



Warboys Community Primary School

Moving Forward Together

To Develop Confident, Independent Learners

Headteacher: Mrs Angela Boxall

01487 822317

www.warboys.cambs.sch.uk

office@warboys.cambs.sch.uk

SPRING TERM 2018

Headteacher - Mrs Angela Boxall

Onwards and Upwards

Having waited so long for our successful Ofsted visit, there has been no time for relaxing in this very short, but yet incredibly busy term. Teachers have been reviewing the teaching and learning of foundation subjects. Tracking children to ensure attainment is high is always on our agenda but our main task is to further develop and enhance the school curriculum. Science and Design Technology, including cooking continue to be our focus. We strongly believe children gain so much from offsite educational visits so this term the school curriculum was further enriched through visits to the Birmingham Genting Arena, the Duxford Imperial War Museum, the Huntingdon Racecourse and the residential visit to Grafham Water.

Year Three brought their Literacy topic to an exciting end by holding a Harry Potter day for which they had made potions, wands, wizards hats and held a Quidditch competition. The children will take away so many wonderful memories.

For the first time in five years we had to close the school for a 'Snow Day' mainly due to road closures preventing enough teachers getting to school safely. Thankfully, this was limited to only one day. Snow is always magical for children and they made the most of the snow by investigating changing materials and by making snow sculptures and snow angels.

The school council have been very active working with Upwood School reviewing learning, school grounds and internal displays. The council and parent forum have also helped to review and amend the school uniform policy. Small tweaks have since been sent out to all families and will be enforced from the start of the summer term. Our school council were certainly proud of their school and are looking forward to visiting other schools in order to share good practice to improve our school even further.



*Together Moving Forward to Develop
Confident, Independent Learners.*

School Development - Post OFSTED

Without any doubt Warboys Community Primary School continues to grow from strength to strength and the 'Good' rating from the Ofsted inspection verified this to everyone. So what is next? As we know the face of education is changing with the Government's on-going drive to increase the number of schools which are either academies or members of multi academy trusts [MATs].

At the recent Parent Forum I shared the fact that only two of the nine schools in our ASCA cluster remain as Local Authority stand alone schools - Warboys being one of them. The seven other schools are now either single academies, part of an academy trust, or have joined other schools as a 'federation' with a joint executive headteacher. As a 'good school', the threat of being forced into an academy trust by the Local Authority has disappeared. The governors and leaders at Warboys can now, with consultation of it's stakeholders, decide the future of the school for themselves. As part of the school's five year development plan, investigating all options was already an action point. Whilst still keeping our school culture and ethos, what would be in the best interest for our children? Should the school remain as a stand alone school or should we be seeking academy status?

There are several reasons why schools opt for academy status and join MATs: Academies are funded directly from the government rather than via the Local Authority. There is strength in a 'school led system' with school to school support sharing good practice. Teachers will have access to more professional development which in turn will improve teaching and learning even further. Academies have some freedom over their school curriculum, their admissions policy, the school day and even holiday dates. With diminishing budgets and the ever increasing costs, academy trusts can take advantage of economies of scale and can choose providers across a wider range of services.

Applying due diligence, leaders and governors are researching all options available in order to furnish stakeholders with as much information as possible during consultations later in the year. More information will follow in the summer term.



At the end of the summer term Mrs Dickinson will be taking maternity leave to have her second baby. We wish her all the very best and hope to see her back for the summer term 2019.



We welcome your constructive comments and suggestions. Please post them in the **Suggestion Box** in the School Lobby.

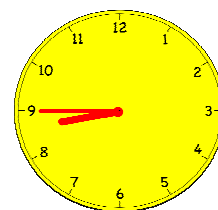
Attendance Challenge to maintaining 96%+

Well done to 120 children who received gold attendance certificates for the spring term. This was another great achievement for the majority of children.

Although attendance remains comparably high at 95.6%, it is slightly down on last years figures. We are working hard with families and the educational welfare officer [EWO] to ensure all children are in school and on time, each day.

Register call is at 8.45am but yet our tracking shows several children still come into school after this time missing the start of the first lesson. When this missed time has been added together, some children have missed the equivalent of 2 days school so far this year!

This term the Local Authority have issued several fines for non attendance and in term time holidays. To help prevent any further fines being issued we will continue working with families to improve attendance and lateness figures. The EWO has already made the first of several spot checks to ensure progress is being made and will continue making spot checks during the summer term.



