

Windmill Whispers

Issue 2 – November 2016



It has been an amazing start to the 2016/17 academic year here at Windmill. We continue to improve in all areas and it would be impossible for me to list all of the awesome things that have happened or will be happening. You'll have to check out our blogsite to see what each class has been up to... <http://windmillprimary.co.uk/blogs/> Thank you to you all for your continued support of your children and the school; as I often say to the staff, our wonderful children and community are what makes Windmill, Windmill! *Mr Coleman*

Fire Service to Reception

A few weeks back our reception children welcomed visitors from Raunds Fire Station as well as a paramedic. They spoke to the children about their jobs to support the children's understanding of their topic 'Me and my Community.' After the talks the children were lucky enough to get shown around the fire engine, sit in the cab and squirt water from the hoses. Great fun was had by all! A big thank you to Ben and his colleagues from the Raunds Fire station who accompanied him. *Mrs Frost*



The Fossil Man

On Friday 30th September, Year 5/6 were visited by 'The Fossil Man'. Jules was an inspirational man, who shared his passion for evolution with us all! The children held real fossils from millions of years ago as well as seeing models of rarer fossils. The most amazing fact that we found out was that humans are related to ALL creatures on Earth. Jules described the process of evolution as 'stretching' and we learned that DEATH is the key factor! Great visitor, great experience, great learning! 😊
Mrs Durrheim

Gunpowder & Plot

Before the half term, two coaches arrived at school ready to take Y3/4 to continue their learning about Thomas and Francis Tresham. Fortunately the weather was kind to us as the building that is Lyveden New Bield is unfinished and doesn't have a roof! The children spent the day exploring the site, looking around the building and also investigating the gardens and orchard which were first designed and constructed in Elizabethan times. On the way home we also drove by another Tresham Building, Triangular Lodge and although there were too many of us to go onto the site, it was a great way to complete the day. The whole day was an amazing way to bring our classroom learning to life and we were really impressed with the focused attitudes from all and great questions the children asked during the day. *Mrs Brett*

Physics in Action

Friday 14th October was Science Enquiry Day, one of my favourite days of each term! This time we were incredibly fortunate to have visitors from The Royal Aeronautical society, ARA and Lockheed Martin along with a Wind Tunnel and a Thermal Imaging Camera. KS1 and KS2 children got to see the scientists and the equipment in action in an assembly but children in 5/6 also got to explore the science in more detail in a workshop. The theme of the science in school for the day was Physics and children got involved in enquiries in wind, forces and light. An amazing day #reallifelearning!
Mrs Brett

Year 3 & 4 Fab Finale

Year 3/4 had an amazing Fab Finale at the end of last term. In the morning, we watched a brilliant bonfire burning brightly and some fantastic fireworks. Thanks to Mrs Brett's husband for being our fire marshal. Our persuasive leaflets must have been very effective because so many adults came in the afternoon to look at our work from the term and to buy the delicious goodies we made. We raised approximately £150, so thank you for your contributions.



Miss Loasby

Year 5 & 6 Investigate

Year 5 and 6 discovered an enormous crater in the willow circle last Tuesday morning. We had received notification from the Ministry of Defence that we were not to touch anything as it may be radioactive. We spent two days investigating what could have created this crater. We collected evidence using our science skills - measuring the acidity of the soil, identifying rocks and testing our slime! In groups, we worked together to create a news round report and performed these to the class. Hopefully, nothing like this happens again! *Mrs Durrheim*

Reception

During the last week of term Reception had yet more visitors to finish of their theme 'Me and My Community'. This time we welcomed Police officer David Bryan into reception along with his colleague Lisa. David and Lisa answered lots of the questions that reception had before, allowing them to explore the police van, including allowing them to sit in the prisoners cage! The children thought this was very exciting! Reception's fab finale was finished off with the police van putting on lights and sirens to the excitement of the children! A big thank you goes out to police officer David Bryan, his colleague Lisa and to Carrie Powers, who all ensured that reception could enjoy this experience! *Mrs Frost*

Term begins for Year 3 & 4

This term began with a magic portal opening in school which allowed the mystical Sethweddens to flee their world and find safety in Windmill school as they needed to escape from an evil monster who was destroying everything in its path! Unfortunately, the monster followed them and wrecked the homes they had set up. As good Windmill citizens, we all helped to rebuild their homes, using our imagination to great effect ... as we had no idea what Sethwed looks like. In the afternoon, we looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy and created images in his style. A totally amazing day!!! Well done Year 3/4. *Miss Loasby*

Reception

On Tuesday when we returned to school we found that we had had visitors over the holidays! In the Reception classrooms we found foot prints broken chairs and porridge bowls! Not only that, but someone had eaten the small bowl of porridge!!! The children were very intrigued and became 'crime scene' investigators using their notebooks to record the evidence they found! They decided that Goldilocks had been in the classroom and they needed to catch her and put her in jail!! The children really let their imaginations go and lots of fun learning took place!

