



Newsletter – April/May 2018

What a glorious start to the Summer Term. We have been blessed with glorious sunshine and warmth not usually seen 'til July. Our outdoor spaces have been buzzing with activity and the Garden of Dreams has been rejuvenated by the Garden Gang. Our sports teams have been competing locally and county wide, with some very impressive successes; see the Sports Pages for more details. It is also time for National testing and both Year 2 and 6 have worked very hard to put all their knowledge into practise. We are very proud of their mature and conscientious attitudes throughout.

Thank you for all your support at our Spring Fair. The WASPs did a sterling job arranging, setting up and running stalls and, with the addition of a warm sunny evening, (and a wonderful circumzenithal arc overhead) it was a lovely evening, enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Year 5 Dancers who shared their joy and enthusiasm, and amazed us all. WASPs are always looking for new recruits and without them we would not be able to run such events. So if you have a little spare time and would like to join the team, please contact school and we'll put you in touch. Fingers crossed that Willesley's Got Talent on Friday 6th July is as lucky with the weather.

Sue Rainbow

Cross Country

My day at the Cross Country County Finals.

On the first day of the Easter holidays, I went to run for my county in the county finals. The top ten runners of year four boys get to go to it and I was the tenth boy to get through.

Firstly, I arrived at Prestwold Hall where the county finals take place. We had to find the flag that said North West Leicestershire, the area I was running for. We found the flag and all the year four boys from North West Leicestershire got a blue bib and our number which was pinned down to our bibs.

Next, we started to do some warm ups including cross overs, flick ups, side steps, lunges, open and close the doors, shoo the chickens and sprints. I enjoyed this because I was doing it with one of my friends called Adam. After that, we got in a strange order; we saw an enormous screen that showed us the hares running around the track. We also saw two drones that had cameras attached to them.

Suddenly we started walking into the North West Leicestershire starting pen and waited eagerly for the starting shot of the gun to blast. In the blink of an eye the gun shot and we started to run. The course was about 3K long, firstly we went round a curve and then uphill. I overtook a lot of people at that point. After that we ran past a lot of mole holes and a bumpy bit of grass. Five minutes later we were at the sprint and I finished.

I ended up with a silver medal because North West Leicestershire came second overall.

Written by a Year 4 child

Cyclcross - Representatives from Y5 and 6 enjoyed a training session and competition in cyclocross at King Edward VII College. At the competition, we finished in first and third place; the 'A' team will progress to the county finals in June. Well done everyone for showing great spirit, teamwork and communication.



Hockey - Y5/6 sent 3 teams to the hockey tournament at Ivanhoe College. All teams showed great skills on the pitch although at times we struggled to convert our fantastic play into goals. The Year 5 team played brilliantly against older children whilst the Y6 teams met in a tense semi-final which saw the A team victorious. The A's went on to lose a well-played match to Hill Top Primary School.

Tri-Golf - Big thanks to parents, Mrs Pearson and Mr Ward for surviving in the rain at a tri-golf festival and supporting 3GW in their quest to develop some golfing skills.

Library Visit - Year 5 had a great visit to the library and enjoyed exploring all the books they had to offer - we also listened to extracts of some books to inspire us.

Boys Noise - The Boys Noise project is in full swing after a successful launch event at the King Power Stadium. The children enjoyed the stadium tour and took part in three intensive vocal workshops. They participated fully and Mrs Hender would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and good behaviour.



Year 6 Residential - Year 6 battled through the snow to the Red Ridge Centre in Wales, and had a fantastic week climbing, caving, cycling, kayaking and participating in many more challenging activities. Everyone achieved something new and challenged themselves. We were very proud of all of their achievements and excellent behaviour.

Year 6 enjoyed their walk, after SATS, out to Packington, around the Golf Course and through Willesley Woods, back to school.



Year 5 D & T Morning - Many thanks to all the family members who came along and supported the Y5 pupils on their DT morning. The sawing, drilling & gluing skills were appreciated by everyone.



Year 4 Residential - Our Year 4 trip to the Hollowford Centre in Castleton, Derbyshire was a huge success again this year. The weather was kind to us and the children learned to work as a team to achieve the most success in all the activities they tried. Although for many it was the first time they were away from home, over the three days they grew in confidence and independence. We were tremendously proud of them, especially when receiving such positive feedback from instructors at the centre who commented on their fantastic attitude towards the activities, their wonderful manners and maturity in how they behaved around the centre. All fabulous qualities as we saw them developing into well rounded young people.

One leader there said: 'It is fantastic to work with a school where the children show that they are more like young adults than children.'

A big thank you to all our parents for your ongoing support throughout the year and towards the success of the trip. They all came well equipped and ready to make the very most of their time there.

