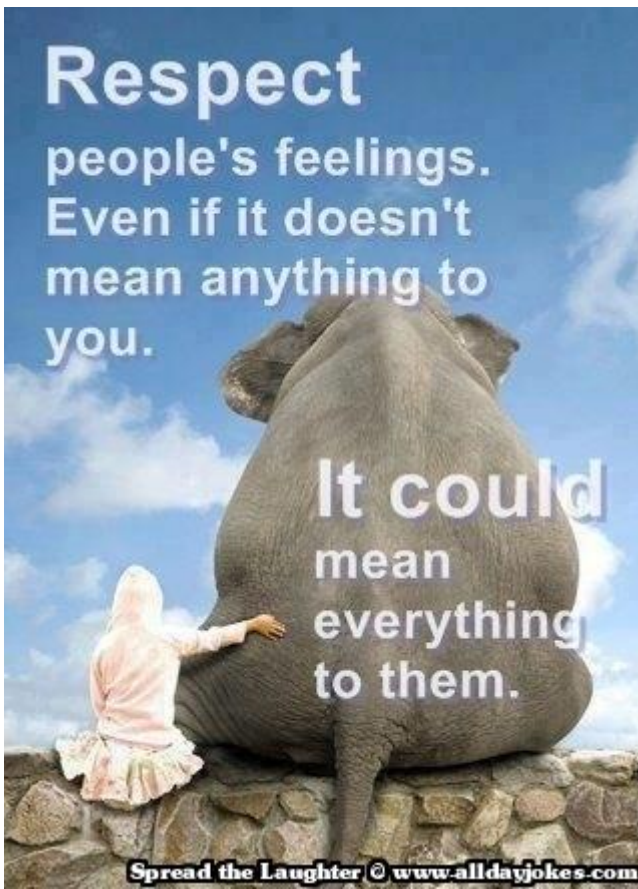
A Values School

WILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL
'A great school in the heart of our village'

NewsLetter

October 2016
Issue 41

OUR VALUE THIS MONTH:



This is what children say respect is:

- Caring for other people
- Valuing other people's ideas
- Looking after property at home and at school
- Being kind – be a buddy

Stars of the Week in September were:

Charlie, Sebastian, Matteo, Bailey, Eden,

Jackson, Bethany, Camille, Harvey, Austin, Fin, Brogan, Elliot, Harry, William, Xavier, Jake, Gabe and Evie

The **Values Award** from The Golden Box draw was won by **Camille** for being brave when someone accidentally elbowed her nose (ouch!); by **Elliot** Wallace-Toovey for being a good friend; by **Eden** for helping someone when they fell over; and by **Sam** for offering to share his fruit!

Head Teacher's Award - The very special Head Teacher's award was presented to **Elliot** Barnard for fantastic progress with his writing; to **George** for wonderful handwriting showing a marked improvement; and to **William** for a wonderful piece of writing which left us all wanting to know what happened next!

Achievements Outside School:

Olivia Parker achieved a certificate in the Big Read Challenge and was a Forehand Wizard in her Mini Nippers Tennis Club!

Austin and **Camille** achieved a medal each in the Big Read Challenge!

Kai achieved his yellow belt and **Kyle** achieved a medal in Kickboxing for listening and hard work!

Well done everyone! Remember to bring any certificates and medals into school to share with us all.

CONSULTATION

We have been informed that the next phase of the Consultation Process, to decide whether to merge Willington and Cople Lower Schools into one Primary School, will soon be finalised by Bedford Borough and ready for us to distribute after half term. All parents will receive their copy of the Consultation, either by Parentmail or as a hard copy. Please contact the office if you do not received yours. Your views and suggestions are very important to us and you are invited to a meeting at **7pm on Wednesday 16th November** at the school to hear about our plans and ask any questions you may have.

COFFEE MORNINGS

These are held on **the first Friday of the month** in Care Club. Donna Gower works with many parents in schools in this area and welcomes you to come along for a drink and a chat – an opportunity to get to know other parents.

REMINDERS

Please can we remind Parents/Carers of a few dos and don'ts around school in the interests of health, safety and your child's wellbeing:

- ☒ Do please remember to park considerately and safely when dropping off/ picking up your child.
- ☒ To meet stringent child protection legislation, please be aware that mobile phones cannot be used in the school grounds. This is to ensure the safeguarding of all our children.
- ☒ Children should always attend school in full school uniform.
- ☒ It is vitally important to update any changes to your child's contact details, especially mobile phone numbers of **ALL** your child's emergency contact people. Poorly children get very dis-tressed when we cannot get hold of anyone to collect them.

Thank you for your continued support.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Cathy Dutton, who is starting on Monday 17th October. She will be working in the school office every afternoon. Miss Bruna Molins will be joining us after half term to support Oak Class in the afternoons and work with Paulina in Care Club. Mrs Katy Wiltshire will still be working with us but on a less regular basis.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

A new school year means school council elections. Our school council members this year chosen to represent their classes are: Rae Dawson, Camille Sainsbury, Harry Smith, William Parker and Archie Bowers. We are sure that they will all do an excellent job of supporting their classmates.

