



Warboys Community Primary School

Moving Forward Together

To Develop Confident, Independent Learners

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December 2017

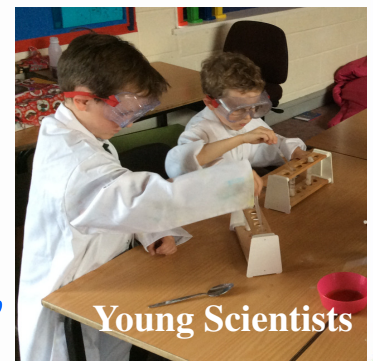
Yes we are still waiting!

My, oh, my! What a phenomenally busy term we have had. Watching our new Foundation children beginning school is always such a delight. It amazes me how quickly they settle into school routines and how fast their confidence grows. Parents and Foundation children have been delighted by the use of 'Tapestry' which is an instant online update of the progress children are making. Tapestry has been so successful the school will be investigating so see if there are other similar tools which could be used across the rest of the year groups.

A stable staff has helped the school continue to grow from strength to strength on a long path to 'Good'. This term our School Improvement Advisor has worked with the Leadership Team to support new leaders develop in their roles. The Local Authority came to review our standards in the Early Years Foundation, as well as scrutinising our safeguarding procedures. As if that was not enough for the Leadership Team, we also had a visit from Ofsted Inspectors together with an HMI Inspector!

Our own school 'Self-Evaluation' believes, under some difficult circumstances, [budget included], the school is making rapid progress towards 'Good' but we will have to wait for the published Ofsted Report to see if inspectors agree with us.

Highlights of this term have included seeing parents join their children to share reading books in class, reading the stories Key Stage One children had written about Traction Man and his adventures and watching the youngest children in the environmental garden on Wild Wednesdays. During our Health Week children challenged themselves to think not only about their physical health but also their mental health. Throughout the week and well into the term, children considered what impact their actions had on others. Key Stage Two worked closely with Anne Frank UK Foundation to explore the impact that prejudice and bullying had on those around them. Although most children took the key points on board, there are still one or two children we still need to work with to ensure respecting others is instilled across the school.



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

GOLD SPORTING AWARD



During the assembly on 11th December the school was awarded the Gold Plaque by Gregg Finnleyson, of the Hunts Schools Sports Partnership [HSSP]. Elouise, Alanis, Noah and Oliver, who all show good sportsmanship at every opportunity, were selected to receive the award on behalf of the school. Over the past few years Mr Herring has worked hard to develop strong links with HSSP. He has taken every opportunity to engage as many children as possible with the ever increasing

range of sporting events. The school has made good use of the Sports Premium grant by; providing teacher professional development; additional school clubs, transport to many sporting events and buying new resources to support our focus on keeping children active.

Where is our Shelter?

A massive thank you to everyone for helping us reach the fundraising total for phase one of our much needed Early Years shelter. Sadly, because our chosen shelter was not an exact replica of the previous one, the school has had to apply for planning permission. Phase two of the shelter will incorporate doors, so we have now decided to apply for planning permission for the whole project. At the moment we are in the hands of local planners but we will continue fundraising and keep you posted.



Attendance Challenge - Well done everyone!

School Attendance remains high at 96.5% which is brilliant!

Attendance is always closely monitored if a child's attendance falls below government guidelines of 95%.

Our Certificates for Attendance continue to be successful in helping to increase attendance.

The introduction of gold certificates each term and a platinum award in the summer was well received by all. This term we handed out 102 gold [100%] certificates.

As stated back in September, our key focus this year is to reduce the number of late sessions registered by a minority of children. Lateness counts towards our overall attendance figures.



Year 3 Victorian Day

Active history lessons in the Pumas class gave children a taste of what life was like for children during the Victorian era. They learnt that many children their age went to work and life was not easy. During the day



children polished shoes, washed the dishes, cleaned the silver and did a little sewing.

Before going to dinner hands and nails had to be checked!

In full costume, boys and girls came into class separately and were taught in rows of boys and rows of girls. It was strangely quiet in class that day, just maybe children knew the Victorian punishment for speaking without being spoken to!



Soldiers Fallen



*The gun sounds,
The mud beneath,
My heart beats.
I am tense.
Behind the barbed wire fence
The enemy comes.
Shooting whilst they're running.
Thousands of people falling.
Will I be next to fall?
This is the World War!
Getting shot down
Even when we lay dying.
Protecting our country.
Now we lie,
Knowing we didn't die
But remain in the hearts of other
people*

By Alex Killingworth

After School Child Care ?

Four years ago we carried out a survey to gauge the demand for a Breakfast club and an After School Club. At that time, the demand was only high enough for us to start a Breakfast Club. Now, with the reduction of child care facilities in the village, we are increasingly being asked to consider an after school club too. We will be sending out a survey early in the new year to see how large the demand for an 'After School Club' really is. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please keep a look out for the parent survey.



