



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

# NewsLetter

*A Values School*

*November 2016*  
*Issue 42*

## OUR VALUE THIS MONTH:

### **Thoughtfulness**



**Stars of the Week in October were:** Jasmine, Rae, Tasmin, Nate, Fionan, Daniel, Ella, Sam, George, Archie, Filip, Lily, Olivia Parker, Dylan and Isobel Hall.

The **Values Award** from The Golden Box draw was won by **Gabria** for showing respect for her classroom and the children who would use it next by clearing up her mess from cutting and sticking without having to be reminded; **Harry** who showed respect when playing football; **Lelan** who was so kind and thoughtful to someone – it was lovely to see him being such an impressive year 4 student!

**Head Teacher's Award** - The very special Head Teacher's award was presented to **Lelan** for creating an interactive game with his friends on the computer.

**Bronze Good to be Green Awards** were achieved by: **Brogan, Rae, Allanah, Matteo, Gabe, Callum, Lacey, Bethany, Camille, Emmi, Bailey, Kai, William** and **Talia**.

The school **football** team (**Fionan, George, Archie, Kai, Rebecca, Olivia** Owen, **Dylan** and **Evan**) came joint second in their group in the recent tournament. Sadly they did not make it through to the final because of goal difference.

**Achievements Outside School:** **Dylan** received a medal for playing in a rugby festival; **Callum** received a medal for improving at kick boxing and **Emmi** received her gymnastics proficiency badge 7.

**Well done everyone! You have all been very busy this month. Remember to bring any certificates and medals into school to share with us all.**



### **Christmas Play**

We will be holding two performances of the Christmas play on the evenings of **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** December.

Please note that due to the refurbishment of the Methodist Chapel, this year the play will be held at school.

As you are aware, space is extremely limited at school and therefore tickets will be strictly limited to **two per FAMILY** and **must be obtained in advance** (further information on how to obtain tickets will be sent out shortly)

While we appreciate this situation is not ideal, we hope you understand and look forward to welcoming you into our school.



## ART COMPETITION

During the Summer term, our art club students entered the Harpur Trust 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Competition and we are very proud to announce that Aoife McEvoy, Mila Picciano (who have now both left the school) and Evan Dawson had their work selected for a major exhibition at The Higgins Bedford. We have all the pictures back in school and hope to display some of them in our entrance hall very soon.

## CONSULTATION

As you will be aware, our schools across the Borough are in a period of change as we prepare for two tier education from next September. Cople and Willington Lower Schools have been working closely together to prepare for this change and to provide the best possible education for our village communities.

The two governing bodies became one in April and the Beds Borough consultation about the proposal to merge our schools is in process. Please take the time to read and respond to the consultation, which is available on both school websites and the Bedford Borough website or can be obtained from either school office. The consultation ends at noon on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Our proposal would retain the school sites in each village, working towards specialist infant provision on the Willington site and junior provision on the Cople site, making the most of facilities available and being able to focus teaching and learning in single age classes. It would very much be one school with the same vision and values to provide a seamless primary education and there would be many opportunities for children on the two sites to join together. We see this as an exciting opportunity to work together in building our children's future.

If you have a child due to start school in September 2017, the admissions process is open now until mid-January. More information and online forms are available on the Bedford Borough website. Currently, Cople Lower and Willington Lower exist as two separate schools

and have 15 places each. If the merger goes ahead, places offered at either school will be transferred to the merged Primary School, which will take up to 30 children on the Willington site. Our recommendation is for you to name both schools as choices. Both schools welcome visits and are happy to answer any questions you may have about the process.

If you have an interest in the ongoing education provision in our villages and would like to be more involved, the federated governing body currently has vacancies for associate members. Please contact Rob Baxter, the Chair of Governors, through us, if you would like to find out more.

**Helen Johnson**

Executive Headteacher

Cople-Willington Federation

**Elizabeth Dun**

Headteacher

Willington Lower School

## OPEN MORNINGS

On **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** we are inviting Cople parents and carers along with parents and carers who have a child due to start Reception in September 2017 in for an open morning (9.15am to 10.30am) to have a look round our school. Please feel free to come along if you have a child due to start Reception next year.