NEWS FROM SQUIRRELS

Our new Squirrels have already settled into school, in fact it feels like they have been in school for longer! We have been busy getting to know each other and making new friends. The weather has been very kind to us and we have spent a lot of time in the garden exploring the water, the sand and the mud kitchen.

We went for a walk to the church on a lovely autumn afternoon and the Squirrels were fascinated by the stained glass windows and the large golden pipes which we discovered belonged to the organ! We also took part in the Harvest Festival acting out the story of the little red hen.

One of Squirrels has become a big brother for the first time so congratulations to him and his family.

Mrs Staley

WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGES

Well done to all the children who have taken part in the maths challenge. We have quite a few now on their way to receiving their first certificate (a certificate is given when you have taken part in 10 challenges). It is very rewarding to see how they tackle the challenges with such enthusiasm!

Due to popular demand we now have a weekly maths challenge for adults. These are open to all adults including parents – the challenges are on display in the entrance hall, so please feel free to take part! All correct answers enter a draw and the first to be picked out wins a prize. Miss Worth was our first winner.

NEWS FROM ACORN CLASS

We have had a busy time since starting back to school after the long summer holiday.

The topic for the autumn term is 'Yum Yum', which means we are studying food. We have thought about our favourite foods and the most popular favourite foods, collecting information and creating graphs to show the results. We thought about treat foods and healthy foods and why our bodies need different type of food to keep us strong and fit. During PE lessons we observed the changes in our bodies and heart rates.

In English we have used books by the author, Vivian French about Olivier and his Vegetables, Fruit and Milkshakes. These books helped us to study how and where the fruits and vegetables grow in more depth. We learned that some grow under the ground, others on trees or bushes and some are the bulb, fruit or flower that we eat. We also thought about the different climates and countries that the fruit and vegetable come from and have looked at the journey milk takes from the cow to the carton and bread from the field of wheat to the loaf of bread.

We have just celebrated Harvest at St Lawrence's Church, which gave us an opportunity to think again about where our food comes from and give thanks that we have so much when others do not.

After half term we are going around the world to look at what people in different countries eat. These countries will include Uganda, China, Italy and France.

Enjoy the Half term break and keep safe and healthy!

Mrs Smith

NEWS FROM OAK CLASS

It's hard to believe a whole half term has nearly whizzed past already. We've had lots of fun getting to know each other this half term, brushing up our skills after the long summer holiday and beginning to learn some new ones. Oak Class enjoyed their trip to Verulamium and the children were complimented by the tutor at the museum on their curiosity and for asking lots of interesting questions – the best compliments to get! Since this super start to our topic we have been finding out lots more, including giving presentations to the class, making mosaics and being a fabulous Roman army.

In English we have been reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the children have written lots of fabulous imaginative stories and poems using Roald Dahl as their inspiration. In Maths we have been brushing up the skills we would need to run our own café and are planning to bake cakes soon!

Thank you for all your support with homework, their Roman presentations and fact files were particularly wonderful! It's also great to see lots of children reading at home and getting into the Reading Raffle as well!

Keep up the hard work Oak Class!

Miss Harrison

LABELLING CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT AND LOST PROPERTY

We always gather a large number of lost property items throughout each term, many of which are unnamed, and so are never reunited with their owners.

We recognise the significant cost of both equipment and clothing to parents and we would be much better placed to return items if they are clearly named.

Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

As Halloween approaches Bedfordshire Police is reminding parents and guardians to keep their children safe.

If possible, parents and guardians should go out trick or treating with their children, sticking to well-lit areas and only knocking on the doors of people they know. Some people may have 'No trick or treat' posters up at their doors and we ask that these are respected.

Bedfordshire Police is also reminding children and parents to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may feel intimidated by people calling at their doors and appeals to all residents to look out for their neighbours who may feel frightened during this time.

Extra patrols will be on hand over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period to ensure that the evenings can be enjoyed safely. If you do have any concerns during Halloween, it's important that you call 101 in order to keep 999 free for genuine emergencies - 31 October is one of the police's busiest nights of the year!

For more advice about Halloween please visit www.bedfordshire.police.uk

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FRIENDS OF WILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL

The Friends of Willington Lower School provide much needed support to the children in the school. You are warmly welcomed to speak to Mrs Heidi Smith, the class teacher of Acorns, if you would like further information. The group would be very happy to meet some new friends!

DIARY DATES:

OCT	
17 th	Full Governing Body Meeting
18 th	Parent Consultation Meetings over 2
19 th	days
	Football Tournament
21 st	Last day of half term and Halloween Disco!!
31 st	Teacher Training Day
NOV	
1 st	Children return to school
4 th	9-10am Coffee Morning with Donna
11 th	School Photographer
14 th	Governors' Resources Meeting
16 th	Parents' Meeting at 7pm
21 st	Governors' Curriculum Meeting
23 rd	Culture Workshops
DEC	
2 nd	9-10am Coffee Morning with Donna
6 th	Full Governing Body Meeting
7 th & 8 th	Provisional dates for Christmas Play
15 th	Panto Trip
16 th	Last day of term
JAN	
2017	
3 rd	Teacher Training Day
4 th	Children return to school