



Headteacher's Blog

Friday 26th April 2019.
(2 page issue)

Dear Parents/ Carers,
Welcome back to school after the Easter Break to our weekly blog. Please don't forget to contact school with ways in which we can make school even better!
Kind regards, Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



Staffing Updates -

Mrs Dodds' contract ends on Tuesday as she returns to her busy B and B and we thank her for all her hard work over the past year. Miss McTaggart will start in Early Years on Wednesday for the remaining duration of Mrs Lewis' Maternity Leave.

Miss Dick will start her Maternity Leave after half term. We are interviewing a fabulous selection of teachers next week and will let you know as soon as a successful appointment has been made.

Mrs Maule will return from her Maternity Leave after half term. She will teach in Class 1 for the period up to the Summer Holidays. (Our usual staffing and classroom organisation letter regarding arrangements for September will be sent out later on in the term as usual).

Mrs Fortescue is going to return to Class 2 after the half term holiday which will enable me to carry out my Headteacher duties in the office for the period of time until the Summer Holidays.

Sustrans Big Pedal Success.

An amazing effort by you all enabled our school to be placed 9th in the whole country of small schools in the country. A small school in this case is a school of 250 pupils!

Children's University Graduates.

Well done to our graduates, Tilly, Luca, Maisi, Alex and Oliver who attended the Graduation Ceremony during the holidays.



Reminders -

Activities at Willowburn resume on Monday.
Air Ambulance bags to be dropped off on Monday morning please. They will be loaded onto the van during Monday lunchtime. A PTA meeting will then follow. Please join us if you can. Apologies or suggestions can be sent to Louise Hodgson, our chair or the school office directly.

Thursday 25th April - After School Clubs resume.

Tuesday 30th April - Class photographs in school time.

Thursday 1st May - Class 3 cycling sessions continue.

Monday 6th May - School closed for Bank Holiday

Monday and re-opens on Tuesday 7th May.

Summer Term dates letter will be out next week.

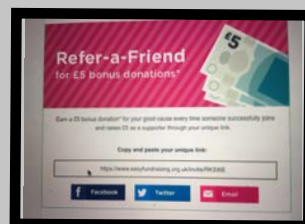


PTA Fundraising - Thank you!-

Our Easter Bingo, sales of second hand uniform and Easter Egg Hunt at Rothill (thank you Rachel for hosting) have raised a combined total of over £650.

Our School Lottery has 57 tickets sold per week (please join if you haven't already) which will give us a forecasted fundraising total of £1600 if sales remain the same or more, if extra people purchase tickets. If your ticket wins you will be notified by email.

Our MUGA is looking fantastic and we hope to install our running track over the Summer Holidays.



First netball match success.

Our girls came first in the shield competition and second in the cup competition played this week at DCHS. Well done girls! After speaking to the High School Staff we have decided to teach netball rules rather than High 5 which was previously promoted for Primary Schools to use to enable a smooth transition to High School. I hope to organise a team in the future. Volunteers would be great. Please let me know if you can help out.

SATS

As a teacher, and headteacher who has been lucky enough to teach at this wonderful school for a number of years please may I remind parents of children who in Year 2 and Year 6 to ensure their children are well prepared for the tests in the following ways:

Have a good diet and plenty of exercise.

Spend quality time doing things that your child enjoys and will make them feel happy.

Have a good nights sleep.

All the staff are highly skilled and have been teaching the skills needed for such tests (and other skills that importantly equip our children for LIFE) from the moment they started our school at whatever point that may be. I am proud to say that our children go onto adulthood becoming (we have amazing past pupils!) individuals who contribute to society in so many wonderful ways.

As a parent myself, I understand the importance of the children feeling prepared (at Whittingham they are already!) and if they want to do some revision and tasks that is great but the important thing is they feel calm and take the tests in a positive way and that they must not feel like they are becoming overburdened with work so that they be the best they can be in a positive manner.

For your information the test timetable is enclosed below.

Key stage 2

Date	Activity
Monday 13 May 2019	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 14 May 2019	English reading
Wednesday 15 May 2019	Mathematics papers 1 and 2
Thursday 16 May 2019	Mathematics paper 3

2018/19 academic year

Key stage 1

Date	Activity
May 2019	Key stage 1 test period
Week commencing Monday 10 June 2019	Phonics screening check week