SCHOOL LUNCHES

We have been informed by the Local Authority that CCS, our caterers, will have their contract terminated in December. As a result the school made the decision to put our catering service out to tender in the spring term and this process is now well underway. During the summer term, the school council and a selection of staff, parents and governors will meet with different caterers to decide on a new catering company for the school. We will also take this as an opportunity to change a few things on the lunch menus.

We hope by taking early action, the process will be smooth enough to have the new catering company in place ready for September.



After School Child Care Update?

Following our initial survey, we found there was enough interest in an after school child care club to investigate further. The school is not yet in a position to undertake a full 'wrap around' child care service so we asked an external company to undertake a more detailed questionnaire for us. We sent out information to families joining the school in September and those at Warboys Under-Fives. To ensure an after school child care facility is viable at least 16 children must be signed up on a daily basis.

Sadly, at present, there is not enough interest to warrant an after school club of this sort, but we will continue to monitor the ongoing level of interest



Young Voices Ring out in Birmingham

Ninety children aged from 7 to 11 had the most amazing day, singing with six thousand others as part of the Young Voices choir at Birmingham's Genting Arena. Since September, the children have been learning by heart lyrics, dance moves and harmonies for *thirty five* songs and the evening performance in front of an audience in excess of fifteen thousand, showcased their

fabulous skills. Joined by rising artists, Urban Stride, The Magnets and Alfie Sheard, the children rehearsed all afternoon and performed for an action packed two hours. It was an amazing and exhausting day that children are still buzzing about, asking each other, "Which song are you singing in your head right now?"

Children thanked Mrs Downing for her efforts and asked if they can make a return visit

Visit to the Duxford Imperial War Museum

In March, Years 4,5 & 6 embarked on a visit to the Duxford Imperial War Museum to support our topic on the war years. The whole place was gigantic and we were privileged to see old planes taking off and landing. Amazingly, there was a hanger with a Hurricane and Spitfire in it which still worked! One of my favourite hangers was the one housing the tanks, cannons and automatic weapons. The section about East Anglian Army told the history of local men, their experiences and their heroics including their medals. We had fun dressing up in period costume and holding weapons, but were surprised how heavy they were. Sadly, there was no Me262 [the first ever jumbo and used by the Germans in WWII] but we had a fantastic day and learnt a great deal.

Ralph, Year4



Year 6 trip to Huntingdon Racecourse

On Thursday 22nd February, Year 6 from Warboys went to Huntingdon Racecourse to have a maths day. Arriving at 9:20am, we met Ollie and Judie, who were in charge of the charity called Racing to School. They led us to two hospitality suites where we would put our coats and bags and try on silks (a jockey's clothing).

We were split into two groups. Group one went with Ollie first to the Weighing Room, while group two went with Judie to the stables and the parade ring. In the Weighing Room, the scales were massive. We found out that the jockeys would be weighed on the scales with all the horse's equipment (tack). We also learnt that a flat- racing horse's jockey would have to weigh 8- 10stone and a jump- race horse would have to carry 10- 12 stone. We used the scales to weigh each other before swapping with group two.

With Judie, we went to the stables to the horses being checked in. They had a special passport to check their identity. We met two horses called Blazing Glen and Dude Alert, who were both bay horses. We also went to the parade ring: we estimated its length then measured it with a trundle wheel.

We had a break, and then we went to look at the jumps in the racecourse. We were surprised to see there was a lot of goose poo on the grass but that didn't bother the horses! The jumps looked really big but the horses just stepped over them. We then went back to look at a jockey's clothing. We learnt that a jockey riding a slower horse had to wear lighter clothing.

During lunch, Ollie took us to the commentator's box. The stairs were very narrow and the room was tiny. Eventually completing our maths in action, we watched the races! We saw two races. The first one had Blazing Glen and Dude Alert in it, but unfortunately they didn't win. In the second race, one rider fell off his horse, but the horse kept going – until it got bored.

At the end of the day, I thought it was an amazing trip for a maths lesson and I would love to go there again.

Izzy



School Council say Protect your Reading Books

The school library was the envy of many visitors especially the school councillors from Upwood School when they visited Warboys in March. Our children were so very proud to show off this wonderful resource. However, in order to keep the library stocked with new books rather than spending money replacing existing books, the school council would like all children to protect their reading books. They would like children to keep books in a separate book bag or in plastic wallet so they do not get damaged. Thank you.



