



Head Teacher's News Letter
February 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Doesn't time fly! The February half term is already here... and much needed! We've all worked very hard and done our best to fight off all the viruses and bugs out and about so we all need time to relax, recharge and return to full health in readiness for the run up to the Easter break.

Welcome

Since Christmas we have welcomed Lucas and April to Little Wrens and our school family. They have settled well.

Letter

We received a letter from Antoinette Sandbach, our constituency MP, in January congratulating the school on its 2018 KS2 SATS and the improvements made. She wrote, "These figures show the amount of effort that has been undertaken by both pupils and staff and your achievements should not be underestimated. Well done!"

READING

READY, STEADY, READ... Friday 15th – Friday 22nd February

You should all have received a letter and **Sponsored Read** form by now. An assembly was led by Jane Dickinson (Usborne Books representative) on Tuesday to launch our **Sponsored Read** as we lead up to our **Reading Week** starting on Monday 4th March. We are supporting the idea of Sponsored Read because:

- 1) All the money raised will go to buy *new and exciting reading books* for the children across school.
- 2) We want to *enhance the range of books we offer* and can do this with *the additional 60%* of the money raised donated by Usborne *for extra books*.
- 3) Your child will receive *a voucher* valued at half the money they have raised to put towards a book of their choice from Usborne Books.
- 4) *We value reading.*
- 5) We know that giving quality time daily to read can hook a child in to books and a love of reading for pleasure, which is a *wonderful hobby*, and will *support their all-round learning* in so many ways.
- 6) It can give parents/carers and children *quality, quiet, shared time together* – there is nothing better than sitting with a book (magazine, recipe, menu, information book...) and talking about the pictures, talking about a story or something interesting in a factual book, reading to a child or listening to a child read.

Sponsor money raised and your child's form need to be returned to school by 27 February.

Please do support us.

- **Reading Week 4-8 March**

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day and we will all be dressing up as story characters for the day. It would be great if as many children as possible could take part and dress up too.

We are hosting an Usborne Book Fair which will be open to parents from 2.45pm in the school hall.

Teaching and Learning

This last half term has seen some wonderful learning taking place through our whole school theme of water; from life size penguins and polar bears in Little Wrens and Base 1... to shells and sea creatures in Base 2... to the river bank with Base 3... to the local canal with Base 4 ... to the impact on global warming / climate change on sea levels in Base 5. A rich range of knowledge and understanding flowing through school!

For KS 2, the term began with a **theatre visit** to see The Wind in the Willows – a classic tale based on the river bank and the story that has lead Base 3's learning journey this term. Alongside this there has been some fantastic '**field work**' and **local study** work undertaken by Base 4 and Base 5:

Base 4 explored a stretch of very own canal in Wrenbury this week and learned lots of amazing facts with the fantastic support of Heather's mum, Elizabeth Hand, who was able to tell the children some of the history of the Llangollen Canal in Wrenbury and demonstrated how the cantilever road bridge opens to let narrow boats pass. We also thank Mal Edwards MBE, a traditional fender maker, for sharing his trade and information about his narrowboat with the children during the morning.

Base 5 travelled further afield to Carding Mill Valley near Church Stretton for a fantastic day exploring and measuring the river, investigating its wildlife and the natural landscape. A cold but fascinating day of high quality, first-hand learning was enjoyed by all.

Base 3 had a great morning on Tuesday. Mr Butterill, former mayor of Crewe and Nantwich, came in to teach children how to make bird boxes and to understand their importance. I was invited to watch Miss McKinnon put one up in the school grounds to the delight of the children! Thank you Base 3 for supporting our wonderful wildlife!

Attendance: Great progress in learning comes with very good attendance – this is a fact! Since the start of the year, our whole school attendance YR-6 has been **97.3%**!

A fantastic achievement everyone.

Base 1	Base 2	Base 3	Base 4	Base 5
95.6%	97.8%	97.3%	97.1%	98.6%

Please do continue to have your child(ren) in school as much as possible, even with the sniffles. We cannot stress enough how important arriving before 8.55am is for a prompt, uninterrupted start to our day for all children and staff alike.

Parent Partnership

- **Little Wrens parents evenings** were well attended and there was a lot of positive feedback about the school's provision and high praise for Miss Pitchford and Mrs Griffin. Thank you to Miss Pitchford for organising them.
- **Sharing Afternoon** was once again very well attended. Many thanks for your positive feedback and support of the staff.
- **Y6 SATS Reading and Maths meetings** hosted by Mrs Charlesworth were again well received. Thank you to Mrs Charlesworth for offering these opportunities to our parents.
- **Internet Safety information evening-** Thank you to all those who have signed up on Parentmail to attend the Internet Safety event at Pear Tree School on Wednesday 27th February with PC Amy Fletcher. Very worthwhile attending!
- **Special Lunches [£2.30]coming up:**
Tuesday 5th March – Shrove Tuesday 'Pancake Day' – for all children AND **Base 3 Parent Lunch**
Wednesday 20th March – **Base 2 Parent Lunch**
Wednesday 17th April – Easter Lunch – for all children

Community Links – Thank you to...

- **Joe Kelly** for the free cinema tickets for Base 1 and 2 to enjoy a cinema visit early in January. They loved it!
- **Wrenbury Toddler Group (WTG)** and especially to Becky Pass and Lauren Ridgeway for 'hosting' the WTG, every Wednesday 9-11am in School House. All welcome!
- **PC Sharon Jones** our Community Police Officer for hosting a lunch time drop-in for children and a drop-in for parents on Tuesday 22 January.
- **Rev Alison Fulford** for leading an assembly on Monday 4th February.
- **Deaconess Jill Taylor and Kathryn Davies** for leading an assembly on Monday 11th February.
- **Mr and Mrs Cowley and Samantha** for donating the **Ian Cowley Sporting Achievement Trophy** and a donation to school in memory of their son/brother Ian, who sadly died in the Autumn term. He lived in and loved Wrenbury and they wanted him to still be part of the village. The children and our house teams will be competing for the Ian Cowley Sporting Achievement Trophy on Sports Days at Wrenbury in his memory.

Fundraising – Thank you for raising...

- £105.65 for the Poppy Appeal
- £187 for Walking with the Wounded / Help for Heroes

Thank you and well done to...

Laura Midwinter, Eleanor Bracegirdle, Rhys Davies, Marloe, Nancy and Claudia Counce, Emily Robinson, Alfie Walker, Isabella and Sofia Rouke for using their £5 given on Education Sunday (September) by Deaconess Jill Taylor to make a difference and using their talents. We're very proud of you!

I would also like to say a **big thank you** to our regular volunteer support in school: *Mrs Sam Agnew, Mrs Heather Pitchford, Mrs Jenny Bourne, Mrs Cath Mansfield, Mrs Caroline Hughes and Mr George Hodgkinson*. Their help in school is much appreciated, as is the support we receive from parents on visits.

Many thanks for your continued support of myself and all the Wrenbury Team.
Have a relaxing half term break.

**School opens
Monday 25 February
NO INSET!**

