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**'...where we all matter.'**

Head Teacher's News Letter

February 2016

As the cold weather creeps in, it's time to close the school for a week of respite. It's been a busy half term and we're all ready for a break to recharge the batteries.

**Teaching and Learning**

As a staff, we are targeting the areas highlighted in our School Inspection report. We have bought in 'Maths of the Day' which engages children in their maths learning alongside physical activity. Mrs McGhie and Miss Phillips have already been using the ideas and resources in their teaching and the children seem both excited and highly motivated in their maths learning when taking part.

Writing has been a big focus this half term. Mrs McGhie has set up a Writer's Assembly to recognise super writing. We have introduced 'free writing' once a fortnight, giving the children the opportunity to be authors of their own writing book and write about things they are interested in, whether it be poetry, stories, reports, factual recounts...Ofsted noted that some children had already caught the writing bug...we hope it's infectious!

Ofsted recognised our 'beautiful' and remarkable' learning journey books as 'shining like a beacon in the school' and the children continue to be fully engaged with our creative cross curricular learning.

We have competed in two competitions so far this term: Dodge-ball and basketball. Whilst we didn't win, we played well and competed brilliantly. Our Dodge-ball team was Will K (Y6) Daisy, Charlie, Joe, Harry, Aoife, Jasmine and Melissa (Y5). Our Basketball team was Will K, Adam, Andra, Jacob, Molly P, Tiegan, Ruby, Sam and Corey (Y6). I heard all about Ruby's basket in this week's basketball competition! Super shooting, Ruby!

We look forward to competing in competitions with local schools again this next half term with the support of Sportscape, Mrs Winward and Miss Phillips.

**Swimming** – Y5 are enjoying their swimming lessons and will continue up to the Easter break.

**Homework**

The expectations on all children have risen with the new curriculum. It is vitally important that your child develops a really good reading habit and reads a healthy diet of books. This only happens when children are encouraged to read daily and get hooked into books. Learning spellings and times tables is essential.

All homework should be completed to a good or better standard and brought to school on the right day. Homework is used to introduce, consolidate or extend the learning undertaken in class. MyMaths has lots of learning opportunities including the 'Booster' packs and the 'Lessons', which children are able to do alongside their set MyMaths homework.

**Educational Visits and Curriculum Enrichment**

Thank you to the people in the village who help us. Base 1 had a walk time visiting the doctor's surgery, the Post Office, the Church and The Cotton Arms. Everyone made the children very welcome. A very big thank you to Ed Forshaw, our governor and long time friend, for organising it for the children and Ms Huntington. They have had lots of visitors in school this half term talking to them about their jobs too.

KS2 had a fantastic theatre visit to the New Vic Theatre to see Robin Hood. It was feast of storytelling, singing and sword fighting! A truly, wonderful, theatrical experience.

Y5 and Y6 will be on countdown to Singfest '16 on Tuesday 22nd March.

**Assemblies and visitors**

Mr Kowtal from the Muslim faith led a very informative and interesting assembly in school at the beginning of the term and the children enjoyed learning about the Muslim faith in workshops he led for Base 3 and 5. We welcomed Reverend Alison to lead an assembly yesterday morning. It is important to note that when we invite visitors of different faiths in and when we teach other faiths in RE we are teaching and learning about the religions. We do not teach from a faith perspective.

**Attendance**

From the start of the new school year to today (12th February), the overall school attendance is 96%. We aim to be above 97%! Well done to bases 2 and 4 for outstanding attendance so far this academic year! Please do your very best to be in school!

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base 1 | Base 2 | Base 3 | Base 4 | Base 5 |
| 95.1% | 97% | 95.1% | 98.2% | 94% |

There have been bouts of lateness into school (after the registration) during the term. Please try and get your child into school between 8:45 and 8:55 am for a prompt and purposeful start to the school day.

