

# Windmill Whispers

Issue 4 – January 2017



Happy New year one and all! Something we are continuously focusing on at Windmill...all about **ambition for every child**. We continuously have the mind-set that every child can achieve and it is our core purpose to realise more ambitious expectations for every child.

What's written below is taken from a book called 'Self-Improving Schools' and the article that I have taken this from was written by Rebecca Clark. I think it speaks volumes...

*In 1954 Sir Roger Bannister became the first man to run a sub four-minute mile. This was an iconic sporting achievement. Bannister's contribution was to **believe** it was possible to run a mile faster than had ever been realised before; since then more than 1300 athletes have matched his feat. Are we actually getting faster and stronger, or has enhanced human performance been made possible by training and technological advancements? Bannister ran his 3.59.4 mile on a cinder track. When the current world record holder, Hicham El Guerrouj, ran 3.43.13 in 1999, he did so on a synthetic track. A cinder track is approximately 1.5% slower than a synthetic track; this fact alone gave El Guerrouj a three second advantage.*

In education I believe that our efforts need to be focused on how to realise more **ambitious expectations** for every child. Where do we need to focus our efforts to find 'three-second advantages' in the context of 'doing well' at school?

Something for us all to ponder and something that is really getting me thinking this term...

Thanks, as ever, for your support. Mr Coleman

## New theme in Year 3 and 4

This term, in Sanders, Nichols and Horrell, we started our new theme of Arabian Nights by introducing the story of 1001 Arabian Nights and who Scheherazade was. We then used our fact finding skills to find out about Ancient Islamic Civilisation and the city of Baghdad. We particularly enjoyed belly dancing and tasting date and tabbouleh - well done for Trying New Things, Year 3 and 4! On the second day we found out about traditional Islamic patterns and had a go at using a compass to draw our own patterns! This was very tricky for some of us, but we showed amazing resilience and produced some lovely designs. A fabulous start to our theme, everyone!!! Miss Loasby

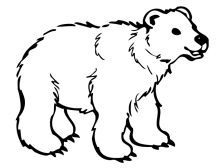
## New theme in Reception

Wow what a stunning start!!! Reception started the new term with an exciting adventure after the discovery of giant sized footprints and dinosaur eggs buried in their outdoor sandpit! Soon after a letter arrived from mummy dinosaur explaining what to do with the eggs and the children watched them hatch! The children immediately became deeply engrossed in their learning and all the children in Reception can now tell you what a palaeontologist is and where fossils can be found! Keep up the good work reception! Mrs Frost



## Year 1

In Year 1, the children came in to find a crime scene in their classrooms on the first day back at school! Over the Christmas holiday some Arctic animals had visited Chambers and St Crispin's classrooms and left snowy footprints on the floor. The children became investigators and used magnify glasses to explore the footprints and to hunt around the school for more. After lots of research and the presenting of a news report, the children discovered that the footprints belonged to a polar bear, arctic fox, reindeer and snowy owl.



On the second wow day, the children became explorers and located on globes and atlases where the animals had come from and why the weather was so cold at the poles. The children left school buzzing with excitement about this terms theme, 'Frozen Planet!' *Miss Ridsdale*

## Year 5 & 6

After a terrible crime had been committed, Year 5 and 6 were enlisted to help investigate! The server had been taken and all our personal details were at risk! After a morning of learning all the skills to become a crime scene investigator, we were ready to begin our job. We took fingerprints and learnt the different patterns we all had; created a mug-shot gallery; sketched e-fits; how to write witness statement; and even used chromatography to test the ink in pens. Some lucky children were also chosen to examine the CCTV footage around school to help to identify the suspects. After two amazing days with some visiting PCSO's, we were all incredibly relieved to find out the entire crime was a hoax!

*Mrs Durrheim*

## Mrs Gradwell

We'd like to say an enormous thank you to Mrs Julia Gradwell for all of her efforts over the years with various different things at Windmill. From teaching PE, to Gym Club, to Gardening Club...

I'm sure there's so much more too! Mrs Gradwell has been and will continue to be an important part of our school community. Good luck in your 'retirement' and again, THANK YOU!

## NTFC

We are very fortunate in Y3/4 this term. Not only have children been given the opportunity to join a Northampton Town led Football club, the NTFC coach has been working with us on a Thursday afternoon too! We haven't been developing our football skills though (because I'm sure too much football can't be good for you!) Instead we have been learning to play dodgeball. The coach is amazing and we're all having lots of fun in PE this term so a huge thank you to Northampton Town !

## Year 2 start the term

On our wow days Year 2 were transported back in time to ancient Egypt. The children found out about hieroglyphics, Egyptian Gods and mummification but to name a few things.

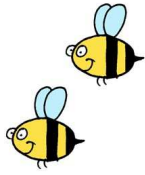


They even had the opportunity to have a go at mummifying their class mates. See our blog for pictures of us mummifying the children. We then had a go at making Egyptian gods out of clay. The children had a fantastic time and asked amazing questions about their learning.

*Mrs Bashford*

## PE Kits

All children should have a PE Kit in school with them during term time, if not they miss out on valuable lesson time. Please make sure they have theirs with them! Thank you



**Ground Force Day**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10 – 4pm**  
**Come if you can!**



**Dates for your Diary – This is subject to change and will be updated in every issue so please keep checking!!**

Wellington Class Assembly	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Year 6 SATs Evening	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2017
Number Dress up Day	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017
Nichols Class Assembly	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Term ends	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b><u>Term 4 Spring 2</u></b>	
Term starts	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Year 6 to Frontier Centre	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Chambers Class Assembly	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
France Meeting	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Pupil Learning Conferences	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Pupil Learning Conferences	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Year 6 Yearbook Photos	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
St Crispin Class Assembly	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017
Ground Force Day	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
Term ends	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017
<b><u>Term 5 Summer 1</u></b>	
Training Day for staff	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Term starts	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Bank Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017
Year 6 SATs week	W/C 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
Term ends	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
<b><u>Term 6 Summer 2</u></b>	
Term starts	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Year 1 Phonic Screening week	W/C 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Year 5/6 Production 6pm	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Year 5/6 Production 6pm	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017
Term ends	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017