

Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter

20th December 2016

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing the final newsletter of 2015 – where has the year gone and what a lot has happened – both in school and outside! Looking back at 2016 ([see over](#)), I am thankful that I have a staff team who are keen to organise trips and enrichment activities. We again had over 30 visits during the year, including our two residentials, the Globe Theatre, the Natural History Museum, Highclere Castle, Legoland, Oakwood Challenge and many other arts and sporting opportunities. On top of that, we've had visitors to the school such as paralympian Graham Edmonds, Roots to Food and the reindeers from Riverways Farm. I should also thank the PTA Committee – and every one of you who supports their work – for the money raised. Quite simply, without it, we would be unable to do as much as we do. This year, as well as subsidising trips and enrichment, the PTA has also made significant contributions to the refurbishment of the adventure playground and the creation of our new Library and ICT suite.



Wildmoor Heath has weathered several external pressures during 2016 and we are, consequently, in good shape to meet the challenges of 2017. Firstly, the number of children attending the school continues to rise and is currently 205, just 5 short of being full. We've also had record numbers attending our open days and visiting at other times. This will help ease some of the budget pressures that all schools will face in the new financial year. While the government has 'protected' school budgets, there will be no increase to meet rising costs or to pay for services once funded by the Local Authority (LA). This means a 'real terms' cut in funding. Secondly, while other schools have had real difficulty in recruiting teachers, we continue to retain and attract high quality teaching and support staff. This is due – in part at least - to our commitment to providing excellent professional development and to giving teachers opportunities to develop their careers. For example, our growing reputation means that we are in demand to support and deliver training to other schools. Finally, our SATs results continue to be in-line with and, in some aspects, better than the national average. The tests in Year 2 and Year 6 were both new and more challenging this year and it is to the credit of the children and their teachers that they did so well.



2017 will bring new challenges. The LA is currently transforming its services 'offer' to better meet the needs of schools. The funding they receive from government, however, is being cut from £77 per pupil to £15, so it's likely that some services will go or schools will have to pay more for them. Secondly, while 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools are no longer being forced to be academies, some will choose that route anyway and we will need, in time, to consider what we want to do too. At this point, however, there is no pressure or need for us to do so and I believe that we would be best served by taking our time to carefully consider all our options.

Either way, schools will have to work together and support each other more. Bracknell schools already do this, but the primary schools in Crowthorne and Sandhurst are talking about how this could be even better. We will also forge links outside of Bracknell Forest, through our relationship with PIXL and the Forest Learning Alliance (FLA).

Wildmoor Heath has a dedicated, hard-working, staff, who – like the children – are always REACHING for their best! So, I am confident that we will successfully meet whatever 2017 throws at us and that the school will continue to improve. In the meantime, we will look back with some pleasure and pride at all we've done in 2016! My best wishes to you and your families for a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and I look forward to seeing everyone safely back at school on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Mr G Strudley (Headteacher)



A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From the Staff and Governors



REACHING for our BEST

Respect - Everyone - Achievement - Courage - Helpful & Caring - Individuality - Never Give Up - Go for It!



Some Highlights of 2016

Spring (January – March 2016)

We had an active start to the year - A group of Year 5 and 6s went to a coaching clinic with London Irish RFC and then formed the guard of honour at the Madejski Stadium. Mr Peuple and Miss Whiteside took children interested in singing, dancing and drama to London for a workshop at the Pineapple Dance Studios and to see the Lion King. Year 6 and Year 4 had exciting adventures on their residential trips to Rhos-y-gwaliau (RYG) and Hooke Court while Year 3 went to see the dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum in London. After a long wait and lots of disruption, our new kitchen was completed and we were able to cook school meals on site.



Summer (April – August 2016)

The Summer Term (and the holidays) was a busy one! We took part in the Sustrans 'Big Pedal' and won in Bracknell Forest with an amazing 52.86% daily score, placing 157th nationally! Year 5 took part in the 'Seeds from Space' science experiment and we had an Arts Week based on 'Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh. The inaugural 'Eve Smith Netball Cup' was won by Wellington House. In June we were pleased to welcome inspiring, gold winning paralympian Graham Edmunds to the school. He reminded us to Never give up & Go for it! In July, we took part in the Crowthorne Carnival with the 'Legend of the Phoenix' while the choir sang in a concert at Wellington College. During the Summer holidays, work was completed on our new Library & ICT Suite.



Autumn (September – December 2016)

In September, Year 5 went to the Oakwood Challenge and we said well done to the 48 children who took part and completed Bracknell Forest's Summer Reading Challenge. We also learned about healthy eating with Roots to Food. The two teams cooked Twice cooked Parmesan chicken and spiced tandoori salmon and very good they were too! In October, we finished refurbishing the adventure playground, while another group of aspiring rugby players visited the Madejski Stadium. Year 2 went to LEGOLAND as part of their IPC project. In November, we were awarded Level 1 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award for our work to promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We've also had a fun packed festive period with a Christmas Concert, Nativity Play, Pantomime visit and Reindeer!

