



*A Values School*

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

# Newsletter

January 2017  
Issue 44

## OUR VALUE THIS MONTH:

**ENTHUSIASM!!**



**Stars of the Week in December were:** Imogen, Archie, Daniel, Alannah, Talia, Lily, Tasmin, Elliot B, Camille, Nate, Dylan, Myles, Lizzie, Marika and Finlay.

The **Values Awards** from The Golden Box draw were won by **Sam** for helping his friend when she lost her toy in the playground, he picked it up for her and kindly gave it back, and **Harvey**.

**Head Teacher's Award** was given to Kyle for going the extra mile and doing additional homework.

**Bronze Good to be Green Awards** were achieved by **Jake, Talia, Oliwia, Olivia P, Olivia O and Ella**.

**Lunchtime Awards** were earned by **Marika, Harry, Kyle and Bethany**.

**Lelan and Marika** earned **Skills for Success Awards**.

At the end of term, we awarded **Superstars of the Term** to **Filip, Rae, Olivia O, Harvey and Lelan**.

The following pupils all achieved 100% attendance this term: **Naima, Archie, Myles, Isobel, Nate, Fionan, William, Kyle, Evie, Lelan, Samuel, Talia, Emmi, Gabe, Brogan, Bethany, Olivia O, Olivia P, Matteo, Sebastian, Lily, Daniel, Gabria, Isobelle, Charlie and Elliot W-T**.

**Achievements Outside School:** **Lacey** has earned her Stage Coach Year One award – well done!

In the last news letter we advised that **Kai** and **Callum** achieved a red belt in kick boxing while **Kyle** achieved an orange belt. This was wrong and it was in fact **Kyle** and **Callum** who achieved red belts and **Kai** achieved his orange belt. Apologies for this mistake and well done to you all again.

Well done to everyone, keep up the good work.

**Keep those certificates and medals coming into school so that we can all share in your achievements.**

## SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Our Governing Body is looking for a new School Governor – if you would like to be considered for this position or if you would like further information on what being a school governor involves, please contact Mrs Dun, or Rob Baxter, for an informal chat.

## STAFFING

Sadly Miss Sharan Varma has had to leave the school for personal reasons. Mrs Alison Strickland will be teaching Acorn Class on a Thursday afternoon and Squirrels on a Friday for the rest of the term. Mrs Gemma

Rutherford will be teaching Oak Class on a Wednesday. Mrs Louise Buisson will be returning from her maternity leave at Easter and will be sharing the class with Miss Victoria Harrison for the Summer Term.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> February**). 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.

### **PICKING UP AFTER SCHOOL**

Please remember to inform us if your child is going to be collected by someone else and provide their name. We want to make sure that we only hand your child to a person other than you with your permission!

### **PARKING AT THE SCHOOL**

Parking is a perennial problem that is constantly raised at Parish Council meetings by those residents in Church Road who live near the school and I have written to parents about this issue in the past. Apart from the disruption this causes to nearby residents (I have been informed that parents often park, illegally, across driveways) 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.

Our school is part of a supportive community and I hope we can try to work together to resolve this issue. Please remember that the village hall car park is a short walk away and is available to use for the benefit of all. I have also been informed that the landlord of The Crown is also happy for parents to use the pub car park – so there are options in both directions!

### **SNOW DAY PROCEDURES**

Please be advised that in the event of snow we will try to maintain normal opening hours. However, please be aware that if some of teaching staff cannot make it into school that day the school will be run as activity sessions.

For information and updates on school closures please visit the Bedford Borough Council website and look for the school closure page. The link for the school closures page is

[www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures/](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures/)

The school will endeavour to inform you by text & email as early as possible. With this in mind, please ensure the school has all up to date email addresses and mobile telephone numbers.

### **NEWS FROM SQUIRRELS**

This month we are looking forward to exploring the season of winter although as I type this we are yet to experience any snow! We have however had very cold temperatures which provided us with an excellent opportunity to investigate ice. Our animals had been frozen in the ice and had to be rescued carefully which meant no smashing the ice! The children carefully scraped and rubbed the ice until all the animals were freed. We also discovered that if we put the blocks of ice on the radiator or in the sun they melted much more quickly.

All Squirrels achieved their first bronze award for good behaviour. We introduced the "Good to be Green" scheme after half term in the autumn and with support the children have managed to stay 'green' for the necessary six weeks. We are very proud of them all.

**Mrs Staley**

### **WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGES**

The maths challenges have got off to a good start with Eden and Evan being inducted into the Maths Hall of Fame for completing 10 challenges. Well done!

