



*A Values School*

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

# Newsletter

February 2017  
Issue 45

## OUR VALUE THIS MONTH:

### Helpfulness



**Stars of the Week in January were: Xavier, Imogen, Gabria, Daniel, Bethany (twice), Jake, Oliwia, Sam, Gabe, Matteo, Mim, Bailey, Kai, Harry T, Evie, Lucas, Eden, Fionan and Lizzie.**

The **Values Awards** from The Golden Box draw were won by **Marika** for helping her friend when she hurt her knee, even though Marika had a broken arm! **Archie** for the enthusiasm he showed (by jumping up and down) when telling his teacher he had completed a snakes and ladders challenge; **Elliot** for lending his friend a red pen even though he hadn't finished using it, because his friend was upset and angry that he didn't have one and **Harry T** who really worked his socks off in English for Mrs Savage.

**Bronze Good to be Green Awards** were achieved by all of **Squirrels, William P, Naima, Rebecca, Kai, Harvey, Austin, Bailey and George.**

**Silver Good to be Green Awards** were achieved by **Naima, Rebecca, Kai, Myles, Dylan, Nate, George, Kyle, Harry T, Evan, Fionan, Isobel H, Lelan, Eden, Lizzie, Marika, Lucas, Finlay and Austin.**

**Lunchtime Awards** were earned by **Ella, Kai, Myles and Harvey.**

**Achievements Outside School:** **George** won a trophy for winning go-karting at his party; **Daniel** won a medal for kick boxing, **Gabria** has achieved her Swimming Skills Grade 1 and been awarded a certificate for gaining confidence in dance; **Isobel H** has been awarded a Certificate of Merit for tap dancing; **Rebecca** has been awarded a shield for tap dancing and **Charlie** has gained a shield for rugby discipline.

Well done to everyone, you have been so busy since the last newsletter. Keep up the good work and make sure those certificates and medals keep coming into school so that we can all share in your achievements.

## TAG RUGBY

On 11th January **Fionan, Dylan, George, Evan, Harry, Rebecca and Naima** took part in a tag rugby tournament at Alban School. They didn't win but represented our school with pride.

## GYMNASTICS COMPETITION

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a team of our gymnasts took part in a local schools' competition and we are proud to say that they have progressed to the next round which is the County Finals, being held on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Good luck to them and we will update you on their progress in the next newsletter.

## **NUMBER DAY**

Thanks to all your fantastic support we raised £85 for the NSPCC. We all had an enjoyable day dressing up, eating cakes and doing lots of lovely maths activities!

## **WIDER OPPORTUNITIES PLAY DAY**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Oak Class went to King's House in Bedford to join nearly six hundred other children in playing the instruments which they have been learning over the last fifteen weeks. As usual, they represented our school wonderfully- displaying outstanding behaviour the entire time and demonstrating just how hard they have been working on their DooD skills.

## **PE KIT**

May we please remind all parents that children must have FULL PE KIT in school at all times. The PE lesson for all classes is on a Friday but children will sometimes take part in ad hoc PE lessons throughout the week.

Hair should be tied back for PE lessons, so please provide a hair band as part of your child's PE Kit if necessary. Also may we remind you that NO fashion jewellery is allowed in school. Children wearing earrings will be asked to remove them for PE and studs will be covered with tape, for their own safety.

## **SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS**

Once again we are collecting the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's. The scheme is running at all Sainsbury's stores, petrol stations and when ordering groceries online.

Collecting vouchers enables us to 'buy' a wide variety of playtime and sports equipment for the school, so please bring your vouchers into the school. Remember to ask friends, grandparents and neighbours to donate their vouchers to us as well.

## **MULTI SPORTS CLUB**

A reminder that there is still time to sign up for our Multi-Skill club on a Friday afternoon (after

school). The children who currently participate are really enjoying it, they take part in various activities, mini competitions etc and generally have a fantastic time.

## **FRONTIERS CENTRE ADVENTURE HOLIDAY**

A reminder for the parents and carers of our Year 3 and 4 pupils, if you have chosen to pay by instalments for the Frontiers trip, the first payment of £40 was due by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, with the following payment of £40 due by 24<sup>th</sup> March and the final payment of £30 due by 28<sup>th</sup> April.

## **UPDATE ON MERGER**

The statutory notice period of our proposed school changes ended on February 10<sup>th</sup> and we now await Council confirmation in early March.

Helen Johnson will now start working on our new school identity. What will we be called? What should our uniform be? What are our vision and values? She would like your ideas and input on these matters and will be forming a group made up of representatives of pupils, parents and staff from both existing schools to help gather these ideas. If you would be interested in being involved in this, please let the office know.

## **COFFEE MORNINGS**

Donna Gower's next coffee morning will be held in Care Club on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March (please note this has changed from 3<sup>rd</sup> March) Donna 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.

## **NEWS FROM SQUIRRELS**

This month I suddenly realised that we are half way through the year; how time flies when you are having fun! The Squirrels are all making excellent progress and we are very proud of their achievements since starting school in September.