Choir



With the support of Mrs Downing, the school choir have spent time preparing themselves for the festive period. Even though the temperatures had dropped, spirits were high as they sung their hearts out at the turning on of the Warboys Christmas lights. The school choir also brought in the Christmas cheer to Warboys residents as they sang at the choir's annual visit to the Warboys Resource Centre on 11th December. It is so wonderful to hear children sing in unison and especially at this time of year. They will now spend any spare time preparing for a KS2 visit to Young Voices in early January.

PARENT VOICE.

We have always appreciated constructive comments from parents [and children] through the right channels, which can help move the school forward. Following conversations at the previous Parent Forum, we have decided to trial a 'parent suggestion box' for parents who may not be able to find the time to attend the Forum or who may, for whatever reason, find it difficult to come into school to talk to staff. Comments and suggestion will be taken to the Senior Leadership Team for consideration. Responses will be via the weekly news letter or will be added to the next Parent Forum agenda.



Healthy Living Week

Healthy Living Week during October, was our first theme week of the year. Each class investigated different ways to stay both physically and mentally healthy. During the course of the week, most children had the opportunity to do some healthy cooking, making soups, tartlets and smoothies. Key Stage Two children took time out to meet Luke Pearson, a local chef supporting schools through 'Fresh Time'. Using little competitions, Luke helped the children explore a wide range of unusual vegetables from fennel to rainbow chard. He then demonstrated the 'bridge' and 'claw' knife skills to each group.



Throughout the week some children experienced yoga classes and all children took part in mindfulness exercises during whole school assembly times.

At various times during the week, whole classes could be seen skipping on the playground. This is one activity Mr Herring is keen to promote across the whole school.

This theme week gave the school a good platform to launch our new healthy cooking curriculum to support the practice of healthy eating. Over the course of the coming year we will continue to encourage children to partake in daily, active, five minutes skip or dance session as well as their regular PE lessons. With the introduction of 'Ollie's Super Powers' in January further work will be undertaken to promote maintaining a healthy mind. It was a week all children enjoyed.

Year 6 Residential to Caythorpe

Way back in October, year 6 went on their annual residential visit to Caythorpe. Whilst there, with a leap of faith we tackled high ropes, the giant swing, the trapeze, a tunnel trail, and the climbing wall. Teamwork was so important and helped us to encourage each other when things became tricky. Kayaking, raft building and puzzle solving were the ultimate team building activities. If that



wasn't enough to wear us out, in the evenings we took part in activities like ambush, playing Cluedo as well as taking time out to sing around the campfire, singing songs and drinking hot chocolate. The meals were delicious and the instructors were brilliant. We all came away feeling thoroughly challenged and exhausted.



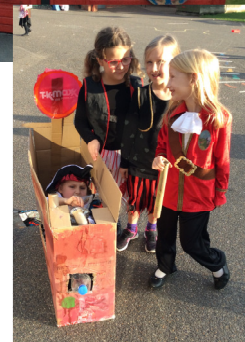
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Keys Stage One

We have had a busy term. We have spent a lot of time looking for Traction Man. He had escaped and went into the village. We had to draw posters to ask for help to find Traction Man. We wrote letters to ask if people had seen him. He was spotted in the park, in the Happy Shopper and at the doctors.



On Pirate Day we all dressed up as pirates. It was good fun. The teacher dressed up too. We wrote stories and we made boats. It was important that our boats floated so in science we tested them. We had to make treasure maps and then we looked for treasure. We found coins. Our best bit was playing pirates on the pirate ship.



News from EYFS

From large construction inventive play, to tree hugging on Wild Wednesdays, all of our new foundation children have settled in and adapted to their new school routines. We have been amazed at how their independence has grown in such a short space of time. Many parents joined in the 'reading sessions' and have been 'wowed' with how much progress the children have made in one term. This year we have introduced 'Tapestry' as a method of regularly sharing children's work with parents, so far this has had positive feedback from both staff and parents. Staff appreciated all your parent support during this first term, especially during the decorations day, and we look forward to inviting more parents into school during the Spring term.



Large school Rugby Tournament 2017

This year we entered two year 5/6 teams into the Hunts Schools 'large school' tag rugby competition. Both teams worked well together and they showed great sportsmanship throughout. Even though rugby has not been our strongest sport, we were all willing to have a go. Both teams played well in all games and although there were some much stronger teams, the Warboys 'B' team came out as victors. We were really proud to represent the school and look forward to the next event.



Dear Parents and Carers.

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to give a huge thank you to Mrs Boxall, the Senior Leadership Team and all of the staff for the excellent results we received yet again during this year's SAT's, a majority of which were equal to or above the national average, and progress was amongst the highest in Cambridgeshire. The school truly has a dedicated and committed staff, which has been reflected in the 2017 results. With the support of parents and hard work by all staff and children the future for Warboys Community Primary School is looking incredibly promising.

The recent Ofsted inspection was a very testing time for Staff, Children and Governors. We are all on tenterhooks whilst we wait for their report, which hopefully we will receive before the Christmas break.