Please can you also **be prompt** **in picking up your child at the end of the day or at the end of clubs**. We appreciate that a very occasional lateness may occur. Staff have important commitments/jobs to get on with after school that have to be put on hold if they have to wait with children for late pick-ups. Thank you for your understanding.

**Safeguarding**

We work continuously to safeguard your child.

Do let us know of any changes to home-time arrangements.

**Clothing**

We still have quite a bit of lost property! James in Base 3 lost his jumper this week. He found it really quickly because it was named! Thank you, mum! Labelling clothes is really important for quick returns.

***School Uniform***

We have a school uniform. We don't enforce the wearing of clothing bearing a logo BUT we do expect children to wear our school uniform **at all times**. Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for school. Black shoes should be worn.

***Cold spell***

It's finally here! Please can you ensure your child comes to school with a coat and, if the weather gets even colder, a hat and gloves.

***PE kit***

We would ask that you provide your child with a **red tee shirt** for PE rather than a white one and black shorts. If children wear tracksuit bottoms in the colder weather, they should be black or navy. Having a choice of two colours has become an issue when we have participated in competitions. Our children haven't looked like a complete team and staff have asked for the change. We will expect the change-over to be made by the May half term or earlier if you can. Tee shirts can be bought at very reasonable prices in local supermarkets selling clothing.

**Community Hub School**

The Community Coffee Stop has been up and running again this term. thank you to cath Mansfield for making the refreshments and to Lindsey Hamilton for starting off the Book Swap.

Carol Hill (Cheshire East Rural Community) will be running an **Easter themed craft session** at next month's Coffee Stop on **Tuesday 15th March**. We also have community agent Lisa Gorden, our Police Community Support Officers, Nantwich Children's Centre representative, Thomas Bell ( who does sport/leisure activities and also accommodates children who are disabled and suffer mental health problems) all attending. they will be happy to chat and offer advice or share information.

The Coffee Stop is open to all ages and all are warmly welcome.

We are in the process of organising a Coffee Stop once each half term from 2:30-3:20pm. Information will follow.

**Friends Of Wrenbury School ~ FOWS**

We have to thank FOWS for hosting tonight's Film Night in school ~ If you come along tonight and enjoy yourself, which I'm sure you'll do, then why not pop along to the next meeting and see how you can get involved? There's an old saying: 'Many hands make light work'. A little bit of time and support will make a huge difference to what can be offered.

**Next fundraising event: Junior Bake Off and Easter Eggstravaganza – Sunday 20th March**

FOWS are providing school with a new team kit for competitions thanks to all the fundraising efforts put in and support you give. Thank you.

FOWS will next meet at **The Dusty Miller at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd March.**

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I'm finishing this letter with thank yous! Thank you for the support you have offered the staff and myself this half term and for your kind and thoughtful words of encouragement following our School Inspection. It is reassuring to know that you, like Ofsted, have recognised that Wrenbury is a wonderful school and the hard work that has already been put in to improve the education we offer.

I want to thank your children, who make it a pleasure to come to school. No day is ever the same!

I'd like to thank all of you who volunteer your time and talents, (there are lots of you), to bring those extra special touches to what we offer our children and families, whether it be helping to host at the Coffee Stop, organise the Book Swap, teach children to paint, be a mystery reader, listen to children read, support with the sporting events and more...or give up time to organise and run the fantastic, termly, fundraising events

Thank you to Wrenbury Consolidated Charities for their kind donation of £500. We also took £216 in photograph commission.

Mrs Conroy has made the decision that now is the time to move away from her role as a teaching assistant to pursue her interest in sewing and needlework. (We know she's very good at it - we have some lovely big cushions in our library to prove it!) She has made a big contribution to the learning of pupils past and present at Wrenbury. We thank her for her commitment to the school and all the team wish her well with her new endeavours.

Finally, I'd like to thank the **whole** team at Wrenbury, who have worked hard, supported each other and, not least, kept smiling this half term!

Enjoy a well-earned rest! A little reminder: school will be open for the children on **Tuesday 23rd February.**

Kind regards,

Mrs Cador