



*A Values School*

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

# Newsletter

December 2016  
Issue 43

## OUR VALUE THIS MONTH:

**Joy**



**Stars of the Week in November were:** Elliot Wallace-Toovey, Izzy, Gabria, Courtney, Lacey, Callum, Oliwia, Emmi, Olivia Owen, Kai, Rebecca, Naima, Lucas, Lelan, Marika and Evan

The **Values Award** from The Golden Box draw were won by **Imogen** for helping her friend when she fell over, **Alannah** and **Naima** for helping one of her friends when he was hurt.

**Head Teacher's Award** - The very special Head Teacher's award was presented to **Bailey** for making a beautiful clay pot, **Bailey** again for fantastic reading, **Naima** for fantastic work in maths, **Evie** for completing all of her reading targets.

**Achievements Outside School:** **Marika** was awarded a certificate for being an excellent patient when she had four teeth taken out (ouch!), **Lacey** and **Brogan** have been awarded their gymnastics proficiency Level 8 awards; **Kai**

and **Callum** achieved a red belt in kick boxing while **Kyle** achieved an orange belt. **Brogan** has also earned her 5m swimming certificate, **Eden** and **Elliot** Wallace-Toovey took part in My Wild Time and ticked off many different tree species. **Alannah** earned her 10m swimming certificate.

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

## SCHOOL CHANGES

Many thanks to those of you who have engaged with our consultation process regarding the proposed merger of Cople and Willington Lower Schools.

The meetings in November were a useful opportunity to clarify plans and hear views on both sides. A final decision will be made by the Borough Executive in early February, and we will then let you know of our ongoing plans.

In the meantime you may be interested in looking at Mark Rutherford School's consultation on changes to its admissions policy. This is currently on the school's website and feedback is welcomed from all interested parties.

Along with other local schools, we are working closely with Mark Rutherford and we welcome the proposed changes to their policy as it helps to secure an onward educational journey for our children.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> January). 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.

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Letters have gone out in book bags regarding after school clubs for the Spring Term. Don't forget to return them as soon as possible as places are limited and will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis.

## **NEWS FROM SQUIRRELS**

It is hard to believe that Squirrels have nearly completed their first term in school. This month we have been getting involved in all things Christmas. Squirrels performed a star dance in their first Christmas play and joined in with all the songs and actions with enthusiasm.

They attended the annual Riding School for the Disabled Christmas party playing party games and singing Christmas songs. Their favourite part was watching Father Christmas riding his horse, especially when his hat came off as he galloped out!

We have also been making Christmas cakes and all that's left is to ice them then they will go home to be enjoyed by all the family.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Squirrels!

**Mrs Staley**

## **WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGES**

This month has seen three of Oaks Class receive their certificates for completing 10 maths challenges! Inducted into the Maths Hall of Fame are Fionan McTernan, Lucas Wiltshire and Finlay Catchpole.

Congratulations to our winners this month; Olivia Owen, Myles, Austin and Lizzie.

Teachers continue to take part in the challenges and after participating every week Miss McTernan has finally been picked out of the draw and the whole school cheered!

Other staff winners include Miss Molins, Miss Worth and Mrs Smith. Don't forget the competition is open to all adults; in fact Mr Pozella has even had a go!

The competition runs from Thursday to Thursday.

## **NEWS FROM ACORN CLASS**

Great fun was had at the end of November when we had visitors in to school to teach us how to African drum and make African masks. Acorn class have displayed the masks along with the work we did on Uganda.

At the beginning of December we started practicing our Christmas nativity play and last week we were very excited to perform to all the parents. We really enjoyed singing the songs, especially the last song, We Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day, in the instrumental we had great fun playing air guitar and dancing. This help to put us in a great holiday spirit.

Acorns, along with the whole school, were invited to the Riding School for the Disabled Christmas party. Each year the school is invited and we walk down, watch the children who perform a nativity on horseback and then we join in games such as pass the pudding and Christmas corners. The teachers do a dressing up race which causes great excitement. This year Miss McTernan and Mrs Staley ran for Willington and Miss McTernan won the whole race which was very exciting. At the end of the celebration Father Christmas arrived on a horse and gave all the children presents.

In RE Acorn class have been learning about sessional celebration of different faiths, Hanukah, Diwali and Christmas. We made Christingles and had a whole school Christingle

assembly which helped us to think about the way in which each and every one of us can bring light into the world by being kind or helping someone by sharing the light.

During the month of December Acorn school lessons have been extra fun as Maths and English have had a very Christmassy theme and we have been making Christmas decorations, cards and calendars.

As we go to press we have not earned enough Gems in our Gem-o-meter but we are hoping to have earned enough for a party on the last day of term! We need 500 gems!! We get gems for doing amazing work, being kind, and doing the right thing. We have been cooking cakes, biscuits and decorating them all week in the hope that we do have our party.

I wonder if we did it and earned enough Gems having an awesome Christmas party all Friday afternoon of the last day of term!!

Finally, Acorn staff would like to wish all the children and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2017 when we go back in time to the Victorian era!

**Mrs Smith**

### **NEWS FROM OAK CLASS**

Thank you to all the parents who donated food to our Roman banquet this month, we had a marvellous day learning about the quite disgusting habits of Romans, baking bread and finding out about the funny things they ate!

We will be moving on to our new topic after the holidays...but the children will have to wait and see what it's going to be! No spoilers!

Oak Class worked very hard on their Nativity play this term and I think you will agree they did a marvellous job! Well done children, have a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year – come back to school bright eyed and bushy tailed ready for another exciting term in January!

**Miss Harrison**

### **FRIENDS OF WILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL**

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our Christmas Fair. We are very pleased to announce that we raised £420 for our school, a really good amount for a small school. So thank you to everyone who contributed in every way, from donating prizes, running a stall or just coming along. It was a lovely Christmassy afternoon. Thank you also to everyone who bought Christmas Cards and gifts through Class Fundraising. This has enabled us to raise about £120.

We continue to provide refreshments at the Village Market on the second Saturday of every month where our Brunch deal of a cup of coffee or tea, a bacon or sausage roll and a slice of homemade cake is only £3.00! Come and sample it one day and support our local craftspeople and small businesses.

In the New Year, we will be organising a social event for parents and children from both Cople and Willington schools so everyone can mingle and get to know each other. If you have any ideas what you would like this to be please let any one of us know. The list of Friends members is on the playground noticeboard.

We will also be planning how to spend some of the money we have raised over the last few years on something to benefit all the children in Willington Lower School, maybe with something for the playground, or some new ICT or cooking equipment. We will be involving the children in this decision but if you have any suggestions, again do let us know.

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas.

**FOWLS**

**DIARY DATES:**

<b>DEC</b>	
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
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
13 <sup>th</sup>	Multiskills Club starts
18 <sup>th</sup>	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>	9-10am 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>	Back to school
<b>March</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-10am Coffee Morning with Donna Gower
15 <sup>th</sup>	National Science Week – No Mad Science Club
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last Mad Science Club of term
27 <sup>th</sup>	Last Football Club of term
31 <sup>st</sup>	Last Multiskills Club of term
<b>April</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
18 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
19 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school



*Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy  
New Year !*

From everyone at  
Willington Lower School