

## Newsletter – September 2016

Welcome back to the new term and also welcome to all of our new starters in Acorn 1 and Acorn 2 who have settled in so well. It's a very busy start to the year with Willesley converting to academy status as part of the Symphony Learning Trust. Ashby Willesley as well as Newcroft Primary School, Glen Hills Primary School and The Meadow Primary School will be a lead school in this new trust and we will be working closer than ever with these partner schools to provide better outcomes for our learners and improve our provision.

Our number of pupils has rocketed from 329 pupils 3 years ago to now 414 children on roll at the start of this term. Our extra classes are full or nearly full and the school is busier than ever with exciting learning opportunities happening around every corner.

We have extra staffing too. We welcome Mr Cooper to Y5 as our permanent class teacher as well as Mr Smedley our new PE/sports apprentice. We also welcome to our team Mrs Alison Taylor and Miss Issey Armston who will be starting apprenticeships as teaching assistants within Willesley.

Willesley had another strong year with attainment being successful in all areas. 66% of our Y6 pupils achieved the expected pass mark in Reading, Writing and Maths from the new 'secondary ready' tests. If you compare this to a National figure of 53% then you can see what an achievement this is. This roughly puts our school's attainment in the top 10% nationally.

Writing is going to be our main school focus this year with us trying to improve writing across the curriculum, neaten up our handwriting and tighten up our spelling. Our other aims are to continue to develop our science provision after we were awarded a Silver Quality Mark for this last term.

With our first parents' evening looming it will be a great opportunity for you to come in and see all of our successes this year so far. I would like to thank you again for your continued support to all that we try and do at Willesley.

Many Thanks  
Matthew Brookes

**Year 6 Bosworth Battlefield** – Year 6 started the year off with a visit to Bosworth Battlefield where they learnt the history behind it. They had the chance to handle original artefacts and learnt the gruesome facts about how barber surgeons performed operations in 1485.



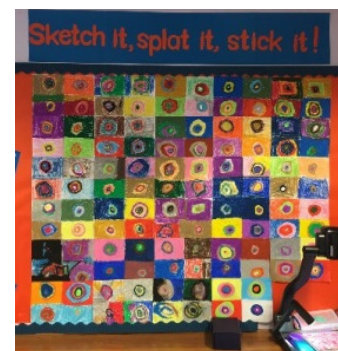
**Year 5 WW2 Trip to Beaumanor** – We had fun at Beaumanor learning about life in WW2. The children and adults all dressed for the day and there were some great outfits. During the day we learnt about the role Beaumanor played in the war and the pupils role played being code breakers. The children also experienced the hardship of WW2 recipes and rationing. Finally, they spent some time in an air-raid shelter. Thanks parents for great outfits and fantastic efforts with the packed lunches.



**Year 4 Viking Day!** - Our year 4 children had a fantastic day with the Vikings - Gregolf and Leagrid. They dressed up in Viking clothes and learned about Viking life and times. We learned about vicious Viking raids and trade using penniegar. They had an exciting time learning a battle dance, Nine Men's Morris and an outdoor strategic game called Kubb. Our friendly Viking visitors commented that our pupils were amazingly dressed and incredibly enthusiastic!

**Year 2** have had a great start to the term looking at many different artists and creating artwork inspired by them. This is our Kandisky inspired display.

All of our artwork will be on display in our art gallery, after school on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October.**



**jobcentreplus**

**Willesley's Job Centre** – A big Thank You to all children who took the time to apply for a job within school. These include:

- Office Junior (manning the school office at lunchtime, including answering the school phone!)
  - Trolley Monitor (to ensure the packed lunch trolleys are where they should be a different times throughout the day)
  - Register Monitor (to ensure teachers get their registers on time)
- Plus many more.

We have had a huge response and it is fantastic to see the children so enthused to take on these responsibilities. Interviews took place this week. I have to say the children did us proud with their confidence and enthusiasm. The Job Centre will be back in the Spring Term.

**School Uniform** – as we seem to have quite a lot of miss placed uniform since the children returned to school, please ensure that **ALL** items of uniform are labelled/named. Any items not labelled will be placed in the plastic box in the parent's waiting shelter. Each half term, unclaimed items will be put in the Star Recycling bin.



**Youth Games Choir** - 50 children had a fantastic evening representing the school at the opening ceremony for the Youth Games at Loughborough University on 1st September. They sounded amazing performing Greatest Day by Take That in the outdoor arena and it was great to see so many parents there enjoying the atmosphere and supporting us. It was an added bonus that some children even got to meet Max Whitlock, gymnastic gold medallist.

**Parking** - If you have to bring your children to school via car, please park safely and be considerate to the residents on Castle Way, Park Close and Avenue Road when parking your vehicle. We have received a number of complaints recently about unsafe and inconsiderate parking.

**School Census** – On Oct 6th we will have our annual school census and it is very important for our funding that we have up to date information about your child. There are three key areas of entitlement.

