



Newsletter

ISSUE: 8

16th January 2015

Boswell Road Lower Westwood
Bradford on Avon BA15 2BY



Thistle & Clover Classes Teddy Bear Fashion Show

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the new term. I do hope that you were able to have a restful festive season and enjoy the celebrations.

Already we are at the end of week 2 in what is a short term, but everyone has been hard at work in the classrooms and around the school and everywhere I go I see evidence of exciting and engaging learning. I had the very good fortune to spend some time teaching this week, so saw first-hand what the children are learning and how the International Primary Curriculum is making a difference to the way in which we approach our topics, with entry points that enthral and child centred learning that ensures that we teach the children what they need to know, not what they already know.

It is a pleasure to watch in all classes and one of this week's highlights came from a truly international piece of learning I had with Clover class. Their topic is All Dressed Up - looking at weather, appropriate clothing etc. - so to follow on I set up a Google Hangout with a First Grade (Y1/2) class of children in an elementary school in Hudsonville, Michigan, USA. The children were able to ask questions of their new friends and gain knowledge first hand, comparing climates, school experiences and cultural experiences. It was a fantastic opportunity and experience for the

children, which left them quite spellbound. I know we will do it again.

I would like to mention homework, as we enter a new term, in the hope that everyone feels both able to support their children at home and is aware of the expectations. We set written homework once a week and approach it with a series of activities that are intended to be done across the week in short sessions, perhaps one a day. If they are completed in one sitting then it could prove onerous and tiring for the children, hence the structuring in such a way.

Please encourage your child to have a go as it will support their learning in class tremendously and should still be a light touch approach so as not to put them off, taking one activity per session to complete. We would also ask that you read with your child at least 3 times a week as this will also impact their reading development significantly. Please write a comment in their reading log and it will be read by the teacher or teaching assistant to guide us in class when reading with your child. Staff will also acknowledge in the reading log when they have shared books with the children in school.

DATES FOR TERM THREE

JANUARY

TUES 20th - Maths Curriculum Day

THURS 29th – School Disco

**Thistle & Clover Classes – 5-6pm
Lotus & Orchid Classes – 6:15 – 7:30pm**

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 10th – Safer Internet Day

**FRIDAY 13th – Tea with the Head & School Council
Cake Sale – 3:15pm**

FRIDAY 13th – END OF TERM

As a brief aside, can I also please make a request that in the mornings you do not keep the teachers from being with their pupils, unless it is absolutely vital, but instead use the HASP book for communication. These are read every day. Thank you.

On the topic of routines, can I please remind everyone that children should be entering school at 8.55am every day and that if you are late, you should bring your child to reception and fill in the late book, stating your reasons why. I am very much trying to improve attendance and lateness as I have noticed a few people arriving after school has started. If your child does not start the day in a settled manner, it can impact their entire day.

Finally, if you do have to bring your dog to school, can I please remind you to leave them tied to the fence by the large 5-bar gate, on the playing field side, not the car park side. Thank you.

Our school leaders have started back very enthusiastically and I have already met with the school council and our digital leaders. The school council have decided they want to focus on developing play in the playground at break times and lunchtimes, so have set themselves a task to raise funds to facilitate this with some new equipment.

The first event will be a cake sale on Friday 13th February in the hall, alongside my Tea with the Head. As always, you are all welcome to attend and please support the school council, they are working so hard to help improve our school.



One final note is to mention that this term we are able to provide more clubs than previously and we still have spaces in many of them. If you would like to take part in a club, please come to the office

where Mrs Evans and Mrs Batten will be able to help you. I'm running a country dancing club from now until the summer and my aim is to perform with my group at the summer fayre. We have plenty of space and could do with some more enthusiastic dancers. It is a lot of fun!

I can't finish without mentioning our ever popular and growing blog community at westwoodblogs.org. I would ask that, if you have a few spare moments, you leave a comment or two for our brilliant learners. They are producing and sharing some wonderful work with the world and it would both expand their audience and give them a boost to write more. Thank you.

Have a super weekend everyone

Ian Rockey

BIRTHDAYS



Lots of smiley birthday children!



WINTRY WEATHER

The weather is very mixed at the moment, however; whether wet, frosty or windy, please could you ensure that your child comes to school with a coat, gloves and hat. Thank you.





FRIENDS OF WESTWOOD SCHOOL UPDATE

100 Club

The January draw winner is: Karen Whittaker, £25. Congratulations!

For anyone interested in joining, details and forms are available outside the school office.

School Disco

Our next disco night is coming soon, on Thursday 29th January.

Thistle & Clover class – 5-6pm

Lotus & Orchid class – 6.15-7.30pm (please note the new, slightly earlier finish time).

£2.50 entry, which includes an ice lolly. Glow products on sale at £1.

Quiz Night

We are holding our annual quiz night at school on Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm. This event is open to all (adults only), so get your team together and join us for an evening of slightly competitive fun!

Tickets will be available from the school office from Tuesday 24th Feb at £7.50. The ticket price includes a small supper. Bring your own drinks (and a glass!).

Westwood 'Heroes & Villains' Scarecrow Trail

Planning has already started for this year's village scarecrow trail to be held over May Half Term. As usual this is a joint fundraising venture, organised by FoWs and Westwood Nursery. The theme is 'Heroes & Villains', so there should be no shortage of ideas. If you're interested in making or hosting a scarecrow, please talk to trail organisers: Elaine Caddy, Julie Cleave, Jo Hill, or Lilly Webb or email us at: westwoodscarecrows@yahoo.co.uk. More information will follow soon.

We are always interested to hear from you, with any ideas or if you would like to get involved with helping us raise money for our school.

Ann Windo & Elaine Caddy

Email: fowschair@westwoodwithiford.org

OUT AND ABOUT



Bath Rugby is offering a great ticket deal to the upcoming Bath V Ospreys game!!

Tickets are available for **£10 for Adults and £5 for Children** and could be a great chance for you to come down to the Rec to watch a game at a cheap cost!

The game is on **Saturday 7th February 2015 - kick off at 3pm**

To book tickets please call the ticket office on **0844 448 1865** and quote '**COMMUNITY**' to receive the discounted tickets.

Badminton

Are you aged between 5 – 11years and stuck with something to do February Half Term?

Then why not have a go at Badminton!

Learn the skills of Badminton by qualified coaches
 Play friendly games and competitions
 Measure how hard you can hit the shuttlecock!
 We're coming to a school near you!

Thursday 18th February
St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon
10am – 2pm
£10 per child
Please bring a packed lunch & drinks

To book your place please email
Dominique@wiltssport.org or ring 07917030946
for a booking form.
Deadline for bookings 9th February

   