

Wiveliscombe News



20 July 2017

Achievement Certificates – Roll Call of Honour

Jacob Bellamy, Asta Myram, Joseph Keane, Millen Moore, Raphael Reis da Silva, Jasper Bartholemew, Jonty Lusk, Cosima Varney, Isaac Harwood, Ruby Cook, Logan Schofield, Thomas Files, Rosie Denslow, Daisy Hayes, Gabi Grudzien, Rhys Hellings-Langdon, Ella Cottrell, Max Hannaford, Toby Swan, Bertie Thorne, Maisy Kidner, Alfie Eagle, Billy Tompsett

Future Dates for your Diary:

- **21 July** – Yr 6 leavers' Pool Party – details included in this newsletter
- **21 July** – Last Day of Term
- **24 July** – Inset Day
- **25 July** – Beginning of Summer Holidays

- **4 & 5 September** – Inset Days
- **6 September** – start of Autumn term

Academic Calendar for 2017/2018

Attached to this newsletter is the academic calendar for next year (including inset days) for your information.



School Uniform

Next delivery of school uniform (for orders placed on or after 20th July) will be available for collection from the school office at the



beginning of the next academic year.

We will email parents as soon as they are available for collection.

If you do not have access to a computer please contact the school office.

OFSTED

At the time of writing this newsletter there is only a slim chance that we will receive our Ofsted report by Friday, in which case it will be sent to us at the start of September. This is frustrating for us as we had looked forward to sharing it with you, but it will be a very positive way to start the new school year. Thanks, once again, to all those of you who wished us good luck on the day itself – your support went a long way towards making the day less stressful.

The Archie Garden

Reminiscence Learning are creating a designer garden at the Taunton Flower show this year – The Archie Garden. They would love as many staff, children and parents to support them on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th August in Vivary Park – it would be lovely to see you there.



Annual Reports

The switch to online reporting appears to have gone relatively well – no one has told us that they couldn't log on and download their child's report, so that was good! As we expected, though, there has been at least one issue that has been flagged up to us: the "traffic lights" on the online Report Card often don't appear to match what is on the child's report, particularly those that claim to represent progress. We're not quite sure why that is, but we are happy that what is written on the reports is accurate, and have turned off the "progress traffic lights" in the meantime. There also seemed to be a slight problem

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on some Reception reports where Pupil Tracker appeared to expect more progress from some children than is reasonable! We understand why this problem occurred and are able to take steps to prevent this in the future.

As we wrote in the last newsletter, we expected a few teething problems, but couldn't anticipate what they might be, so thank you to those of you who have pointed them out to us. Your feedback has been very helpful.

Imagineering Club Robotics Training

The Imagineering club represented the school at an introductory training session of Lego robotics held at Dulverton junior school on Monday 3 July. The afternoon session consisted of building and programming simple robots and controlling them via an iPad App. The robot construction and programming kits are supplied by Lego and are designed to introduce children to the concept of designing, building and controlling robots.



During the session the children built a rotating and talking robot head and a simple vehicle that was programmed to move forwards and backwards. Traditional lego building blocks and snap together components are used coupled with an electric motor, gears, drive belts and an intelligent programmable control hub to provide the automation.

The programming of the robot was carried out on an iPad using a click, drag and drop menu which enabled a simple control function to be sent to the robot via a Bluetooth connection. All the children were able to participate in the building and programming of the robots and were all fully



engaged and enthusiastic, in fact it was the only topic of conversation on the way home!

Next term our school will be able to borrow a number of robot building kits to enable children to design, build and program their own robots. Thanks to Mrs Tilley, Mrs Savage Bailey and Mrs Jorgensen for providing the transport to and from Dulverton and for engaging with the robot building as well!!

Sports Day

Sports Day was a great success again this year. The weather was lovely and it was fantastic to see so many parents watching the events and enjoying a picnic on the field with their children at lunch time. The children had fun taking part in a range of sporting activities, including running, silly races and tennis, rugby and cricket skills. The 'spirit of the games' (honesty, passion, determination, teamwork, self-belief and respect) were evident throughout the day. The Year 6s did a fantastic job leading the activities all morning and a huge thank you to the Kingsmead students who took over in the afternoon so all the KS2 children could take part themselves.



