



## Newsletter February 2017

***Another month flown by and our exciting development was the launch of Earwig. I hope most of you have had a chance to take a look at your child's activities in the school through this piece of software (more details can be found below). Everybody is working hard in school, particularly Year 6 as they approach their SATs, however they have their Red Ridge residential trip to look forward to soon. Your support for WASPs events is much appreciated; their next event is Chocolate Bingo - tickets are on sale now.***

***Matthew Brookes***

---

### **Governor Update**

The Governors have had a busy year so far!

We started back in September with the conversion to an Academy as part of the newly formed Symphony Learning (multi-academy) Trust. Whilst there have been many policies to read and ratify as part of this new trust for the governors, some of the benefits we hoped for have already started to come to fruition as close working partnerships across schools, in many subject areas have been formed to collaborate and share best practice approaches in the classroom for the benefit of our pupils.

We have also welcomed some new governors this year with Liz Walker & Ruth Richards joining as parent elected governors, whilst Steve Gibson joins us as a co-opted governor. Although the new governors are all parents of Willesley children, they importantly bring with them an excellent and wide variety of skills to the advantage of the governing team. Training of new and existing governors remains a strong focus with courses being undertaken by many governors and the school even hosting a training event this coming month. The variety of experience in our team helps shape the future of the school and keeps a focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

As part of our commitment to continual improvement, we have also recently changed the structure of our governing body meetings. This change sees the abolishment of sub-committees to have more frequent, full governing body meetings, where the important/priority tasks and issues are dealt with more efficiently and effectively by the whole team. Not having sub-committees also ensures information isn't being repeated in numerous meetings. Regular financial scrutiny is still taking place but now the whole team is also focused towards constant school improvement and pupil progress. We now believe we are Outstanding (Please check the recent Self Evaluation Form (SEF) on the website) but will not rest or relax to ensure this remains true.

Regards

Nigel Harrison - Chair of Governors

**Year 1** - The Key steps 1 Gymnastics competition was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 1 and 2s to perform in front of a big audience. They did Willesley proud having worked very hard on their routines for the last 6 weeks.



**Year 6** had an eye-opening day at the Warning Zone in Leicester where they learnt all about how to stay safe in the real and online community. Everyone came away having learnt lifesaving lessons and plenty of information to reflect on about how to safe online.



The **WASPS** team are still busy working behind the scenes as our next event is just around the corner. It's our annual chocolate bingo on **Friday 31st March 6.15pm to 9.15pm** in the school hall. This is a fantastic family event with three traditional games of bingo and two special children's additions. Of course the winnings are all chocolate related!



We normally sell the tickets really quickly so please make sure you get yours when they go on sale. **It's only £1.50 per adult and £1.00 per child** and members of the WASPS team will be in the parent shelter every Friday at 3pm for the next few weeks with tickets ready. If you aren't around on a Friday, send a note into the office with the appropriate money and we will sort out tickets for you - first come, first served!

Following the chocolate bingo we then look forward to the Spring Fair which will take place on **Friday, 19th May from 5.00pm to 7.30pm**. We do hope to have fine weather again this year so we can be outside on the field and in the school playground. We are planning lots of new stalls and this year it's a 'Mad Hatters Tea Party' theme. More details to follow nearer to the time.



Our next WASPS meeting is due to take place on **8th May** in the school practical area; anyone is welcome to attend. If you can make it please send a quick message to [ashbywillesleywasps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashbywillesleywasps@hotmail.co.uk)

Don't forget it's WASPS fundraising that goes a long way towards helping make our children's time at Willesley School as enriched and enjoyable as possible. We've contributed funds towards the purchase of laptops/iPads/playground equipment/books and much, much more.... but we can't do it without all of your help in supporting the various events. Therefore please do let us know if you can assist in any way; making new games, manning stalls or just helping to set up. Every job is an important one and we all know what they say about 'many hands'!!

Thank you- WASPS

**Earwig Launch** – We launched Earwig on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February. All parents should have received their logon details and hopefully you are all enjoying viewing some of the things your child is getting up to in school. If you should require any help logging on or any other assistance, please email [info@earwigacademic.com](mailto:info@earwigacademic.com) in the first instance. Please see the letter sent home on 8<sup>th</sup> February on the school website under 'Latest news and events'. We have had some lovely feedback from parents already in the short time we have been using it.



**Diary Dates:**

<b>March 2017</b>		<b>April 2017</b>	
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Cross Country	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Bikeability
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Forum 2pm	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Red Ridge residential
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Y6 Mock SATS week	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Acorn 1 Class Assembly 9:15am
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	1AC Class Assembly 9:15am	<b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Easter Break</b>
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day (details to follow)	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Hollowford residential
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Design & Technology Day	Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 New Walk Museum
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Hollowford Trip Parent meeting 6pm		
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	2ST Class Assembly 9:15am		