Mrs Frost



Pam Adams

We are very sad to say that we recently lost a long serving member of the Windmill team, who sadly passed away after a short illness. Mrs Pam Adams served as a dinner lady and cleaner at the school for a very long time, 27 years! She will be remembered and greatly missed by us all.

RWSA

Thank you everyone who attended our AGM on Thursday 20th October. We are pleased that we have some new faces joining our committee and we are feeling very positive about the year ahead. We have already held a KS2 movie afternoon, discos planned for Reception/KS1 and 2 on Friday 18th November. Hopefully, there is a special event planned for the last day of term Tuesday 20th December (again more details to follow) parents, you'll want to keep this afternoon free if you can!

Just a quick note about the RWSA, for any parents with children in Reception or new to the school. We are a small committee of enthusiastic parents planning and organising events primarily for your children to have fun and add to Windmills great school community. Any money raised from these events goes back to the school for extra items Mr Coleman and the rest of the staff feel will enrich your child's learning and time at Windmill.

We funded the chick hatching experience in Reception last year which had the whole school buzzing, we've bought hi vis vests for the children to wear when on school trips or out in the community, we contributed towards the revamp of the pond area and library areas. We have also ensured that we can make a sizeable if not total contribution to an experience in school or trip for every child at Windmill this academic year! These are just a few of the things we've been able to achieve this year so far with your continued support. If you can spare any time to help out at discos, movie afternoons etc., we would love to hear from you. Maybe you have some exciting ideas that we can plan for the children or fundraising ideas. I'm Kellie Mayes, chairperson and my daughter Evie is in year 6, I work full time but still manage to volunteer. You don't need to commit hours just offer what you can when convenient to you. You can check out our page on the schools website, email us (link on website) or coming soon, our part of the notice board at school keeping you up to date with what's planned and when! Exciting times ahead!

Kellie Mayes RWSA

Pride of Northamptonshire

On Thursday 20th October we were very excited for one of our pupils Jessica Wilson in Year 1 who made it through to the Pride of Northamptonshire award finals! 15 months ago Jessica was knocked down by a car and was left in a serious condition, she was flown by air ambulance to Birmingham children's hospital. Jessica has made a miraculous recovery, being an inspiration to us all. Mr Coleman, Jessica, Jessica's Mum and myself were all invited along to The Park Hotel in Kettering for the evening. As we arrived Jessica walked along the red carpet and was very excited! Once inside we were seated and served a lovely meal, presentations began hosted by Jon Moses, a finalist from the ITV show Andrew Lloyd Webber's Superstar. As the evening went on Jessica's category came up and we had our fingers crossed for her! Jessica couldn't believe it when she won her category!!! she was invited up on stage and was presented with a lovely glass plaque and certificate to celebrate her achievements!!!

Well done Jessica we are all incredibly proud of you!!! *Mrs Frost*

Year 1

On Tuesday 1st November as you looked across the playground you would have thought that all of year 1 woke up late! All the children were so excited about coming to school in their pyjamas. We had an amazing time discussing dreams (which many children are hoping will come true!) and making colourful dream catchers to hang in the classroom. The day ended with all the children listening to their favourite bedtime stories whilst settling down to a pretend sleepover!

Miss Catling, Mrs Walsh, Miss Ridsdale

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

Pupil Learning Conferences	Wednesday 9 th Thursday 10 th November 2016
Remembrance Parade	Sunday 13 th November 2016
Flu vaccinations for Y1/2/3	Friday 18 th November 2016
Children in Need Spotty Day	Friday 18 th November 2016
Disco KS1 & 2	Friday 18 th November 2016
Panto to whole school	Tuesday 6 th December 2016
Mufti Day for Chocolate Tombola	Friday 9 th December 2016
Reception Christmas Production 2pm	Tuesday 13 th December 2016
Reception Christmas Production 6pm	Wednesday 14 th December 2016
NSPCC Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 16 th December 2016
Christmas Dinner	Monday 19 th December 2016
Christmas Parties in Classes	Tuesday 20 th December 2016
Term ends	Tuesday 20 th December 2016

Term 3 Spring 2017

Training Day for staff	Wednesday 4 th January 2017
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Term starts

Thursday 5th January 2017

Term ends

Friday 10th February 2017

Term 4

Term starts

Monday 20th February 2017

Term ends

Thursday 30th March 2017

Training Day for staff

Friday 31st March 2017

Term 5 Summer 2017

Term starts

Tuesday 18th April 2017

Year 6 SATs week

W/C 8th May 2017

Term ends

Friday 26th May 2017

Term 6

Term starts

Monday 5th June 2017

Year 1 Phonic Screening week

W/C 12th June 2017

Year 5/6 Production 6pm

Tuesday 18th July 2017

Year 5/6 Production 6pm

Wednesday 19th July 2017

Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2pm

Friday 21st July 2017

Term ends

Friday 21st July 2017