Gymnastics Competition

On Tuesday 13th of March, Teagan, Siana, Macie, Summer, Charlie and April competed in the gymnastic competition held at Huntingdon Gymnasium. It was such a massive gym full of equipment. We were all nervous because we didn't know we would be scored by some really good



teenage gymnasts. We were also surprised by the fact that 12 other schools were competing against us (we thought there would only be one other school).

Once we settled down in the gymnasium and we had overcome our nervousness, we all started jumping around to test the strange springy floor before warming up ready to begin. Our first station was the 'body management'. Siana, April and Charlie were asked to do the Body Management. Siana went first and the two teenage judges scored us from 1-10 on how well we did. Once we finished the Body Management we were allowed a rest to refuel with a snack before moving on to the next station.

We moved onto the vault and were allowed to have practices before taking our two main vaults. That was a really tricky piece of equipment.

Finally, we came down to the last session for the day - the floor exercise.

Summer, Teagan and Macie were contenders on the floor exercise. Summer went first and was amazing.

We all worked really hard and were incredibly pleased with our performance even though we didn't win. We were proud to represent the school in this inter school competition.

Summer & Sianna

SCIENCE and DT WEEK

Over the past 18 months we have worked hard to continue developing our balanced curriculum by increasing the focus on subjects other than maths and literacy. Music, Sport and IT were key subjects last year with Science and Design Technology being the focus so far this year. Ofsted were suitably impressed with our rich curriculum.

Children have been exposed to and totally engrossed in an increasing number of practical activities this term. In DT children have learnt the skills of joining different materials without using metres of sticky tape. Sewing skills and finishing techniques have also been a focus.

Science is all around us and none more so than during Science week. With a visit from Dr Helen Mason, an astrologist, children were inspired about Science. Children made rockets, space food, and the solar system and learnt about the work of Tim Peake. Some children even researched the difference between exercising in space and here on Earth. Following a space home work project, the climax of science week was the sight of 260 children wearing space helmets in assembly—it was amazing so thank you all for your support with this Science project.



Dear Parents and Carers

When I wrote my last article in the December newsletter we were all still waiting for the outcome of the Ofsted inspection in late November. The result, as everybody now knows was, 'good'. This was well deserved recognition and just reward for all the extremely hard work and dedication that all staff had put in to achieve this result. We also must not forget the pupils and Governing Body who also made their contributions to achieve this fantastic result.

However, whilst we can be pleased with the outcome of the inspection, it is important that we start planning ahead for the next Ofsted Inspection with the intention of achieving an 'Outstanding School' which will not be easy. We believe that with the current Senior Leadership Team, staff and Governing Body all working together 'Outstanding' is achievable.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we have two new Parent Governors, Sarah O'toole and Simon Marsh, which now gives us a full complement of Parent Governors on the Governing Body. We have also recruited two new co-opted Governors, Kerry Puryer who has previously served at the school as the Business Manager, and Damian Pinel who is a qualified youth and community worker with 42 years of experience with the RAF. For the first time for quite a while the Governing Body now has a full membership. I am very pleased that I have a complete team to face the new challenges ahead and look forward to working together to ensure that the school continues to improve whilst at the same time ensuring that the school remains a vibrant, happy and successful school.

John Parker



Governors



Chair of Governors

John Parker

Parent Governors

Steve Dodd

Sarah O'Toole

Simon Marsh

Peter Wood-Eeles (Vice-Chair)

Alan Evans

(Chair of Resources)

Claire Eeley (Chair of S & A)

Local Authority Governors

Gregory Pelling

Co-opted Governors

Nigel Graham

Barbara Betts

John Parker [Chair]

Vanessa Norman

Kerry Puryer

Damien Pinel.

Staff Governors

Karen Harding

Headteacher

Angela Boxall

Clerk

Loren Bradley



Pranks, Hoaxes and Threats to Schools

You may have read or heard in the news that many schools around the country have been experiencing hoax bomb and terrorist threats. Sadly, these incidents seem to be on the increase. Cambridgeshire schools, and our school, have not escaped them. Any threat to the school is taken very seriously. If the school receives a threat of any kind, a strict protocol is followed. Our first reaction is to stay calm and inform the police and Local Authority. If the reported incident is specifically targeted at our school and puts our children and staff in immediate danger, we would instigate our rehearsed lock down procedures. In line with our protocol, and in order to manage the situation to avoid panic, we take advice from the police and Local Authority and then inform parents of the situation.