The Governing Body lost two valued Parent Governors due to their term of office expiring and their children moving on to secondary school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Glen and Simon Mead for their contribution and the many hours that they have given to the Governing Body. Karen has very kindly agreed to stay on as an Associate Governor which we are very grateful for - her knowledge and expertise on the Governing Body is second to none. I am pleased to say that we have had applications from other parents to fill these vacancies, which will be decided on at the next Full Governors Body Meeting in January. I would also like to welcome Vanessa Norman as a co-opted Governor and Greg Pelling as the Local Authority Governor to the Governing Body. Vanessa has taken on the important role of Governor with Send responsibilities whilst Greg has a wealth of business knowledge and Experience. Both Governors are already proving to be valuable assets to the Governing Body.

Governors have attended a range of courses in the last year to provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills to be able to challenge the way the school is providing the best possible education for the children. We have also carried out visits to the school during school lessons to observe and comment on our findings, we thank staff and children for their time and patience.

We look forward to the Ofsted findings and working closely with Mrs Boxall, all staff, children and parents into 2018 to ensure that Warboys Primary remains a happy, vibrant and successful school.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas.

John Parker

Governors



Chair of Governors
John Parker

Parent Governors

Steve Dodd
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

Staff Governors

Karen Harding

Headteacher

Angela Boxall

Associate Governor

Karen Glen

Clerk

Loren Bradley



**Do you want to support
the school?**

Become a Governor!

**Please contact the
school office for more
information.**

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum had two meetings this term.

At the first meeting Kate Smith agreed to continue as Chair and Mr Adam Watkins took the

position of Secretary. Many topics were discussed at the meetings including the home learning, school lunches, Young Voices, the use of social media and school improvement updates. As

always home work was a hot topic. The home learning policy has now been updated and indicates what parents should expect of teachers and what teachers expect of children. The policy will be available online but copies will also be taken to the next forum meeting for anyone wishing to ask for further clarity .

The Forum were not surprised by the positive results of the school's parent survey. 100% of responses said their child was happy in school. The Group discussed ways to help the school attract more parents to come into school. The group supported the children's idea to invite parents or 'special adults' to join them for a school lunch. Reading cafes' and curriculum mornings were also popular ideas.

The next Parent Forum is booked for Wednesday 24th January [7.30pm]. At this meeting the school will be offering a response to the imminent Ofsted Report.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Parent Forums. However if you are unable to attend and wish for a topic to be discussed, please send your agenda item to the Mr Watkins via the school office.

PTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Tanya Watson and as the new Chair of the PTA I would like to update you on what an amazing first term of fundraising we have had. The PTA Committee this year includes: Kay Broad, Natalie Halliday, Rachael Marsden, Nicky Robertson, Lisa Tipton, Rachel Brown, Charlie Lawson, Serena Briggs, Allie Howlett, Sophie Cottage, Michelle Murrow and Emma Huggins.

Committee roles are voted for at the AGM which is held in September, however if you have any time that you can offer to support any of our events, volunteers are always needed both behind the scenes planning and organising events, as well as on the day of events. Please talk to one of the committee members above. I would like to thank the previous committee for their hard work.

Our first term has been extremely busy and extremely successful. First, we held a Barn Dance which was a fabulous fun filled evening where both children and adults learnt dances and laughed non-stop.

We held our first movie night for the children. Two Christmas movies were shown and the children had a thoroughly great night. We are sure you parents enjoyed some extra Christmas shopping time. We are excited to say that the night was hugely successful. The date of our next movie night is 8th February 2018.

Keep your eyes peeled for further information

Our final project of 2017 has been the Christmas hamper raffle, without the support of parents and carers this wouldn't be possible. A huge thank you goes out to you for the hamper donations and to everyone who purchased tickets.

As you may be aware the PTA applied to the Aviva Community fund to help support the purchase of the canopy for the EYFS playground. Despite lots of support from you and your families we unfortunately did not make it through to the final stages to be chosen. We are aware that many of you struggled to vote due to the problems with the website and as a token gesture AVIVA have donated £100 to the canopy fund to apologise for the website problems.

So that is it, a quick round up of the first term of fundraising for the 2017/18 school year. A huge thanks to the Staff who gave up their time to help us run the events we've held. Also, each and everyone of you for continued support in helping us raise almost £2000 this term for the much needed funds for our children and the school.

Thank you for your continued support!

Diary Dates

Wednesday 3rd January	Training Day
Thursday 4th January	Spring Term opens
Tuesday 9th January	Young Voices Genting Arena
24th January	Parent Forum (7:30 p.m.)
26th January	Drop in session with the School's Family Worker (9:00 a.m.)
26th January	Whales Class Assembly (9:00 a.m.)
26th January	Parent Forum (2:00 p.m.)
6th February	Year 4 visit to Duxford
9th February	Eagles Class Assembly (9:00 a.m.)
20th February	Years 5 & 6 visit to Bletchley Park (tbc)
22nd February	Year 6 Rotary Quiz
1st March	World Book Day
14th to 16th March	Year 4 visit to Grafham Water
22nd March	Hawks Class Assembly (9:00 a.m.)
29th March	Spring Term Closes



**PTA
FILM NIGHT**
Back by popular demand
February 8th