**Free School Meals** - Please check your entitlement regarding Free School Meals. The link below provides guidance about who is eligible. Even if your child brings sandwiches and would never take advantage of the

Free School Meals on offer or they receive free infant meals in Years R to 2, the school would receive extra funding called the Pupil Premium for every child who is entitled and registered for Free School Meals.

<http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

**Service Premium** - The Service Premium grant is for pupils who have a parent serving in the armed services. Eligible pupils are those pupils with a parent currently serving in the armed services and supporting their family, pupils who have a parent who died in action and those whose parents have left the service since April 2011 for other reasons, including injury. To be eligible, the parent must be supporting their family, so where they are separated or divorced a pupil will not be eligible.

**Adopted Children** (Including Special Guardianship Order) - Adopted Children attract extra funding called Pupil Premium Plus. We use the funding to support the academic and social welfare of these children. If your child is adopted, please contact the school in complete confidence so that we make sure that your child is recorded in the census.

If you think that your family may be eligible for any of the above; please contact Lisa Watson, School Business Manager asap.

<p><b>Diary Dates</b>          06/10/16 – Open Evening @ 6:30pm          07/10/16 – Harvest Festival – St Helen’s Church          10/10/16 – Parents Evening (Late)          12/10/16 – Parents Evening (Early)          13/10/16 – Last Day of Term          14/10/16 – Teacher Day (school closed for pupils)          24/10/16 – Back to School          27/10/16 – 5TC Class Assembly          04/11/16 – Y1 Parents Information Morning          11/11/16 – Flu Immunisation Y1 to Y6          14/11/16 – Anti-Bullying Week          18/11/16 – 4LB Class Assembly          21/11/16 – Y5 WW2 Party          25/11/16 – 4JC Class Assembly          25/11/16 – WASPS Festive Fair</p>	<p>01/12/16 – Decorations Morning          06/12/16 – FS &amp; Y1 Christmas Performance (PM)          (Acorn 2 &amp; 1JM)          07/12/13 – KS2 Carol Service – Holy Trinity Church          08/12/16 – Y2 Christmas Performance (AM)          08/12/16 – FS &amp; Y1 Christmas Performance (PM)          (Acorn 1 &amp; 1AC)          16/12/16 – Last Day of Term</p> <p><b>Class Assemblies – New Year 2017</b>          27/1/17 – 2RM Class Assembly          3/11/17 – 6CD Class Assembly          10/2/17 – 1JM Class Assembly          24/3/17 – 1AC Class Assembly          16/6/17 – 5HE Class Assembly</p>
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**WASPS** - It’s been a great start to the new school year for WASPS. We’ve some new members of the WASPS team and also some parents/friends who are joining us to form a group of ‘helpers at events’ – we’re calling these our Busy Bees! In other words - those who don’t necessarily attend the meetings but are on hand to volunteer for setting up and manning the various stalls at the Fairs/Fetes. We are delighted to have you all on board.

If anyone else wants to be a WASP or a Busy Bee then just let us know at:  
[ashbywillesleywasps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashbywillesleywasps@hotmail.co.uk)

On Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup> September) we held our first event. This was the ‘Welcome to Willesley’ party for the foundation children and parents. This is closely followed by our 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Event which will take place at the Cricket Club on the Bath Grounds. Last year’s event was a great success and we hope to see many of you again, plus new faces too; on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> September – 6.30pm onwards.

The WASPS noticeboard, on the wall by the purple gates, will be kept up-to-date with information so please do check it when you can. It will tell you who is on the team, give event information and other useful info.

**Fundraising** - One point to note for now is the ‘easyfundraising’ details, which I hope you have all received via email or book bags. Easyfundraising is linked to many retailers who donate a percentage of whatever you spend back to the school. So if you use Tesco for your weekly shop, and order on-line, you simply need to log into easyfundraising; set up your account to donate to Ashby Willesley and then go straight into

the Tesco website through easyfundraising. It really is as easy as it sounds and is such a fantastic opportunity for us all to raise money.

For those of you who are new to the school then you may have noticed the 'Star Foundation' red donations container by the parent shelter. The Star Foundation recycles unwanted items from clothes, shoes, bags and belts to CD/DVDs, books and videos and in doing so raises money for our school. We receive a donation back for the amount of kilograms we collect. At the same time, and as a thank you for the collections, the Star Foundation run 3 activity days in school per year completely free of charge – so the children benefit in more ways than one! We hope to have our first activity day on 25<sup>th</sup> October so please do save your items for this. We will ask for them to be brought in on the day of the activity ready for the Star Foundation to collect.

Finally, we hope to hold a Uniform Sale at some point during the Autumn Term, so please do save any unwanted items that are in good condition and pop them into reception. Any items we cannot sell will go into the Star Foundation Red bin as mentioned above.

Thank you to all for your continued support/help with our fund raising. We hope to achieve a fantastic total for the school again this year.

**STOP PRESS:** Don't forget to come and see us at the parent's evenings, when we will have samples of the personalised items that you will be able to buy in the run up to Christmas.

WASPS (and Busy Bees!)

