



Windmill PTA News – Summer 2018

Another year finished in the blink of an eye! Can you believe it?

Since our last newsletter, the PTA has bought the multi-coloured picnic tables (made out of recycled plastic) that you can see in both playgrounds. We hope those bring much-needed sitting space for Year 6 lunches, but also gives spaces for all children to enjoy at break times, to play on, to sit on and also for anyone attending school events – though we grown up will probably restrain ourselves to simply sitting on them!

Since Easter, Windmill PTA organized two social events:

The Barn Dance was mid-June, it was a great success with over 150 people coming along to listen and dance along to Melobo. The step caller was simply fantastic and I had never seen so much laughter and dancing taking place at once! We danced on the middle playground as the weather was great and we ate on those brand new recycled multi-coloured tables. Children and grown-ups had an amazing time and I can't wait to do it all over again next year!



The Summer Disco, which took place start of July was also so well attended. Children had an amazing time busting some moves and showing off their best choreography!

We have just held our last cake sale of the year, on Sport Day to the benefit of Year 6 classes. Cake sales are a great way to get everyone involved and it is nice the children are able to benefit from the funds raised.

Windmill's army of bakers also showed off their skills at this year's highly successful Bake Off :



Another hugely exciting piece of news is that we have raised £810 for the school through the advertising on Classlist!

If you have a business you would like to see promoted, please get in touch with Windmill PTA.



Our next meeting, which is also the Annual General Meeting, takes place on Wednesday 26th September at 19.30 in the After School Club room. This is when the PTA trustees get elected or re-elected. The meeting is opened to everyone involved with the school; we really value your input, so please come along or send your comments to windmillPTA@gmail.com.

Once again THANK YOU!! To everyone who helps out around the school or with school-linked activities, in whatever way, big or small, especially Year 6 parents who are leaving us this summer. You will be missed!

Tiphaine Bouriez-Jones, Windmill PTA chair

From The Headteacher....

Thank you!

As yet another year draws to a close I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your ongoing support of our school. It is very much appreciated, and is what makes Windmill such a strong community. We really value the additional help from those of you who have contributed to the many activities that are running, such as Green Club, Cycling Proficiency, Volunteer Reading, Lunchbox, the Orchestra, helping out with reading in the classroom, supporting cooking and running the library.

Without your help these activities wouldn't be able to run. Thank you also to everyone who supports the work of the WSA by organising, attending and helping out at their events.

What a Great Year!

Sporting Success

As always, we have had an incredibly busy year with children taking part in so many different activities. The success of the Under 11s football team has been a particular highlight, reaching two nationals finals and ending up as the third top team in the country! The Girl s Football team also did incredibly well, ending the season as the County Champions. We are very proud of the sportsmanship that the teams have shown throughout their journey, which has been commented on by other team coaches.

It has been lovely to add Hockey to the PE curriculum for Key Stage 2 and the after-school provision that we run through a local Hockey Club. We have been very impressed by the quality of the coaching that the children have received.

Sports and PE will remain high in the agenda for next year as we maintain our emphasis on the children being fit and healthy.

Musical Moments

There have also been many opportunities for children to develop their musical skills. The orchestra have performed at Christmas and again at the Summer Concert and the choir took part in various singing events organised by the Oxfordshire Music Service such as the Big Christmas Sing, the Pop Concert and the Festival of Voices. All of the children in the school have also been part of a musical production this year and the progression of skills throughout the school is clearly evident. The quality of the singing is always a highlight of the performances.

Dancing Dynamite

Throughout the year there have been a series of opportunities for the children to take part in dance performances. The year kicked off with the Autumn Fayre where well over 100 children took part in one of four dances. Then 24 Year 2s

performed a dance about Little Red Riding Hood on stage at The New Theatre. 2018 began with rehearsals for the One World performance which launched the Brookes University One World week in February. I can still see in my head the line of nearly 100 children stretching into the distance as we walked the children down Old Road. Strictly Fever then took over with teams from each year group in Key Stage 2 taking part. The year 4s did particularly well and reached the National Final. The Year 6s children entered their Greatest Showman Dance into a local dance competition which they won! Add all that our successful Summer dancing morning and I can safely say that dance has never been stronger in the school.

And Into Next Year!

The mastery approach to maths and The Write Stuff approach to writing has had a very positive impact on our school attainment. These approaches to maths and writing will continue to be embedded into classroom practice in 2018 /19. We also want all of the children in the school to be more knowledgeable about their brain and how it learns, including how to manage stress. This will strengthen our culture of Growth Mindset even more. I am planning to run a parent workshop to run alongside the work we do with the children.

Houses

We are also making some changes to House Points and to the House group names. We know that the four authors who the Houses are currently named after do not represent our school culture. We have decided to call the Houses by their colour names, which is what the children do anyway, but have two famous role models assigned to each house which will have a common theme.