For our current parents and carers, Cople would like to invite you along to one of two open days they are holding at 2pm on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November** and 10am on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November** where you will be able to hear more about what they can provide for older children as they continue their Primary Education.

In addition, next term, we will be inviting you into school to spend a session with your child where you will have the opportunity to see your child in their classroom environment, look through their work and gain a general understanding of how they spend their days when they are away from you.

## **COFFEE MORNINGS**

These are held on the **first Friday of the month, 9am to 10am** in Care Club (the next one will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December). Donna Gower works with many parents in schools in this area and welcomes you along. Why not pop in after school drop off and use the opportunity to chat to Donna, or just to catch up with your fellow parents. Younger siblings are very welcome.

## **MAD SCIENCE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

We will, once again, be running a Mad Science after school club on a Wednesday for 8 weeks from 18 January. Keep an eye out in book bags for further information and registration forms – places are strictly limited to 16 for Years 1 - 4 so make sure you don't miss out on this exciting opportunity which was very popular last term!

## **REMINDERS**

**Parking at the School** while parent drop off and collect children remains a problem.

Apart from the disruption this causes to nearby residents, the obstruction caused by parking during these times is a real danger to the children's safety and we are all aware that a serious accident involving a child is increasingly likely.

Please remember that the village hall car park is a short walk away and is available to use for the benefit of all. The Crown is also happy for parents to use the pub car park – so there are options in both directions!

Thank you for your continued support.

## **NEWS FROM SQUIRRELS**

Squirrels have been finding out about Diwali and firework night.

We made Rangoli patterns using coloured rice and firework pictures with vibrant colours and glitter!

Outside we have been exploring forces by building ramps and using the channels and guttering. Archie and Elliot built a road that started inside and ended up outside!

Another one of our Squirrels has welcomed a new baby sister to the family so congratulations to the Clark family.



**Mrs Staley**

## **WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGES**

Congratulations to our winners this month; Elliot, Harry (class 2), Lizzie and Marika.

The staff are getting quite competitive now and working their way towards a certificate for completing 10 challenges. Thank you to the parents who are now taking part; Mrs Smith (Harry and Archie's mum) and Mrs Wiltshire have been winners so far. The challenges are displayed in the entrance hall and there is a pot for the answers. Call in and have a go!

The competition runs from Thursday to Thursday.

## **NEWS FROM ACORN CLASS**

In Acorn class we are lucky to have Mrs Fawcett come in every Tuesday to listen to the children read.

Mrs Fawcett and her husband help to run a charity 'Empowering Vulnerable Children' (EVC) The charity is based in Uganda and during September Mr and Mrs Fawcett went out there to work with the 200 children and the school supported by the charity.

As our topic this term is food - we have been and will continue to look at where food comes from around the world - we took this opportunity to connect with the children in the Ugandan school. We wrote letters to a class of Ugandan children and Mrs Fawcett took the letters to hand out to them. We were most excited on her return to have received replies and photos of our new pen pals. We took pictures of us opening the letters and have emailed back to the teacher of our new friends. We hope to write again to them in the future.

The link with the Ugandan school has helped us to compare life in Uganda to life in the UK. Mrs Fawcett showed us many pictures and told us about the children's school day and explained how important school was to the children.

During first two week after half term we have studied where Uganda is, which continent it belongs to and looked at the type of food they grow and eat. We cooked bean and flat breads, a typical Ugandan dish, which was great fun.

If anybody wants to know anything more about sponsoring a child in Uganda via EVC then I have some information in school or you can go to the website; [www.evucuganda.org](http://www.evucuganda.org)



**Mrs Smith**

### **NEWS FROM OAK CLASS**

Oak Class were honoured to be invited to read out the list of names at the Willington Remembrance Service. We were especially proud of our children who, as always, behaved respectfully and sensibly on this most sombre occasion. Particularly well done to those who had a larger part to play in the service, taking on the reading of the names clearly and with a proper sense of occasion – you made us proud!

This month we have also been lucky enough to visit the theatre to see The Bravest Mouse which we all enjoyed very much. Our footballers took part in a match and came very close to the semi-final, so well done them!