To avoid any unnecessary panic, for more general or nationwide threats, considered to be hoax calls by the police, staff are informed and we monitor the situation with the help of police. Some schools take the decision to evacuate each time. Neither decision is taken lightly. Staff need to be vigilant at all times. As a result of the issues around the country **please be aware there will be a full lock down practice this term** in place of the fire drill practice.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, our big announcement, - on the 9th February the PTA became a PTFA ! This equates to Parents, Teachers, & Friends Association to become inclusive with the local community. We also have the great pleasure in telling you we have made a staggering £1900 this term, which would not have been possible without your support, the support of the staff and the PTFA committee members.

We have had lots of fun with all our events this term. The Quiz Night was a massive success with 15 teams competing. Well done to the winners "The Pork Scratchings".

We held our 2nd movie night where we showed "Lego Batman" and "Trolls". Once again this proved to be a very popular event with 140 children attending.

This term we introduced the first of our Pop-Up Shop's with a Mothers Day shop. There were lots of happy Mums, Nans, Grandmas, Aunties and Godmothers on Mothering Sunday. Thank you for all your lovely comments we'd like to share a few that we've received: "Thank you so much for all of your work for the Mother's Day pop up shop, a beautiful idea and lovely gifts. It made me feel all squishy inside knowing



that the girls had chosen them themselves! Xx". "So much effort and thought had gone into the Mother's Day shop. It was truly wonderful! We have an amazing PTFA!"

We ended the shop with a café style cake sale, thank you for all your donations of cakes. The café was very busy and we thank you for your patience and hope you all enjoyed your cakes.

Family Easter Bingo was another successful event with a huge turnout from the whole of the community to support us - lots of Easter eggs were won.

Coming up next term we have a Movie night, Pop Up Shops (Father's Day, second hand uniform shop) School Fete (9th June 2pm- 4.30pm) Summer disco (18th July) and Gin

tasting evening (7th July). More information can be found on our new Facebook page Warboys Community Primary School PTFA or on www.pta-events.co.uk/warboyspta

Did you know that as a parent you are automatically a member of the PTFA? It's entirely up to you how active you are as a member you could do lots, nothing or something in between. You don't have to come to meetings regularly or at all, just let one of us know that you are interested in helping and what you would like to do, and we will fit around you. Meetings are held monthly at the school where possible and our next meeting is on 24th April at 7.30pm

BREAKING NEWS: We have the circus coming to the village in July 2019. Look out for more information in the next few months. Hope you all enjoy the Easter holiday. Tanya

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum

This is a great opportunity to meet once a term to discuss school related topics. It is a way of being able to support the school in a relatively informal way. We run two meetings, one in the evening and the other during the school day, to enable as many parents as possible to get involved. In the past we have discussed things such as the Home School Agreement, school meals, after school clubs and the future of the school in the light of our recent 'Good' Ofsted.

Any parent is welcome - we would love to see new people, it is not a group for a select few. We are keen to develop the partnership between schools and families as well as being able to offer feedback on issues that support the education of our children.

I find it a valuable group to be involved with and it is great to see that our suggestions and feedback can have an impact in the school. It is also a great way of discussing things with other parents across all year groups and seeing other viewpoints, supporting one another and supporting the school.

If you would like to know anything further please contact me on replies@warboys.cambs.sch.uk.

Kate Smith

Chair of Parent Forum

Thank you for your continued support!

Diary

23rd April 2018	Year 5 Swimming Lessons begin
25th April 2018	Year 1 Visit to South Angle Farm
27th April 2018	Year 2 Visit to South Angle Farm
27th April 2018	Heights and Weights for EYFS & Year 6
3rd May 2018 4th May 2018	Parent Forum
11th May 2018	Family—Early Intervention Officer Drop in Session
14th May 2018	Year 6 SATs begin
15th, 16th & 17th May 2018	Years 3, 4 & 5 Production of Oliver
18th May 2018	Starfish Class Assembly
21st to 24th May 2018	Year 6 Bikeability
22nd May 2018	Year 5 Visit to Fitzwilliam Museum
23rd May 2018	Class Photographs
28th May to 1st June 2018	Half term.
23rd May 2018	Class Photographs
11th July	Sports day
13th July	Reserve Sports day
24th July	Leavers Service & End of Term



**PTA
FILM NIGHT**
Back by popular demand
**APRIL
19th**