Diary Dates

25/05/2018 – Last day of term
 04/06/2018 – Children back to school
 05/06/2018 – Class Photographs
 15/06/2018 – 5HE Class Assembly 9:15am
 03/07/2018 – KS1 Sports Morning
 03/07/2018 – KS2 Sports Afternoon

04/07/2018 – Foundation Stage Sports Morning
 06/07/2018 – WASPS Music Festival/WGT
 11/07/2018 – Year 6 Snowdome Trip
 11/07/2018 – Year 6 Leavers Disco
 12/07/2018 – Last Day of Term (Thursday)

Autumn Term starts Wednesday 29th August 2018

3PP Class Assembly - 3PP performed their Egyptian play with amazing confidence; it was both entertaining and informative. The children sang beautifully, with harmonies, and danced in true Egyptian style. As Miss Rainbow commented, "It was good enough to be on at the Curve Theatre!" Praise indeed from our critics and the children wished they could have performed it a second time. Well done 3PP, what a class!



Weduc – our new school app!

Two weeks ago we launched our new school app through a company called Weduc. This is a complete communication tool that the school will be using to communicate with parents. The system is secure as access is only available to Willesley parents who are given a unique logon code to register. After half term, we will still continue to send text messages (which may result in duplication of messages) but **from the Autumn Term, we will only be sending messages through the app**, so please download this to your mobile device as soon as possible.



You can also view Weduc on a PC, but it is aimed at mobiles to ensure you receive the latest updates/push notifications wherever you are.

The app has many features that we will gradually introduce. It will be used to send general messages, consent/invite messages to which you can respond, letters home (replacing emails), surveys, electronic forms etc. You will soon be able to inform school of daily absences and parents evening will be booked through the app too. It is also a place to go to for links to important school information (in The Hub) and to see the school's virtual Noticeboard. A few of you have already tried out the electronic Absence Request Form and we would welcome any feedback over the coming months. Please bear with us as we also learn to negotiate this new software.

Cashless Site  ParentPay®

Another step forward to continue with efficiencies is the removal of cash/cheque payments. Many schools now operate as a cashless site as online payments become the norm. The school now takes very little cash and therefore this is no longer an efficient way of working. Therefore, from August, the school will only accept online payments through ParentPay (Scopay for Breakfast Club). You can obtain logon details from the school office. The office staff can assist you with any technical difficulties you may have and if access to the internet is an issue, we will also be making access available to IT at school during certain times, if necessary.

Signing in system changes

I am sure that many of you will be aware of the new data protection legislation, GDPR, that comes into effect on 25th May. The Trust has a GDPR Policy in place and the school has posted its revised Privacy Notices onto the website (also in The Hub on the app). As part of these changes, we will also have a new electronic visitor registration system in reception from 4th June, so please ensure that you sign in as a visitor if entering the school. This will also be used to record late pupils and pupils arriving/departing part way through the school day.

Willesley Association of School and Parents (WASPs) - Our movie-themed Spring Fair at school last Friday evening was very successful. Thank you to everyone who donated stall items and prizes, volunteered time and resources and supported the fundraising event by attending with family and friends. We hope you enjoyed the glorious weather, fabulous entertainment and the introduction of new games, stalls and hamper raffle (some hampers are still waiting to be collected from school). The money raised will go towards new IT equipment for each classroom.

After last year's success, Willesley's Got Talent is set to return! It will be an opportunity for pupils to showcase their talents alongside entertainment provided by local musicians. Please join us on 6th July (6pm-9pm) for an evening of entertainment for all of the family. More details to follow!

Finally, as a group of volunteer parents, we are always looking for new members to join us in organising our events. Some members of our committee are taking a break during the next academic year, due to work commitments, and it is **therefore vital that new members join us in order that our fundraising success continues**. Money raised each year at our events funds the bi-annual pantomime trip, as well as classroom and playground equipment. So far this year, the school has used funds raised by our events to purchase docking stations for i-Pads, sports equipment and new dictionaries. Any level of commitment to the WASPs committee will be gratefully received, no matter how small, and new ideas and members are always welcome at our meetings. Please contact us via email **ashbywillesleywasps@hotmail.com**. We look forward to seeing some new faces at our **next meeting at 8pm on 11th June**.

Governor Update

As a Governing Body, we hold the school to account on all aspects of school performance and in order to do so, must equip ourselves with the appropriate skills and stay on top of current issues in the educational landscape. All members of the Governing Body have access to a comprehensive training and development programme to ensure we are kept abreast of responsibilities regarding latest requirements and expectations. The Governing Body has recently identified suitable courses for governors to attend over the next six months to enhance the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for effective governance. Course topics include safeguarding, effective financial governance, pupil premium, risk management and strategic governance.