



Wanborough Primary School NEWSLETTER

ISSUE
1
Sept '16

Diary Dates

Dear Parents,

I hope the first couple of weeks back have been enjoyable, if a little hectic, getting back into the routine of school life! For those new families joining the school, may I once again welcome you - we endeavour to send out a newsletter on a monthly basis, with copies always available on the school website. Our school website is regularly updated with the latest news in the school, future events and key documents.

Moving into 2016/17 there are a couple of changes I would like to inform you of. Firstly, we will be having six sessions throughout the year (one each term) where you will have an opportunity to come into school and look through your child's books with them. In terms where there are Parent Evenings these sessions will be a few days prior to that evening (although books will also be available on these nights). On these occasions you will also be able to discuss with your child the targets they have been set by their Class Teacher.

Secondly, Report Cards will now be sent home three times a year at the end of Terms 2, 4 and 6. There will of course be an Annual Report which will be sent home in July.

Finally, may I thank the PTA for all of their hard work last year. There is a PTA News update attached, and as you may read they are desperate for some help as the numbers are very low for a school with 205 children. Over the last few years, and before my time here, the children and staff have been very fortunate to benefit from the extra resources the PTA have provided. This has included new screens for classrooms, play equipment, I pads, lap tops, chairs and so much more. All this in a period where school budgets are minimal for such items and under increasing pressure. Furthermore, the events held have contributed immensely to the community element of being associated with a school. Therefore if you could help in any way please let me know or any other member of the committee.

Thank you.

Regards,

Andrew Doney

Junk!

Year 1 have a 'Wow' day coming up so if you have any junk at home (i.e. cardboard boxes, cartons, bottles etc.) please save it and hand it in to Miss Corbyn.



Are your mornings a bit rushed?.....

.....if so, why not take advantage of our popular Breakfast Club which is available Mon-Fri between 7.30am and 8.20am. For £3.75 children have the choice of fruit, toast or cereals and a drink. They are then looked after until school starts, and there is always plenty to do including various games, crafts, using the computers or just socialising with friends. You can book daily, weekly or termly by contacting the school office or using the booking form available on the school website.

Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies:

- Mid-day Supervisor Assistant
- Clerk to Governors

Please contact the school office if you are interested in either of these roles.

Out of School Achievements



Well done to Joshua and Toby who recently completed a 2 mile walk at Wilton House in aid of Parkinson's UK. The boys raised a fantastic £90 which will be used to help find a cure & improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.



Congratulations to Willow who recently competed in a Roller Skating competition in Bolton. She came 1st in her 'Duo' team, and 6th in 'Dance'. She said she was very nervous as the floor was very slippery and there were lots of people! Well done Willow.

Wed 21st Sept

Year 1 'WOW' Medieval Day

Mon 26th Sept - 6pm - 7.30pm

EYFS Curriculum Evening for Rec Parents

Fri 30th Sept

School Photos

Thurs 13th Oct - 9.30am

Harvest Service @ St Andrews Church

Wed 19th and Fri 21st Oct

Parent Consultation Evening for Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3, and Y5 - *details to follow*

Mon 17th Oct - 3pm - 4.30pm

Book Viewing

w/c Mon 24th Oct

Half Term

Mon 31st Oct and Wed 2nd Nov

Parent Consultation Evening for Y4 and Y6 - *details to follow*

Thurs 15th Dec - 9.30am

Christmas Service @ St Andrews Church

Fri 16th Dec

Whole School Panto Trip

w/c Mon 19th Dec

End of Term

Teacher Training Days

2016 / 2017

1st / 2nd Sept / 3rd Jan / 5th June / 21st July



Some Reminders from the School Office

Contact Details

Please let the office know if any of your contact details have changed recently, i.e. email address/mobile etc. as we regularly use these as a form of communication. Please note that although you are able to reply to texts from the school, the inbox is not checked on a regular basis so please do not use it as a means of communication with the school.