Beacon to Beach

The Beacon to Beach race continues to be the highlight of the year for me. Every year the children amaze me with their team work, determination and love of running! Huge congratulations to everyone who took part and a massive thank you to all the parents who gave up a Sunday morning to bring their children all the way to Minehead. It was great to see so many ex-pupils inspired to complete the whole course!



A huge thank you as well to Mrs Geary, Mr Deeks, Miss Harrison and the other adults who ran the whole course supporting and motivating the children. The atmosphere in the Wivey team was incredible and we definitely had the loudest cheers at the finish line! Roll on Beacon to Beach 2018!

Mrs Johnson

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Mrs Laws

Mrs Laws has very recently told us that she will be leaving the School at Christmas as part of her relocation to Bristol. We know many of you will be disappointed by this news, but it does not come out of the blue. Mrs Laws has worked at Wiveliscombe for more than eleven years since starting as a very new teacher. We have known for some time that Mrs Laws is ambitious to move on, either to be the Deputy of a larger school or as a head teacher, and she has applied for several jobs in the past. Mrs Laws feels that having been part of the team responsible for seeing the school through its recent Ofsted, and with her husband being promoted to a job in Bristol, this is a good time to move on.

We very much appreciate that Mrs Laws has given us much more than the half term's notice that we would have had if she had applied for and secured a job in September or October next term. This now gives us the time to advertise and recruit the best possible candidate, as many of those interested in this position will be currently working and would need the time to give notice to their own schools to be able to start in January, which thanks to Mrs Law's generosity they will have. Positions like this in good schools come up quite rarely, so we anticipate a strong field, from which we will obviously pick the best candidate.



There will be plenty of time to say "goodbye" to Mrs Laws next term, so for now we would simply like to thank her very much for what she has done in all her time at the school, and to wish her all the best for next term and beyond that, her move to Bristol and the next chapter of her career.

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Governors' Corner

We were expecting to end the term communicating the results of the recent Ofsted inspection. Disappointingly, Ofsted have been unable to issue their letter in time and we will now hear from them at the beginning of next term. We still have plenty to celebrate though and as Governors we ended the term with a very productive and positive final meeting of the academic year. We have seen an encouraging level of progress over the past twelve months and, as a Governing Body, we are very pleased with the direction in which the School is heading. There will always be challenges, but we are well positioned to manage them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah Laws for her contribution and support. We still have her experience and warmth until Christmas and appreciate the additional length of time she has given the School to allow us to transition and find a suitable replacement. We will miss her greatly and after eleven years we will wave her off fondly, knowing she has laid great foundations for the School and wish her all the best. Mrs Laws has worked particularly hard with literacy in the school, improving the children's reading and writing as a result.

Whilst thanks are due to all members of the team and those involved in making our school a happy and safe place for children to learn, I would also like to specifically thank Mr Duncan for his incredibly hard work, for his vision and for his leadership. As Governors, we challenge him rigorously, but we also support him and we look forward to working with him and the rest of the team as they ready themselves to take the School to greater heights next year.

Adrian Myram

Chair of Governors

PE Reports

Many children have taken part in various school sports tournaments during the school year, some of whom have kindly taken time to write reports – please see attached PE Report for details.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who week in, week out volunteer their time to transport their child/ren plus others to various sports fixtures – it really is very much appreciated – without you the children could not participate!

Also, a big thank you to our swimming volunteers. KS1 swimming has progressed so well this year and it is down to our excellent support (some mums spending the whole morning in the pool!).

Thank you!

Thank you all so much for everything you have done to support the school and your child this year: whether that was volunteering to come on a trip, helping in class,



buying raffle tickets at Christmas, spending money at the school summer fair, hearing your child read regularly at home or the 101 other ways you support us and the children here. It is very much appreciated – never taken for granted.

Finally, Mrs Geary would also like to thank everyone who has supported and worked with her this year and looks forward to working with you again next year!

Have a great summer!

Mr Duncan



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