

Windmill Whispers

Issue 3 – January 2018



Welcome back and Happy New Year!

January 2018...wow! How did that come around so quickly?! I do hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and that 2018 has started well for you.

Here at Windmill, we are all individuals... Allowing all individuals the chance to be given the opportunity to fulfil and exceed potential is the only way to go in my mind. We need to promote individualised approaches to every aspect of life and learning; focusing only on getting the Environment, Culture and Ethos right for each individual in whatever their scenario.

To learn we must take risks, make mistakes, fail...by getting it wrong, we will eventually get it right. It is not an option to say I can't do it...we must advocate the use of the word 'yet'. I can't do it yet.

To learn we must allow our curiosity to get the better of us. However will we find something out if we don't ask questions? Of ourselves and of each other? We need to develop the passion and desire to challenge ourselves and each other more...risk free, with no judgement.

To learn we must be resilient. The child attempting a tricky division calculation...gets it wrong. Does she stop and give up? Or does she have the courage and resilience to learn from her past experience and try again? Key learning behaviours needed to progress, both in that moment but also as an individual...a human...a person. A person.

In that word lies so much. We are all people. People with wide-ranging experiences. People who are sensitive...emotive. I choose to surround myself with people that care...and over my time where I have had the privilege of leading at Windmill, I have been truly honoured to work alongside, spend time with and interact with a whole load of different, amazing people who care!

Long may it continue. Thanks, as ever, for your support. Here's to a wonderful 2018...

Mr Coleman

'Sense Sensation' Year 1

On November 22nd Year 1 hosted a Stay and Play afternoon, the children had been learning all about nocturnal animals whose senses are heightened to allow them to manoeuvre in the dark so parents were asked to test their senses in the 5 senses challenge. A fun afternoon was had by all who joined us. Miss King

Back in November.... Children in Need Day We raised £800 for this charity, WOW!

Cross Country

Back in November we were all very proud of our Year 3,4,5 & 6 athletes who took part in the Cross-Country event. Superb effort from Team Windmill as ever!!



Knighthon Class Assembly. Probably the best science lesson ever seen...well done guys!

We are delighted to tell you that the **Disco's** made £540 in total, which is fantastic! Thanks for your support and THANK YOU to the RWSA.....

Panto

On the 5th December Years 1 – 6 were treated to a performance of 'Beauty and the Beast' by the Looking Glass Theatre. A fabulous time was had by all. Oh yes it was!

Reception Stay and Play

Reception hosted another Stay and Play afternoon on Dec 6th which was brilliantly well supported as usual by our parents. Thank you so much for coming we hope you enjoyed it too!
Mrs Frost

Clarks Class Assembly

On Tuesday 5th December, Clarks Class performed their class assembly which was named 'Explorers have Talent'. The children took on the roles of famous explorers such as Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong and Sir Francis Drake. Simon Cowell even made an appearance! The confidence that the children displayed was amazing and the performance was full of entertainment. Well done Clarks Class!

Miss Mawby

School Choir

We are very proud of our awesome school choir; who sang so beautifully at the Raunds **Christmas Lights Switch** on event. And again a fabulous performance from them at the **Mayors Carol Service** on 13th December, singing 'Calypso Choir' and 'When a child is born'. Well done!

Christmas Jumper Day raised £258.50.

It was amazing how many different jumpers there were on show!!

Sikh Religion

Our year 5 and 6 children took the amazing opportunity to learn all about the Sikh religion through a range of artefacts and workshops run in school back on 6th December .

Nativity awesomeness!

Wow! The Reception Nativity was just superb. The confidence displayed from our 4 and 5 year olds was just wonderful. Amazing singing, brilliant acting...and the smiles on their faces made it so special! We are all so proud of our children - well done everybody. We also received £180 in generous donations at the door which was amazing! THANK YOU



Islamic Religious Education came in on Dec 12th to our Year 3 and 4 classes. This was an amazing opportunity for them to learn about the Islam religion through an assembly and a range of workshops.

Lawrence Class Assembly

Well done Lawrence class for such an amazingly informative assembly all about Europe, WOW!

Oh come, all ye Windmill!

It seems slightly incongruous to be recalling the fabulous carol concert that was held on the Key Stage 2 playground just 3 weeks ago now that we are already hard at work in the Spring Term. But then I look around me and the Xmas tree is still twinkling away in the corner of the room, there are still mince pies that need eating, Eggnog (why??) to be drunk and numerous calories to be shed and we remember that Xmas is still a fresh memory. And it is a memory that surely be with us for many more weeks if not years, such was the coming together of voices (young and older), wind (both brass and from the bursting lungs of 350 children, more than 30 members of staff and parents and friends of Windmill Primary School) and the odd cup of mulled-wine. The sight of Mr George in the angel costume is (unfortunately) yet another sight that will be etched in the minds of all that witnessed it.

Often traditions are difficult to trace back to their roots and new ones even more difficult to 'start' – who would be so presumptuous to assume they could create that groundswell of acquiescence and approval needed to form such a thing. But I think we may have started something here. If the turnout of parents, the enthusiasm of the children and the fantastic sounds of the amassed instruments from far and wide (Northamptonshire) of this year is anything to go by, building on last year's numbers then I foresee the Windmill Carol Concert becoming an event that is as much anticipated as a visit from St. Nick himself.