Medical Details

Don't forget that it is your responsibility to keep the school informed of any changes to your child's medical details held within school. If we hold any medication in school for your child, including inhalers, it is your responsibility to ensure we have them and they are in date.

School Meals

School meal orders should be with the school office by the Friday of the week before the meal is required. Please ensure you go through the menu with your child to ensure they like the meals you are ordering. As a general rule, children are not permitted to change their mind on a morning from Hot Dinner to Jacket Potato or vice versa (this is so that parents can rest assured that their child is receiving the varied choice of meals they ordered).

Free School Meals

If you meet any of the criteria below you may be able to apply for Income-Based free school meals. Even if you do not want your child to receive a free meal, the school will receive additional funding for your child (£1320 per child per year) which can then be used for things like 1:1 tuition, subsidising school trips/clubs etc.

- *Income Support; (or Guaranteed Pension Credit for over 60 years)*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Child Tax Credit, (but not Working Tax Credit) and who have a yearly taxable income of less than of £16,190*
- *An Income Related Employment & Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*

For a discreet conversation regarding Free School Meals please contact the school office on 790269.

PTA News

School Fete

It all seems such a long time ago now! We'll have the final figure at our AGM – more about that later – but we believe the event raised around £3,300 with another £500 expected from Nationwide and £350 from Vodaphone as part of their employee matched fund-raising schemes. We were badly hit by the Great British Weather postponing school Sports Day until after the Fete; we normally do very well at this event picking up parents and grandparents to help on our stalls and buy raffle tickets. After some frantic pleading for helpers, with people still volunteering right up to the wire, we held our biggest Fete yet in terms of stalls and attractions. And the weather was kind to us! It did feel like attendance was possibly down on previous years though.

Many thanks to all the local businesses who donated goods and services, people who volunteered their time to help and everyone who came on the day and make it a great event. A special thank you must go to Stratton Fire Fighters who only found out the day before that they could join us and gamely got roped in (see what I've done there?) for our Tug of War. They did ask us to remind parents to consider how they park on the Beanlands, as cars parked close to the traffic calming chicane resulted in damage to the exhaust as they squeezed through the gap – they did say that if they were on an emergency call a car would probably have been damaged.

Wanborough Fun Run

Many thanks to the organisers of the Wanborough Fun Run who kindly donated £250 to the PTA. It was a brilliant event, blessed by one of the sunny days of this summer and there was a good turn-out from the school. We'd especially like to thank Sue Smith and Mandy Ridler for running their after-school coaching session for the children to get them prepared.

The Great Wanborough Treasure Hunt

Congratulations to our 3 prize winners! In 1st place we have the Rendell Family; in 2nd place the Crossley-Griffiths and in 3rd place Elizabeth Whitcher. Their cash prizes will be winging their way to them and we'll put all of the answers on the school website. Many thanks to all who took part – tricky wasn't it? But hopefully enjoyable! And special thanks to the Post Office and The Harrow for selling the entry forms for us.

Wanborough Show, Saturday 20th August

Many thanks to all who came along to our stall at the show and special thanks to the Show Committee for allowing us to make use of an abandoned pitch in the marquee to have some respite from the weather! We've had a number of small fund-raising activities over the summer holidays and we'll report on how much they made in the next update and at our AGM. Some of us are finding it difficult to get out of holiday mode!

Where the Money Goes

The money raised by the Fete means we now have enough money to purchase the remaining 21 laptops that the school wanted. We're currently investigating the best deal and hope to have these in school this month.

The Walker family won a competition held by Karen's employer, Nationwide Building Society. The prize included £2,500 that could be donated to the charity of their choice. They chose to donate the money to the PTA and the money has been used to purchase the climbing frame that the School Council had their eye on. It was installed over the summer holidays and has had a lot of use in the lovely weather we've been having at the start of the new term.

And Then There Were Five...

