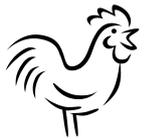




# Wisbech St Mary School News



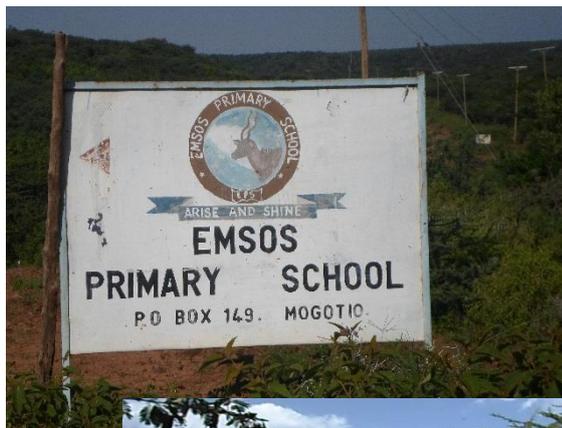
Weekly Newsletter No.39

Friday 22nd January 2016

**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](mailto:talktohead@wisbech-st-mary.cambs.sch.uk) 24/7, the office or your class teacher.**

## Support for students in Kenya

As a school we are working with Father Matthew at St Mary's Church to support pupils to have a better education at EMSOS Primary School in Kenya. Before Christmas we were able to donate £450 from funds raised at our events. This money bought much needed desks and seats for a whole classroom at the school, as can be seen in the photos sent from the school by its leader, Ezeikiel. As you can see their classrooms are very different from ours but they wanted me to pass on their thanks for improving their learning environment.



### **OFSTED Report Parent Meeting**

See minutes attached

### **Parent Forum**

Please join us for a coffee and discuss current activities and actions within school at 2pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January in school. We will also have an update on Parents Forum events planned.

### **Bad Weather**

Please can you ensure that your child has a coat with them every day as a chilly wind does blow across our school grounds at this time of year. We endeavor to take the children outside for breaks whenever possible. Hats and gloves in school are also advisable. If we have snow, and you would like your child to be able to play on the field in it at break times, please provide wellies and a change of indoor shoes. School closures will be advertised on local radio stations, on the Cambridgeshire County Council website and at the school gate/ office.

### **Internet Safety**

We have overheard and been told by a small number of children that they are viewing or playing a computer game called Five Nights At Freddy's. We have researched this game and also contacted the Local Authority e-safety team, as the children's play, which mimics this game, seemed rather inappropriate. The game has a suggested rating of 15+ as it includes scenes of extreme violence and frightening content. On initial inspection the game looks innocent as the characters are furry animals but a longer experience shows some very violent and unexpected scenes. If you suspect that your child is watching or playing this game please familiarise yourself with its content so that you are fully aware, as it is not recommended for viewing by pupils of Primary age range. We are obviously not trying to interfere with decisions made at home but felt that we should highlight this to parents who may not be fully informed about this game.

### **Attendance for this week:**

Gold is awarded jointly to Godfrey & Clarkson Class with 99.2%.

Silver is awarded to Octavia Class with 98.2%

Bronze is awarded to Mowbray Class with 95.6%.

Winner of the 100% attendance pencil this week is Tia

House Team winner is St Walston house.

Yours sincerely,

*Nina Redhead*

Mrs. Nina Redhead – Headteacher

Diary Dates 2015/ 2016 (New events in BOLD)

29.1.16	<b>Parents Forum 2pm</b>
29.1.16	<b>Choir to the O2 in London to sing</b>
15.2.16 – 19.2.16	Half term
23.2.16	Y4 trip - Peterborough Museum and Mosque
24.2.16	Year 5 to Thomas Clarkson Academy - English day
25.2.16	Parents Forum meeting - 2 pm
29.2.16	Year 5 & 6 to Cadbury World
3.3.16	World Book Day
4.3.16	Year 5 & 6 Collective Worship – 9am parents & families welcome
11.3.16	Year 2 Collective Worship – 9am parents & families welcome
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
9.05.16-12.05.16	Year 6 SAT's tests (please do not book holidays or appointments during this week)
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