So, once again, a huge thank you to all of those who attended, took part and supported the children and the school, both during the carol concert itself, and during the activities which followed. Only 11 months to go....

Mr Bateson

Please remember P E Kits should be in school for the whole term!

Windmill's Big Day out in London

It was a privilege to accompany Mrs Taylor and Keira, Charlotte, Aimee and Dillon to the Houses of Parliament on 12th December to collect our award from Kellogg's for their Breakfast Club of the Year (Eastern England). While perhaps unexpected, it was nonetheless well deserved recognition for the tireless work that Mrs Taylor, Mrs Roberts and supported by Mrs Hawthorn and Mrs Stoner (as well as other 'visiting staff') have put into the WWAC since it started in September 2014. A staggering 18,731 children have been served breakfast between 7:30 – 8:45am each morning; just 10 children attended our very first morning.

The day didn't start brilliantly, an hour wait on a freezing Wellingborough platform ("...points failure in the Market Harborough area..." will be forever etched on our minds!) was not in the plan but the children were fantastic and showed several of the regular commuters the meaning of Resilience. Eventually though we were off – Kellogg's cereal was dutifully consumed en-route (sure we should be getting some sort of commission here...?) and we were soon arriving in the grandly named St. Pancras International where Dillion was dumb struck when Mr Bateson approached a machine-gun wielding policeman to ask the way to Marks and Spencers ("it wasn't just any machine gun it was a.... oh you know") which was where the taxi was to collect us for the final part of the journey.

We arrived at Westminster and after going through the security checks (where Mr Bateson had his whistle confiscated!) were taken from a very cold Westminster Hall on a tour of an equally cold Palace of Westminster. The only warm room was the House of Lords which we were lucky enough to be able to go into. The bright gold decoration, thrones and the rich red leather seats (the same leather used in Rolls Royce cars) and the very able heating in place may well explain why so many members can be seen with their eyes closed tight against the glare of all that gold while they are concentrating hard on the important goings on in Parliament that day....

Then it was lunch on the terrace of the House of Parliament with the South Bank, the London Eye and the Thames providing the background before we were presented with our award. There were schools from all over the UK with the overall winners having just arrived (by plane!) from Northern Ireland. Tom Pursglove, our local MP, arrived towards the end of the ceremony to personally congratulate Mrs Taylor, the children and the school – he has promised to visit WWAC and see just what all the fuss is about! He surprised the children and Mr Bateson and Mrs Taylor by inviting them to the Members Gallery so they could see the Commons in action (Mr Bateson took great delight in 'MP spotting' from this vantage point high up above the chamber).

Then before the taxi back to St. Pancras a quick walk up to Number 10 for more photos and then back on the train and home. A fantastic day which I'm sure the children will never forget (even if only for the canapes they experienced at lunch, hmmm).



Windmill AAB

Welcome to 2018, Happy New Year to everyone in our Windmill community.

What a great end to 2017 at school, just before Christmas we had the wonderful nativity performances from our Reception children what a special treat to be able to watch such an enthusiastic bunch of superstars in action they were amazing, well done everyone. Huge thanks to all the staff and everyone involved. The end of term Carol singing and Christmas Fayre was a huge success, thank you to everyone that came along. Special thanks to the RWSA for organising such a wonderful afternoon to finish the term.

During the coming year there may be an opportunity for us to recruit some new Governors to join our Advisory Board, I will keep you updated either via Parentmail or through Windmill Whispers.
Sarah Triolaire Windmill AAB Chairperson.

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

Term 3 Spring 2018

SATs Information Evening Year 6
Term ends

Tuesday 16th January 2018
Friday 9th February 2018

Term 4

Term starts
Wow Days
Year 6 Children to Rock UK
Pupil Learning Conferences (late)
Pupil Learning Conferences (early)
Year 3 & 4 Residential Information Evening
Year 5 & 6 France Residential Info Evening
Easter Bonnet Parade (RWSA)
Term ends

Monday 19th February 2018
Mon 19th & Tues 20th Feb 2018
Monday 26th February 2018
Tuesday 13th March 2018
Wednesday 14th March 2018
Tuesday 20th March 2018
Tuesday 27th March 2018
Thursday 29th March 2018
Thursday 29th March 2018

Term 5 Summer 2018

Term starts
Bank Holiday
SATs Week
Year 3/4 Residential
Year 3/4 Residential
Term ends

Monday 16th April 2018
Monday 7th May 2018
w/c 14th May 2018
15th – 16th May 2018
17th – 18th May 2018
Friday 25th May 2018

Term 6

Term starts
Wow Days
Year 5/6 France
Year 5/6 Production
Year 5/6 Production
Leavers Assembly
Break for Summer Holidays

Monday 4th June 2018
Mon 4th & Tues 5th June 2018
W/c 25th June 2018
Tuesday 17th July 2018
Wednesday 18th July 2018
Thursday 19th July 2018
Thursday 19th July 2018

**Wishing all our readers a
Happy New Year!**