Well done to Mr Catchpole (Finlay's dad) who won the first adult maths challenge of the year.

Winner in Oaks – **Evan**; winner in Acorns – **Olivia O.**

### **NEWS FROM ACORN CLASS**

You may remember in the last newsletter, Acorns were trying hard to earn their 500 gems during the autumn to have a party as a reward.

Gems are given for good behaviour and work. We are delighted to report that Acorns achieved their 500 gems at the end of term and had their party!

We made cakes and biscuits and decorated them. We had such a fun time dancing and playing party games. We would like to thank the mums and dads for signing up and helping out with the party food, which helped to make the party a special celebration.



This term we are going back in time to the Victorian era and thinking about how life was over 150 years ago. We have a time line on the wall in the class and have been looking at all the wonderful inventions that were invented during the Victorian era, eg the telephone, electricity, cars and trains, and learning about how these things have changed since then.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

**Mrs Smith**

### **NEWS FROM OAK CLASS**

Oak Class obviously had a very exciting holiday over Christmas and came back to school buzzing with everything they had done! Now the second term is underway however and the children are getting back into their studies with enthusiasm.

We have just begun our Steaming Ahead project and the children are fascinated by the lives of Victorian children and those poor creatures like Oliver Twist (one of our books for this half term) who ended up in the dreaded Workhouse. We are looking forward to getting ourselves stuck into some Science this half term, looking at electricity, magnetism, light and states of matter.

Our swimming has started for this year and we are off to a great start with children trying hard in their lessons and really enjoying themselves!

We are looking forward to our Doods performance on January 30th at Kings House, Ampthill Rd, and really hoping to see a few friendly faces to cheer us on after all our hard work. I think the children have done a particularly good job of learning their notes and controlling the air they are putting into their mouthpieces and the noise is actually sounding pretty good!

On top of all this we have had a Rugby tournament lately and a gym one to follow later in the term – we do like to get out and about you know!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas!

**Miss Harrison**

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

**Happy New Year from Friends of Willington Lower School.**

We look forward to a very exciting 2017 in our school with much celebration. It is the 150th anniversary of Willington Lower School this year, which represents the end of an era and

also the beginning of a new one; our step forward to even bigger and better things as we join together with Cople Lower School.

We plan to celebrate our 150 years in style with the rest of the community and would love your help in organising such an event. At the moment we are thinking of holding a big street party in the Summer, inviting local residents and ex pupils of the school along to celebrate. However, being a small team, we will need all the help we can get to organise something like this, so if you think you can spare any time to help us, please let one of us know.

We also would like to organise a social event together with Cople school families, so look out for information about this too. If you have any other ideas for the FOWLS team this year, then we would love to hear from you.

**FOWLS - Emma (William and Olivia's mum), Heidi (Acorns teacher), Faye (Gabe and Nate's mum), Katy (Lucas' mum) and Becs (Bailey's mum)**

**SPRING TERM 2017 - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Clubs are taking place on the following days-

**Monday – Football**

**Wednesday – Science**

**Friday – Multiskills & Dodgeball**

Please refer to the booking forms and contact information for details. Please note that the school is partly funding the Science Club in the hope that it will be well supported as it is a fantastic opportunity for the children.

**CONTACT DETAILS REMINDER**

Our email address is  
**office@willingtonlowerschool.org**

Our phone number is 01234  
838280.

The website address is:-  
**www.willingtonschool.education**

**Please let us know if your contact details change!!**

**DIARY DATES:**

<b>Jan '17</b>	
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>	Oaks Class - Performance at Kings House, a letter about this was sent out last week
31 <sup>st</sup>	Oaks Class – trip to Camestone School to watch a performance about Internet Safety, a letter has been sent out about this
<b>FEB</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Number Day – children to come dressed as a number to raise money for charity – more details to follow
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
22 <sup>nd</sup> &23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parents' Consultation Meetings
<b>March</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day – more details to follow
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-10am Donna's Coffee Morning
6 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Resources Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Class Red Cross training
14 <sup>th</sup>	Governor's Curriculum Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup>	No Mad Science Club
20 <sup>th</sup>	Squirrels Assembly 3pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Oaks Assembly 3pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Acorns Assembly 3pm
	Last Mad Science Club of term
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers' Day Morning
28 <sup>th</sup>	Oaks Class Easter Story Trail
	Full Governing Body Meeting
31 <sup>st</sup>	Donna's Coffee Morning
	Last Multiskills Club of term
<b>April</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Last Football Club of term
4 <sup>th</sup>	Church Service. Last day of term
18 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
19 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
	Year 2 Fire Prevention Presentation