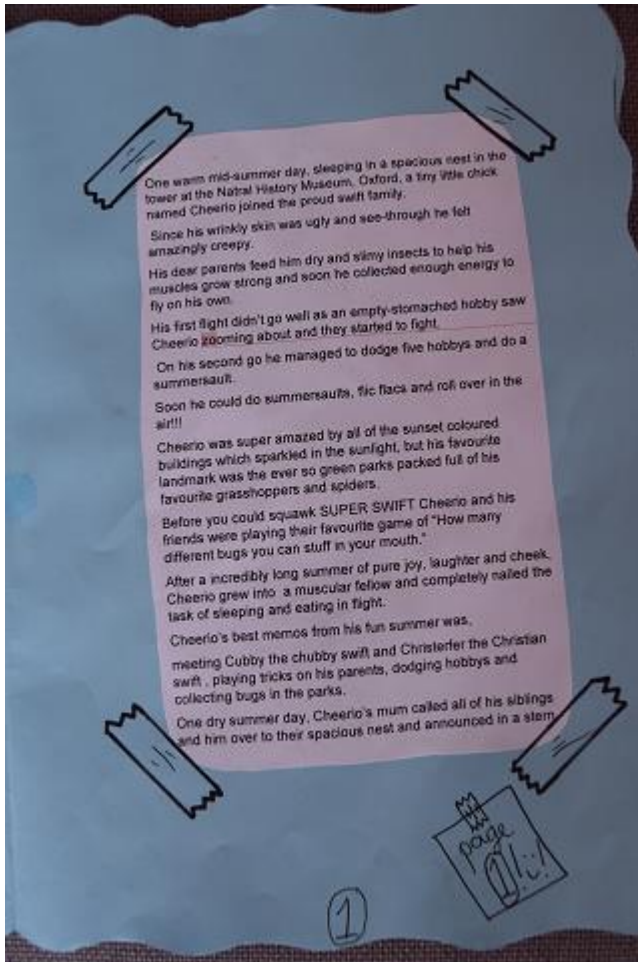
This year the children and staff will choose eight sports people, one male and one female for each house, and we will learn how these people have achieved excellence in their field. We may even be able to get them to come to our school in person. This will link with our Healthy Schools theme for the year. The following year we will change the role models to another field of excellence.

Finally I would like to end by wishing our Year 6 children the very best of luck with the next step of their education and to wish you all a very Happy Holiday.



Year Three visited the Natural History Museum in Oxford to learn about the swifts who build their nests in its tower each year. The children then wrote a story about what they learned – here's a taste of Isla Dodds' tale of Cheerio the baby swift:





Year Four have been studying the Romans and the Celts. They discovered there is no accurate depiction of Celtic warrior Boudicca – due to bias and lack of evidence. So the class designed their own representations, based on descriptions passed down to us through historical texts.



During International Week, **Year Four** also created paintings inspired by indigenous Australian dot art:



Year 5 held a Science Week from 29th June to 5th July. Mike Dennis from Science Oxford opened the week with his Science Magic Show, and the children undertook a selection of his science 'tricks' and explored them for themselves. The Science Oxford Team returned throughout the week to see, support and marvel at the incredible work the children were doing.





The week culminated in Science Fair and a presentation of science awards for teams who demonstrated exceptional big thinking, scientific rigour, accidental science, experiment design and the best stand at the fair. Well done to all the children for an engaging and informative show. The award winners made a VIP visit to the new Science Oxford construction site on Friday 13th July.



Year 6 have held Windmill's first ever Futures Day.

A variety of speakers visited the school to talk about their jobs, and explain how they may change in the future. The day was designed to let the children experience a range of different careers that they may not have encountered before. They included: hairdresser, architect, scientist, pilot, comedy writer,

photographer, film maker, and human rights activist.

Staff Q&A with Mr Davies



Q: Describe your favourite day

A: It involves a trip to Swanage. Seeing my children play in the sea, having to build the best sandcastle on the beach and then eating fish and chips - preferably when there are no seagulls around. Then finishing with the 2p machines and getting rid of all my change.

Q: What would your best friend say about you?

A: He is a funny, kind person, who is fun to be around.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: No. I had a dog once. I do not miss having to walk him in the winter.

Q: What is your ring tone at the moment?

A: A good question. My phone has been on silent since about 2009. Despite this, I still have to always check just in case when I see the 'please switch your phone on to silent' message at the cinema.

Q: What make is your car and does it have a name?

A: Vauxhall Astra. Unfortunately, I do not have enough spare time in my life to name a car! I just hope it works and gets me from A to B, without me adding any more scratches to it.

Q: Who inspired you?

A: My Mother. She showed me what it is like to be a single parent, go down to 23p in your bank account when raising your family and then persist and work through this to go on to become a very successful headteacher.

Q: What is your favourite children's book?

A: Winnie the Witch. My daughter loves it when she sits on the cat!

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: Having the opportunity to work with lots of different children and help them better themselves, so that they can have a happier future.

Q: What was your favourite subject at school?

A: History. It is really exciting learning about the past. I would love to go back in time and see how people used to live.

Q: What is your greatest achievement?

A: It was either completing my **'Mast - Maths specialist teacher'** qualification with Edgehill University, as I had to write and complete an essay with a new-born baby disrupting my sleep, or working as a 'Maths Mastery Specialist' for the Enigma Maths hub - advising other schools on the implementation of Maths Mastery.

Autumn Fayre

Please mark 13th October in your diaries – it's the date of the Windmill Autumn Fayre.

Sarah Floris and **Philippa James** are organising the event, and keen to involve as many parents as possible. Please get in touch if you or your company could help with the event, by emailing sarah.floris@yahoo.co.uk and philippa.james3@btinternet.com.

And finally... please do sign up for Classlist and the Windmill App (if you haven't already!) to keep up to speed with PTA events next year.

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