

# Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

## Rhos-y-gwaliau (RYG) – Y6 Residential

Year 6 returned from North Wales last Saturday with tales of daring-do after 5 full days of climbing mountains, gorge walking, canoeing Bala Lake and exploring an abandoned slate mine. Not even the high winds of 'Storm Doris' could dampen their spirits! Feedback from the centre



was that the children did you and the school proud, so well done Year 6! My thanks to Mr Gater, Miss Rivers and Miss Lee for leading the trip – we are very fortunate that our staff is willing to give up their time to do this! The residential trip to RYG is an important part of our 'Year 6 offer' and Year 5 will be pleased to know that the dates are already booked for next year. We will again be applying to the Berkshire Outdoor Trust for a grant so that we can make it as affordable as possible for all parents.

## Wildmoor Heath App

Our website is frequently updated to keep you informed with news, dates and other important information. To ensure you have even easier access to this information we are pleased to launch our mobile app (Apple and Android). The Greenhouse School Websites mobile app allows parents to keep up to date with all the latest news, dates, photo galleries, newsletters and copies of letters home all in one handy place on their phone. Parents can also receive push notifications from the school and subscribe to alert groups. We are in the process of archiving some of the older material on the website, so please bear with us, but the App can be used now. It is free to download so please give it a try! There are links and instructions on our website:



<http://www.wildmoorheath.org.uk/Wildmoor-Heath-s-Mobile-App/>.

## Hooke Court – Y4 Residential

This week, Year 4 has been at Hooke Court in Dorset (and should be home by the time you read this!). They have spent the last three days participating in a wide range of environmental science, team building and environmental science activities. The children have had a fantastic time and we've enjoyed keeping up with what they've been doing on Twitter. My thanks to the staff and volunteers accompanying the children – Miss Kirkham, Mrs O'Connor, Miss Thompson, Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Ellis. As with Year 6, this is an important part of the Year 4 experience (as well as great practice for RYG!) and we will be returning in 2018. I'd like to particularly thank the PTA for their support with this trip again this year – it is because of their hard work raising money (and your generosity) that we are able to keep costs down.



## Zoolab Visit

Just before half term every child in the school enjoyed a 'Zoolab' workshop. The children learned all about the Chinese New Year, including the story of Nian, The jade Emperor and the Kitchen God. The children also found out about the animals of the Zodiac, all with a little help from the ZooLab animals. The children had a fantastic time (even if some of the teachers didn't enjoy the snakes and spiders!). My thanks to Mrs



Dalton for organising the visit and to the PTA for paying for it.

### School Development Conference

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February staff and governors came together for our fourth annual School Development Conference. As well as identifying where the school is doing well, the main aim of the conference was to decide on our priorities for next year based on our monitoring and data. Our next School Development Plan (SDP), which starts in April, will focus on four key areas:



1. Continuing to develop the assessment of the core and foundation subjects so that it is (a) secure and (b) that we have a growing understanding of what 'mastery' and 'greater depth' looks like;
2. Ensure that spelling, grammar and punctuation is well taught so that (a) children understand and use technical vocabulary and (b) apply their skills in writing cross the curriculum;
3. Improve fluency and reasoning skills in mathematics;
4. Ensure that children who have special educational needs and / or are disadvantaged attain and achieve in-line with their peers nationally;

These priorities will drive budget decisions as well as the staff's training and development programme. We are now in the process of writing the detailed plan, a summary of which will be published on the school website in the Summer Term.

### Eve Smith Netball Cup

The second 'Eve Smith Netball Cup' was hotly contested on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February with children from Years 5 and 6 keenly demonstrating their netball skills. It was a close affair but Sandhurst won the tournament after a tense last game. The inter-house competition was ably refereed by Keira Smith (who was given permission by Edgbarrow to support us) and was enjoyed by all participants.



### Digger Visits Wildmoor Heath!

London Irish RFC's mascot, Digger, visited the school last week to get the children excited about the upcoming St. Patrick's Day match at Madejski Stadium against the Cornish Pirates. Wildmoor Heath's choir – among others - has been invited to sing the Irish classic "Fields of Athenry" before the game starts. We hope that it will inspire London Irish to win the game and keep them on track to be promoted back to the Premiership.



### Dates for your Diary

16 Mar 17 - Maths Workshop (AM)  
17 Mar 17 - St Patrick's Day  
22 Mar 17 - Reception Class – 'Mum's Story Sharing'  
25 Mar 17 - PTA Easter Egg Hunt (2pm – 5.30pm)  
31 Mar 17 - Last Day of Spring Term  
18 Apr 17 - Start of Summer Term  
08 May 17 to 12 May 17 - KS2 SATS week  
29 May 17 to 2 Jun 17 - Half-Term



## REACHING for our BEST

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