Sadly, four parents on the PTA Committee have decided that they need to step down. Many thanks to them for all of their hard work and dedication over the years. Unfortunately, that currently leaves us with only 5 parents on the PTA – alongside the 2 school representatives – Mr Drury and Mrs Rendell, which we feel is not viable. The Committee also includes parents with children in year 6 so this will be their last year. We need to have a succession plan so that new committee members can get involved and take the PTA forward. We are lucky to have a network of volunteers who lend a hand at our big events – but to function effectively a core spine of a Committee is needed to plan and organise the fund raising events.

To put it bluntly, in order to continue we do need more parents to get involved - ideally to join our committee and/or to help organise events. Hopefully you know what we do – we try to enhance the school – organising social events for both the children and their parents. Along the way we try to raise additional funds for the school and this year we've bought chairs, gardening equipment and a shed, 268 reading books, 60 dictionaries, 35 laptops, softball kit and a new climbing frame! So, all very impressive, but ... WE NEED YOU!

What's In It For Me?

I can't speak for the rest of the Committee, but the big thing for me is that I know I make a difference. I can see we make a difference! With my PTA role I'm one of the lucky ones who sometimes gets to stand in front of over 200 children and tell them what the PTA are doing and see how excited that makes them. I get to see the teachers make use of the interactive whiteboards which we helped purchase. They're fabulous – how did the school manage without them before? I feel proud of what we've achieved. I've had a lot of fun along the way and made some good friends. I've learnt some new skills and re-awakened old ones that I haven't used in years. I feel appreciated. I get to meet Fire Men! I lose 3% of my body fat every time we run a Fete – despite the cake, hotdogs and Pimms and having no time to go the gym that week – sadly this seems to go back on shortly thereafter! Even my children say they're proud of what I do with the school (but that probably won't last for much longer – difficult age!).

All of the committee have jobs, demanding families, other things that we should be doing, other halves that don't always understand and lots going on in their lives. I'm sure we would sometimes rather just turn up at an event and enjoy it with our children. But we realise that without us, there would be no event to enjoy in the first place.

So I Might Be Interested...

In which case talk to one of the committee – Guy Simmonds, Karen Walker, Sarah Jones, Anna Jefferd, Tracy Hutchings, Mrs Rendell or Mr Drury to find out more. Or email us on contactpta@wanboroughprimary.org A bit of energy, enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference and get the best for our children goes a long way with us! Or come along to our AGM and join us for a glass of wine as we reflect on last year and look ahead to this! You're under no obligation. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated and we have lots of different tasks that need doing – from chasing down Scholars commission payments to finding the best deal on 21 laptops! From making sure someone's going to be cooking the sausages to leading a whole event. Ironically the stuff that probably sounds the most daunting can be the easiest because we've documented how to run a Film Night, Disco or Fete – having enough people to share the tasks is the difficult bit! Plus, you might have ideas that would make it even better! We have monthly meetings (in a pub – do you spot the theme?) but most of what we do is via email or even in passing at the school gate, so not being able to come to meetings shouldn't be seen as a problem.

PTA AGM, Monday 26th September, 7.30pm

This is taking place immediately after the Reception Open Evening, so if you're there, why not stay on afterwards and find out more about what we do and our plans for the coming year – new committee members permitting! And we're not just after 'new' parents; those of you who have children who've been at the school for a while have lots of experience to offer. With the feedback from the PTA questionnaire which went to parents earlier this year, we have a better idea of what parents want – we just need to find more people to help make them happen. Plus, we know there will be new ideas out there – and we'd love to hear them. Especially if you want to be part of making them a reality! We hope we see you there!

Future Events

Monday 26th September, 7.30pm – PTA AGM

Thursday 10th November – Bags2School – unwanted clothes, bags and soft toy collection

Friday 11th November – Reception & Key Stage 1 Disco

Saturday 28th January – Quiz Night

Thank you all for your continued support.