



Warden Hill Primary School

2016-17 Newsletter 5

Autumn 2016
Issue 5

Thursday 24th
November

Coming Tomorrow
Christmas Fayre
5:00pm

New Report Format

This autumn the report you will receive from your child's class will look slightly different.

We have retained the section on attitudes to learning and a general comment from the class teacher. However, there will not be a child's comment on their own learning this time although we intend to include it on a report later in the year.

There is a grid that shows how your child is progressing against a national sample of children and a pictorial representation of their attendance. Both these sections are generated by the school's tracking system which the teachers use to input information regarding the areas of the curriculum your child is working towards or achieving. There are also targets that are based on the next steps in the year's curriculum.

Mon	
Tue	Year 5 class assembly 2:45 Netball vs Glenfall
Wed	All Year 4 - coffee morning 9:00. class assembly 2:45 and PGL meeting 3:20
Thu	Coding day for KS2 children Reports out
Fri	Reception nativity No merit Mark assembly

Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) News

Over the past year, Warden Hill Primary School, Pate's Grammar School and Greatfield Park Primary have been working closely together to move towards Multi-academy status.

This work has included close cooperation between school senior leaders including governors, business managers and head teachers as well as other school leadership members, teachers and other school staff.

This work has produced many favourable outcomes and has increased the commitment of most involved that it will lead to positive developments for all, especially the children of Cheltenham.

However, a legal/constitutional issue has arisen, between the Full Governing Body of Pate's Grammar School, the Members of the school and the Pate's Foundation, which has caused a significant impairment to the process of conversion.

As such, and with considerable regret for the majority of parties, it has been decided to stop the process of the three schools converting to MAT status.

Warden Hill Primary School leadership believes this agenda still holds a great deal of benefit for the school and will continue to explore possibilities whilst proceeding with the existing school status for the immediate future. We also feel that many of the positives for the three schools, emanating from the process over the past year, can be built on and extended further, even without a formal amalgamation and intend to pursue that wherever possible.

Children in Need

The children looked 'spotacular' on Children in Need day last Friday. There were games and competitions for all to take part in. The 'spotty' quiz was very well answered (some of the answers were interesting!), and some of the younger children had clearly taken great care in writing out the answers themselves - so well done to them.

Altogether we raised £505.89 to send off to Children in Need.

We were also able to raise the children's awareness of problems faced by children in our own country and around the world and that we can make a difference. Thank you.

Christmas Fayre

Tomorrow at 5:00pm we are holding our Christmas Fayre.

The PTA will be helping set-up from about 1:30 onwards so if you are available to lend a hand please call in to the school office. There are still some slots left for helping out on stalls during the fayre and you can speak to anyone from the PTA or one of the school staff to find out how to volunteer.

This year there will be some singing along with an array of food, games, gifts and activities. Why not get your face painted or have a go on one of the tombolas. Mystery jars are always popular and are available from two places in the fayre.

And of course we are have booked a visit from Father Christmas before he gets too busy.

As ever, all the money raised goes directly to our children to pay for some of the added extras around school and to subsidise some of our exciting events. Please support if you can.

House Choir Competition

Today was the house choir competition with a Christmas theme.

Leach sang Simply having a wonderful Christmastime/Carol of the bells, Windrush sang O Christmas tree/Rocking around the Christmas tree, Churn sang Merry Christmas, War is over and Coln sang Little Drummer Boy. They were all superb.

The judging panel (many thanks go to Mr Clift and Mr Cutress from Bournside school and our local vicar Rev. Gary Grady) had the almost impossible task of deciding who were the winners this year.

Our conclusion was that there were certainly no losers as the talent and enthusiasm on show from every house choir was fabulous.

So to the results: equal 3rd place Leach and Coln, 2nd place Churn and 1st place

Windrush.

Parking around the School

We continue to have concerns about a small number of parents who are driving inconsiderately near the school. The expectations for parking around the school are clear. I would like everyone to adhere to the following recommendations regardless of whether they are a legal requirement. They are for the safety of our children which is more important.

Try marking yourself out of eight below:

1. I always park away from Durham Close
- 2. I never park across someone's drive/entrance**
3. I never park on a junction (within 10 metres)
4. I always keep to 20 mph max near school
5. I never mount the pavement
6. I am patient and considerate when dropping off
- 7. I put children's safety above my own convenience**
- 8. My standards don't change when it's wet or I am late**

8 out of 8 is our minimum standard and the one that our children need from you. I will be asking for more visits from our Police Community Support Officer as part of keeping our children safe. Thank you for your support and please drive for the safety of all children.

Parent Governors Vacancy

A vacancy for a parent governor has arisen. This is an important role in helping to shape the future of the school. If you could spare a few hours in the evening six times per year for full governor meetings and attend four or five sub-committee meetings then you may be able to help our school. Below is some information from the BBC on the role:

*School governors are volunteers who help to run the school. Most schools work with a group of school governors - **together they're called the 'governing body'**. **They're involved in decisions** about all aspects of managing the school - such as running buildings and budgets, supporting staff and setting standards of school discipline.*

***Governors also help to make big decisions about the school's long-term goals.** They support headteachers, but also ask questions and make sure the headteacher is taking the school in the right direction.*

*The most important qualities for being a governor are enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education. **You don't need teaching experience, but it's useful to bring skills from other areas of your life.***

For additional information on what it means to be a governor please contact me or one of the current governors. You can put yourself forward by collecting a nomination form from the school office or printing one off from our website.

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Pupil Success

Issac, Hayden, Millie and Sam took part in the Year 5 mathematics challenge at St Edward's school last week. They did very well with one team coming 6th out of 2 and the other team 10th. Just another area where our children are being successful!

Girls' Football

The girls football squad played their first round of matches **this year against Bishop's Cleeve and Grangefield schools.** The whole group played with great enthusiasm in horrible weather. The results were less important than the effort and skills shown by all the girls. Well done to everyone.

New Playground Equipment for the Juniors

Work has begun on the new adventure play equipment on the KS2 playground. There will be a number of new elements to the equipment and the existing green surface is being **replaced with an 'astro-turf' type surface which will disperse water much better.**

A large part of this new equipment is being funded by the PTA so thank you to them and it would be great if everyone could please try to support their fund raising efforts and lend a hand to the various events they organise.

Merit Assembly Changes

Due to the hustle and bustle of this time of year we have had to re-arrange merit assemblies. There will now only be one more merit assembly before the Christmas holiday and that will be on Monday 5th December at 9:10a.m. immediately after drop off. I am sorry for any inconvenience this causes anyone.