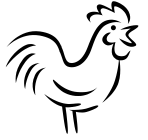




Wisbech St Mary School News



Weekly Newsletter No.24

Friday 4th September 2015

Any questions? Anything you need to tell us about? Any feedback on aspects of the school?
Let us know via talktohead@wisbech-st-mary.cambs.sch.uk 24/7, the office or your class teacher.

Welcome Back

Where did the six weeks go? I hope you all had a lovely summer, I spent a couple of weeks on a boat on the river, which was very relaxing and I even managed to read a book that wasn't education related! I know we are all very proud of our school and during the holiday Mr Sandall has been busy repairing, painting and tidying our school. I'm sure you will all have noticed the wall around the school which is a massive improvement. Inside the school the library has moved to the Hub and we have a new small group teaching area in the hallway.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for this term, please check your emails, texts, the school website and your children's bags, as lots of information will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Our school diary at the end of our newsletter will be updated every week to give you as much notice of events as possible.

The staff and I are really looking forward to working with you in the coming academic year, please make sure you talk to us about all your good experiences and let us know how we can improve. Half termly Parent Forums will continue, please let me know if you would like these to be in the evening rather than during the school day, using the contact details at the top of the page.

I'm sure I will catch up with you on the gate or at our events, I am really looking forward to the coming year and working with you and your children.

School Choir at the Royal Festival Hall



Wow!! What a fabulous day!!!! We set off from school at 7:30am, bleary eyed and excited. Seeing all the countryside pass by the coach window was lovely and entering London with its iconic landmarks was wonderful.

The Royal Festival Hall was buzzing with thousands of children and their supporters. We made our way to our allocated stage position – right at the front!! The morning and afternoon was an intensive rehearsal as all the schools had learnt different parts of the songs and now we had to put them together! At lunch break we sat in the sun

under the London Eye and then walked along the Embankment and went on the wobbly Millennium Bridge!!

We changed into our bright orange Barnardos Children's Concert T shirts and the performance was on. I thought I would burst with pride.... Our children exploded into performance mode - who would have thought we had such talent. Singing with a thousand other children was magical. A packed audience gave us a massive standing ovation. What an experience..... Still buzzing, we boarded the coach home at about 9:15pm and immediately fell asleep. Our coach arrived back at WSM at 12:15am and we sleepily made our way home after a wonderful day. See official photos of us at http://www.hiskett.net/Events/Barnardos-Concert-July-2015/50818994_4tfMZH#!i=4226192630&k=fnPq3T6 . The concert raised £25 thousand pounds for Barnardos Children's Charities.

Changes to the school day from September

Back in June information was sent with the newsletter regarding proposed changes to the school day. This has been well received by parents, carers, staff and governors, and as from September the school day will be as below:

School gates open 8:30 am
School doors open 8:40 am
Start of school day 8:50 am
End of school day 3:15pm

This will mean that children will be in school and ready to begin learning promptly at 8:50am.

Breakfast Club will continue to start at 8:00am.

After school clubs will be from 3:15 – 4:15pm.

If you child attends circuits (names to be confirmed in September) these will begin at 8:20am.

Administration

Forms will be sent home this week so that you can let us know about medical needs, collection from school and our home/school agreement. Please complete them and return them to school so that we have the information we need to support you and your children.

School Uniform

We encourage all pupils to wear school uniform as it gives a sense of community and belonging, allowing you to keep your children's individual clothes for home events. Please ensure your child has comfortable and suitable footwear and clothing for the day. Painted nails and make up are not part of our school uniform as they may prevent your child from joining in with cooking and hands on activities due to health and safety policies (if you would like to discuss this please make an appointment to see me).

We endeavor to get outside whenever possible to enjoy our wonderful environment, please ensure your child has suitable footwear and weather appropriate clothing, so that they can make the most of these learning opportunities.

With Autumn looming please consider suitable PE clothing for your child, tracksuits, leggings, sweatshirts, trainers are all advisable for weekly outdoor PE as the temperature drops.

Earrings will need to be removed for PE lessons, new earrings will need to be covered with tape. A simple watch and stud earrings are suitable jewellery for school. Please contact me if you have any religious or cultural requirements and would like to discuss this.

Swimming

I feel passionate about children learning to swim, especially living in this area of the country. We have therefore timetabled all children in the school to have swimming lessons this year. Year 4 are starting

us off at short notice, on Monday 7th September. We are swimming on alternate Monday and Wednesday mornings, which isn't ideal but this was the only way we can all get to swim during the year. Letters will be sent home in advance of your class lessons, we are asking for a contribution of £2 per week towards the cost of the coach, which we hope you feel is reasonable to support your children learning to swim.

Sports provision

We welcome Shaun, our Premier Sports coach, who is joining us for 3 ½ days a week, to deliver high quality PE lessons with our fabulous Teaching Assistants, whilst our class teachers have their statutory Planning and Preparation time. He will also be running our Multisport after school clubs and will be organising exciting lunchtime games and activities with our midday supervisors. Combined with our whole school swimming programme we will have a truly outstanding Physical Education provision.

After School Clubs

We have a fantastic range of after school clubs on offer this year.

Mr Albutt is starting a school football team for Yr 4,5,6 boys and girls, so come after school on Monday 7th September to see if you enjoy it. We are going to be joining the Wisbech Schools League. Our new Premier Sports PE coaches will be running KS1 and 2 multisports clubs and a dance club (for KS2 this term), starting week commencing 14th September.

St Mary's Explorers, will begin on Monday 14th September, run in conjunction with St Mary's church, it will provide a wide range of activities linked to the school curriculum.

Choir will begin again this week with another mega performance planned!!!!

Learn the Ocarina with Ms Oliver if you are in KS1, week commencing 14th September.

There will also be lunchtime clubs as the term enters autumn.

PTA

I would very much like to restart the PTA this academic year. It has been a fantastic asset to WSM and I am looking forward to personally supporting its fund raising activities for our school. I would like to arrange a meeting on Friday 11th September at 2pm to assess interest. If you are unable to attend but are interested in helping in whatever capacity please let me know via the usual methods. Evening meetings can be arranged if this suits everyone.

Attendance

Thank you to all families for their support in ensuring attendance of children at school. Please take note of the new school times to ensure your child is not late this year.

It was fabulous to see all of you returning to school on Friday, I hope you enjoyed the fun activities your teachers had prepared for you and know what the expectations are for all of us during the coming year.

The Attendance Policy is available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Nina Redhead

Mrs. Nina Redhead – Headteacher

Diary Dates 2015/ 2016 (New events in BOLD)

04.09.15	Children return to school
11.09.15	PTA meeting – 2pm
06.10.15	Ely Cathedral day for y6
26.10.15 – 30.10.15	Half term holiday
2.11.15	Back to school 9am
7.11.15	WSM Firework Night Celebrations
18.12.15	End of Autumn term 3:15pm(Teacher Training Day)
4.01.16	Teacher Training Day
5.01.16	Back to school 8:50am
15.2.16 – 19.2.16	Half term
24.03.16	End of Spring Term
11.04.16	Teacher Training Day
12.04.16	Back to school Summer Term 8:50am
2.05.16	May Day holiday
30.05.16 – 3.06.16	Half Term
6.06.16	Teacher Training Day
7.06.16	Back to school 8:50 am
21.07.16	School closes for Summer 3:15pm