We are now moving on from our topic about winter and looking at houses and homes. We have been investigating materials and decided to test the strength of our buildings by trying to blow them down (as in the story of the Three Little Pigs). Little did I know when I did my planning that I had chosen to do this on the windiest day of the year! We all had great fun testing the strength of wood, bricks, straws and sticks. We decided bricks made the best building materials but the houses made from paper would not be a good idea as they blew all over the place!

**Mrs Staley**

### **WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGES**

Winners this month include:

**Oaks:** Eden, Fionan and Harry.

**Acorns:** Ella and Oliwia Glinka

**Certificates:** Marika, Olivia Owen, Camille, Austin, Isobel, Allanah and Miss McTernan!

### **NEWS FROM ACORN CLASS**

Acorns have been writing reports this week and they would like to tell you in their own words what they have been doing.

#### **Sports competitions**

*I went to the sports club multi-skill competition, it was fun. We had to lie on our tummies and then get up and run. We had to jump over a hurdle as many times as we could and it was so tiring. We came 3rd out of lots of other schools.*

**By Elliot**

*I went to the sports and I played kick the cone down with the ball. We played pass the ball and we played running to the end of the course. We played everything and we had lots of fun. We came third.* **By Sam**

#### **Gymnastics Competition**

*I did a gymnastics competition, we had to do difficult things. We came third in the Competition and we went through to the finals.*

**By Lacey**

*I went to the Gym competition, before the competition we had to practise the routine lots. We came third.* **By Olivia Owen**

#### **Number Day**

*We had our mums come in. We played board games and a number game and who want to be a millionaire. At break time our mums left and we had cake.* **By Lily**

*It was number day, we had cake and we played games. I won the first game. We ran around the playground and had cake.* **By Emmi**

#### **Our Victorian Topic**

*We were learning about Queen Victoria. She had a husband called Prince Albert but she called him Bertie for short.* **By Harry**

*We learned about the Victorian era, we learned about bathing machines, Mary Seacole, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The bathing machine helped the ladies from showing their ankles, it was so rude to show your ankles in them days.*

**By Gabe**

*Year One and Two learned about Victorians. We learned about Mary Seacole. Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica. Mary Seacole went to England she wanted to be a nurse but they didn't let Mary Seacole because she had different coloured skin. But Mary Seacole didn't give up. Mary Seacole helped soldiers then the soldiers gave Mary Seacole money to say thank you.* **By Sebastian**

As you can see we have had a fun and exciting month and the children are really enjoying our topic on Victorians

**Mrs Smith**

### **NEWS FROM OAK CLASS**

This month has been very busy in Oak Class!

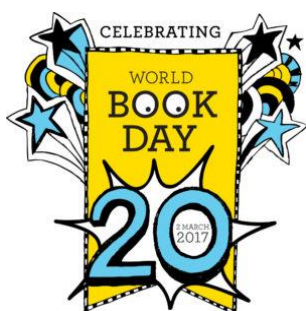
The children are loving their swimming lessons at Saxon Pool and are a credit to us, the pool staff even commented on how beautifully behaved Oak Class are and look forward to us

coming, (we could have told them that of course!).

We were lucky enough to be invited to watch an e-safety performance which was lots of fun and had the children rolling in the aisles, a great way to remember how to treat one another online.

The big news this month, however, was our DooDs concert. We were extremely proud of Oak Class who not only performed to the best of their ability in front of a very large audience but also behaved impeccably during a very long day with lots of waiting in the wings for our chance to shine. Not an easy thing to do for anyone, let alone when you are only Year 3/4 so again, well done to our lovely children!

**Miss Harrison**



**We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March with a Curriculum Day in school.**

**Mixed age groups will be taking part in different fun activities in each class room.**

**Children are invited to bring in their favourite book (clearly labelled).**

**The School Council will also be giving away prizes for children who read the most pages, within each year group, in a week (see the recently sent out letter for further details.)**

## DIARY DATES

<b>February</b> 27 <sup>th</sup>	150 Years Celebrations – Planning Meeting 6pm
<b>March</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day Activities – parents invited to share stories at 3pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Governors’ Resources Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Class Red Cross training
10 <sup>th</sup>	9-10am Donna’s Coffee Morning
14 <sup>th</sup>	Governor’s Curriculum Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup>	No Mad Science Club
20 <sup>th</sup>	Gym County Finals 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 and Comic Relief
28 <sup>th</sup>	Oaks Class Easter Story Trail Full Governing Body Meeting
31 <sup>st</sup>	9-10am 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 9.30am. Last day of term
18 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
19 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school Year 2 Fire Prevention Presentation
20 <sup>th</sup>	Frontiers Meeting for Year 4 Parents 3.45pm at Willington
<b>May</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	May Bank Holiday
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kwik Cricket Tournament
15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4s to Frontiers Residential Trip
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Governors Resources Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos Frontiers Meeting for Year 3 Parents 3.45pm at Cople
26 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of half term
<b>June</b> 5 <sup>th</sup>	Training day
6 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school