# To Contribute - To Respect - To Achieve - To Value

- Welcome by NR
- Covering letter – report highlighted positive impact on chn’s well being, they feel safe in school, improved behaviour, caring place to be as said by random selection of chn, chn are well informed about bullying which is dealt with well, chn's conduct is good (discussed difference between behaviour on playground and behaviour for learning), good EYFS.
- Clarified outcomes – historic data cannot be changed but report states that chn are now making expected progress.
  - Q – What progress is expected in Y6 if chn achieve below expected in Y2? Each individual is supported to achieve their potential
  - Q – what was the data for last year’s Y6 and Y2? Stated in report on page 5, declined in 2014/15.
  - Q – How can we tell progress is improving if we have not had this year's SATs yet? We evidence progress daily and drop data every half term to monitor in year progress. Change in SATs must be taken into consideration. Inspector (who is highly experienced) and moderated data along with his team.
- Q – What data was looked at? Books throughout the school, triangulation, spoken to chn, compared beginning of September to now (teaching over time). This is backed up by the assessment system that the school has implemented.
- Phonics last year showed major improvement.
- Assessment takes place every day so that progress is not measured solely on a snapshot test. Parent- Some students perform better on a test than others.
- Four areas for improvement – improve quality of teaching, raise standards in maths, reading and writing, positive attitudes to learning, develop leaders and governors.
- Big changes in January 2014 in terms of staffing and governors. Assistant Headteachers and Early Years Foundation Stage leader began roles in September.
- Rachel Beeson ( Diocese of Ely) – unusual for an inadequate school to have areas of good. Inspectors took a long time before making their decision and it was the limiting factor of data that tipped us from Requires improvement to inadequate.
- Report states that we did not have the time from January to May to close the gap needed.
- Q – How can I be sure that my individual child is getting what he needs when the report says about poor planning, low expectations, quality of teaching? Val Palmer (Local Authority) – quality of Teaching & Learning is RI. County will develop a high level plan based on the four areas of improvement which included details about how we will raise standards. This plan has been in place this year and the school has made significant progress already. Plan clearly address action points and these are monitored rigorously by monthly Local Authority Intervention Groups. Inspectors acknowledged the journey that the school has been on throughout this plan. Many professionals are involved in assisting this plan. LA plan will pass over to DEMAT when we become an academy.
- VP – the only part that is inadequate is outcomes in the past. Two children missing the grade meant we did not hit national average in July 2015. Everything else is RI. Progress is improving, at least age related.
- RB – pressure is on the school to improve.
- Q – what will our chn see differently in the classroom? NR – improvements already since Jan, improved behaviour, journey has been going on since Jan. 86% of our teaching is good or better. You can see progress when you look at books.
- Report states that curriculum has already been developed and is now more inspiring. If teaching is inspiring in every class, we will be good or outstanding.
- Parent – we are aware of the improvements that have been made but it is still concerning to see a judgement of inadequate. I want to be confident that things will improve. Practical examples? RB – 1:1 mentoring, consultancy, school to school. Should this not make an impact, then there are systems to deal with this.

# To Contribute - To Respect - To Achieve - To Value

- Booster groups and additional support are already in place for this year's SATs, which also happened last year.
- RB – booster groups are put in in each year group as required. The SLT discuss all chn at Pupil Progress Meetings and analyse what the gaps are. Support is then put in place. Parents will be involved in this process should progress not be achieved.
- RB – school are creative in the ways that they provide additional support – I have seen this in action.
- NR – we are always accountable to LA and govs but we are robustly monitoring in school on a daily basis.
- RB – it is unusual to see so many staff members here tonight. It shows that they are confident in how the school will improve. All four agree that NR has the capacity to lead the school forward as an excellent practitioner.
- NR – report states that NR has the capacity to continue to lead the school forward.
- VP – difference between serious weaknesses and special measures – school has shown improvement and shows capacity to continue to improve and move forward. Support will remain in place and diminish as the school improves.
- NR – I have come from a school that moved from inadequate to good in 18 months and I am here to do the same thing here.
- Q – when will they come back? RB – HMI monitoring visit this term to see how we are progressing against the four improvement points in the report. A short letter will be issued stating how school are progressing against the action points. When will be the next visit? RB – All schools will become an academy. Some schools are putting their head in the sand about this but WSM have researched available academies and made the decision themselves to move to DEMAT before Ofsted. Hopeful that the handover date will be April 1<sup>st</sup>. This will mean that schools become a fresh school with five terms to get where they need to be. However, monitoring will be in place frequently by DEMAT. Regional commissioner for academies will send in inspector like Ofsted to monitor, HMI will remain involved.
- Ofsted will be back in five terms.
- Open door policy, parent forum, front gate, make an appointment if concerned, we are always available to talk about your chn.
- JC (Chair of Governors) closed meeting at 6.40pm.