We have moved on in our topic from Romans to Celts and the children have produced some beautiful printing using tiles. They have also had a go at weaving, thinking about the wattle and daub construction of Celtic homes and had lots of fun making mini Ballistas which fired marshmallows.

In English and Maths our topic this half term is Treasure Islands and we have begun reading the Famous Five. We looked at coordinates and turns and are now working out how to divide the pirates' plunder using multiplication and division.

Christmas is coming soon so we are beginning to learn our songs for the play and look out for costume requests coming to a bookbag near you soon!

**Miss Harrison**

### **YOUNG CARERS**

We recognise that we have Young Carers in our school for many different reasons – national statistics report that this affects 1 in 8 primary age children. Carers in Beds (email [carersinbeds.org.uk](mailto:carersinbeds.org.uk)) is an organisation providing services for young and sibling carers from 4-25 years old, running activities and offering emotional support. Please call in to talk to Elizabeth Dun in confidence if you feel your child or children may be affected and need some help.



It is not too late to send in a donation for our **Christmas Fair**. We are looking for **Raffle Prizes, Bottles for the Tombola, Filled Jars for the Hoopla, Toys for the Lucky Dip** and any suitable **White Elephant** goods you may have.

Thank you



## **FRIENDS OF WILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL**

Thank you for all your support to keep our Friends committee raising valuable funds for our school. We held our AGM at the beginning of term and were disappointed to find no extra parent volunteers this year so we now continue to run as a small team of 5.

We said goodbye and thank you to Jo Hickton for all her dedication over the years and Katy Wiltshire kindly offered to take over as treasurer.

A few parents have kindly offered to help support at events rather than attend meetings and so we welcome people as 'Friends of Friends' as well! Remember, it's not too late to offer to help at one or more events over the coming year.

Willington resident and Parish Councillor Lyn Heywood attended the AGM and has offered to help with her amazing baking skills this year (already sampled with her batch of 65 cupcakes for the Halloween disco). We are also very grateful for all of you for supporting the events and donating prizes so thank you too.

Some of the things we have done recently have been the Bouncy Castles in July, running a stall at the Village fete in September, organising the Halloween disco in October and selling the Christmas Cards (thank you for all your orders).

We also continue to provide the monthly Village Market with a pop-up café in the form of coffees/teas, homemade cakes and our popular bacon and sausage rolls. Thank you to the dedicated bunch who pitch up every month at the village hall.

We have seen these profits in particular rise steadily over the last year as we now source all our meat from local butchers Southalls of Gt Barford. **The next market is the Christmas market on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, so come along and sample one for yourself!**

Forthcoming fundraisers include the Christmas Fair, which is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm (a big thank you to everyone who brought in donations for this and supported Mufti Day on 18<sup>th</sup> November.) Flump Fridays are going to replace Freezepop Fridays over the winter months so bring in your 50ps after school on a Friday for a little treat.

### **DIARY DATES:**

<b>NOV</b>	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Governors' Curriculum Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Culture Workshops
<b>DEC</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-10am Open Morning and Coffee Morning with Donna Gower
6 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Body Meeting
7 <sup>th</sup>	Riding School for the Disabled Christmas Party
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Play (see note on page 1)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Panto Trip
16 <sup>th</sup>	Church Service at 9.30 Last day of term
<b>JAN</b>	
<b>2017</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Teacher Training Day
4 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
6 <sup>th</sup>	9-10am Coffee Morning with Donna Gower
6 <sup>th</sup>	Multi-Skills/Dodgeball Club starts
9 <sup>th</sup>	Football Club starts
10 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming starts for Oak Class for 10 weeks
11 <sup>th</sup>	Tag Rugby tournament at Alban
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sportshall Athletics tournament Mad Science after school club starts
19 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Curriculum Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Resources Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup>	Performance at Kings House – details to follow nearer the time
<b>FEB</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Coffee Morning with Donna Gower
6 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Body Meeting
7 <sup>th</sup>	Gymnastics tournament
10 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of half term
20 <sup>th</sup>	First day of half term