

Wildmoor Heath School Newsletter

3rd February 2017

Raising Money for Tushinde

In Monday's assembly, Mrs Wright (mum to Ella and Louis) told the children about Tushinde, a charity which she runs that helps children in Kenya. Tushinde works in the Mathare Slum with over 250 vulnerable children. Through their social workers, they provide education to children from the poorest families in Nairobi. They have asked us to help them by collecting used pens, biros, markers, Pritt-sticks or Tippex that can be recycled to fund the work of the charity. Please have a sort out and if you do have any old pens, the children can bring them into school for collection and recycling. 20 pens will provide a hungry child with a filling breakfast so please do support this scheme. More information about the charity can be found at <http://tushinde.org.uk/>.



Young Voices

On Friday 20th January, the school choir and supporting parents and staff travelled up to the O2 in London to take part in the Young Voices choir alongside over 7000 other children and professional singers and musicians such as Natalie Williams, The Beatbox Collective and Tabby Callaghan. As the Young Voices website says: "Nothing can prepare you for the sound of thousands of children singing in harmony." It was a fantastic evening and the children did brilliantly. A particular thank you is due to Mr Peple for preparing the children so well and to Mrs Loffhagen, Mr Peple Major and Mrs Clements for helping on the day.



Supporting other schools

As you will be aware, government policy is for LAs to have less of a role in school improvement. Consequently, schools like Wildmoor Heath are increasingly being commissioned to provide this support. Currently, Mr Strudley, Mr Gater and Mr Peple are working with colleagues at Great Hollands Primary School, while Mr Strudley and Miss Leadbeatter are facilitating the Outstanding Teacher Programme (OTP) on behalf of the Forest Learning Alliance (FLA). This is great for Wildmoor Heath as it means that our staff's skills and expertise are being recognised throughout Bracknell Forest.

Keeping You Informed

You may have noticed some changes to our website in the last few days. In response to parent requests, we are in the process of making the website 'smartphone friendly' and providing more interactive features (e.g ability to put diary dates directly into an Outlook calendar). There have been no changes in the content and you should be able to find everything in the same place as you did before. Please bear with us while we reformat some of the pages to improve their look. In the meantime, if you do notice any broken links or missing content, please let the office know. Alongside the update to the website, we are developing an App for Apple and Android devices which will give you quick access to key information about the school. It will also allow us to send 'push notifications' to remind you of events etc. This will operate alongside our existing 'School Comms' system. We will let you know once the App is ready to download. Finally, due to on-going technical difficulties, the screen in the playground has been switched off and we are arranging for its removal. We are sure, however, that the new look website and App will ensure that all parents will have access to the information they want and need.



Year 4 Brass

It was a pleasure to watch Year 4s perform today to their parents. The children have been learning the Cornett over the last term and a half as part of a free Berkshire Maestro's music education programme. The children were commended on their dedication and hard work as well as the quality of their playing. Many of the children are keen to continue to learn their instrument and Berkshire Maestros offer the opportunity for parents to pay for small group or individual lessons during school hours. We plan to continue this successful and popular activity next year.



Toilets / Wall

We now have some further information from the LA about the toilet refurbishment and, in particular, the work needed to repair the wall with mural on it. The first stage of the work will take place during February half-term which, unfortunately, will be to remove the mural. We've been told that the mural won't survive this process, although they will do their best to save a part of it. Once the mural has been removed, the wall will be



blasted to clean off any debris. This wall will have to be left to dry over several weeks and it's unlikely that any remedial work will take place until at least Easter. The final stage, which will happen over the Summer holidays, is for these toilets to be refurbished along with those in in Year R and at the back of Year 3.

Growth Mindset Workshop

Parents with children in any year group are invited to find out about developing a 'Growth Mindset' on Tuesday 21st February between 9.00am – 10.15am.

INSET Days - February and June

The school is closed on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February for INSET days. This is for our annual School Development Conference when staff and governors meet to review the school's performance and to set priorities for the coming year. These will drive the 2017-18 budget and form the basis of the School Development Plan (SDP), which will be shared with parents during the Summer Term. Secondly, just an early reminder that our final INSET day is Friday 23rd June, which is different from previous years. On that day the teaching staff will be attending the Festival of Education at Wellington College.

Dates for your Diary

- 6 Feb 17 - International Mindfulness Week
- 8 Feb 17 15:00 to 15:45 - Year 6 Cake Sale
- 9 Feb 17 - INSET Day 3
- 10 Feb 17 - INSET Day 4
- 13 Feb 17 to 17 Feb 17 - Half-Term
- 19 Feb 17 to 25 Feb 17 - Y6 Residential Trip
- 20 Feb 17 - Back to School
- 21 Feb 17 09:00 to 10:15 - Growth Mindset Workshop
- 22 Feb 17 - Year 2 'People of the Past' Dress Up Day



REACHING for our BEST

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

