

Wray Common Primary School Newsletter



Inspiring Lifelong Learning

THE END OF ANOTHER TERM

WISLEY WIZ-KIDS

Last Friday, Year 3 visited the RHS gardens at Wisley to help them consolidate their learning about plants. During the day, they took part in a scavenger hunt around the grounds where they were inspired to write poems and they explored the glasshouse where they discovered *Medusa's head* and the carnivorous *pitcher plant*, plants that they had learnt about at school. They also learnt about how seeds around the world travel and planted their own seeds which they brought back to school in order to study their growth. Thank you to the parent/carer volunteers for their help with this trip - we couldn't have done it without you!



MINIBEAST MUSEUM

As you know, it has been all about minibeasts this half term in Year 1. After their exciting, snowy visit to Nower Wood last week, the children had a go at designing and making their own minibeasts. They then invited the aptly named Caterpillars, Ladybirds and Bumblebees to come to their Minibeast Museum to discover what the Year 1 children had been learning about.



WRAY COMMON'S VERY OWN 'EGGHEADS'

Following their success at the National General Knowledge Quiz heat that was held at Wray Common last month, on Friday last week, Morgan, Rhys, Owen and William travelled to Horsham to take part in the semi-finals. Competing schools came from as far afield as Croydon, Woking, Horsham and Kingston. After a slow start, the Wray Common team soon got into their stride and took the lead. There were four teams neck and neck almost through to the end of the competition- any one of them could have won - a real nail-biter! Although we didn't win on the day, we are all hugely proud of our team. They all put in several hours of revision, learning Geography, History and Art. Well done, team, and thank you Mrs Robinson.



HOME LEARNING

THE PURPOSE OF HOME LEARNING

At Wray Common, we regard the purpose of home learning as:

- developing an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the development of their child
- utilising the power of parents/carers to promote a positive attitude towards learning
- extending time given to the essential practice and consolidation of basic skills and knowledge, particularly in respect of English and Maths
- encouraging children, as they get older, to develop the confidence, independence, self-motivation and self-discipline needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school
- encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning
- developing lifelong learners

At Wray Common we recognise that children who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue alternative activities beyond the standard school day, be that within school or beyond school.

While some home learning tasks will be used to reinforce and consolidate learning undertaken at school, some home learning, such as Brain Build challenges will develop skills such as problem-solving, communication, creativity, collaboration, etc. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Home learning tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability.



HOME LEARNING JOURNALS

Each child is issued with a Home Learning Journal. As well as providing a wealth of resources to support children's learning at home, they also serve as a record book for reading, spelling/phonics and maths passport practice. These should be signed weekly by parents and teachers.

BRAIN BUILDING

Children will be set challenges once or twice per half term related to their topic. Through these challenges, they will not only develop their knowledge, but importantly will strengthen their learning skills - the CAPTURE learning part of The Wray Common Way. These challenges will often lend themselves to the involvement of parents/carers/siblings with the collaborative nature being part of the design for learning. Completion will be valued through discussion about the task and learning and be celebrated through display. Through this, children will receive quality verbal praise.



EXPECTED TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOME LEARNING (GUIDE)

	Reading	Sounds/Spelling/ Grammar	Maths Passports	Other eg. targeted English or Science tasks	Average expected time per week (guide only)	Brain Build
Rec	Daily, 10 mins	Focus shared once per week; practise 3 times for a few mins	10 mins		1 - 1½ hours	Once or twice per half term
Year 1	Daily, 10 mins	Focus shared once per week; practise 3 times for a few mins	10 mins		1 - 1½ hours	Once or twice per half term
Year 2	Daily, 10-15 mins	Focus shared once per week; practise 3 times for a few mins	10 mins		1 - 1½ hours	Once or twice per half term
Year 3	Daily, 10-15 mins	Set once per week, 10 mins	15 mins	Once per week, 15 mins	1½ hours	Once or twice per half term
Year 4	Daily, 10-15 mins	Set once per week, 10 mins	15 mins	Once per week, 15 mins	1½ hours	Once or twice per half term
Year 5	Daily, 15-20 mins	Set once per week, 10 mins	15 mins	Once per week, 20 mins	2 - 2½ hours	Once or twice per half term
Year 6	Daily, 20-25 mins	Set once per week, 15 mins	20 mins	Once per week, 30 mins	2¾ - 3¼ hours	Once or twice per half term



Back in October, we shared with you some extracts from some of our children's Wray Common Citizen Passports. Another term and a half down the line, we thought that it would be inspiring to share with you some more passport entries. The Wray Common Citizen Passports are a way of celebrating learning and academic achievements, but children also consider ways in which they are developing as citizens.



Contribute to Society



I have contributed to society by sharing my science learning about healthy eating with year 2. The impact is that they will be able to make healthier choices as they grow up.
Anya C

Aspire to be the best we can be



I would like to finish my passport games and targets and get onto a brand new passport so that I can get better at maths and go up in assembly and get my passport stamped. I will be practising my games at home with my mum and on the computer.
Jonas P

Look after the environment



I have been walking to school instead of driving because I know that the gas from the car causes pollution and is not good for the environment.
Ava S

Aspire to be the best we can be



I would like to have a book published by the time I finish Year 9. I have started free writing at home and I am going to continue practising and asking for feedback to help me reach my goal.
Roshni P

Seek Solutions



I have donated money to Greenpeace so that they can stop plastic ending up in the ocean and hurting the animals.
Elloise D

Contribute to Society



I have contributed to society by organising the house assemblies. The impact of this is that younger children are more aware of our values.
Chris B

SCHOOL COUNCIL Our school council continues to take an active role in working alongside adults and representing the children at Wray Common. It has been a busy term and the school council have taken part in a range of opportunities outside the classroom.

They have:

- worked with Mr Huelin and mid-day supervisors to create playground rules and expectations to ensure children have a safe and happy playtime
- supported with our CAPTURE launch and helped choose our characters
- been on parking patrol
- Sports relief- 'pie' face
- held a soap box assembly
- helped staff in the recruitment of lunch time play leaders

What they want to improve
Parking: We want to improve parking at Wray Common to avoid congestion at the end of the day.
Wray Common Citizens: We want to continue to share and observe how we have a wider impact on our society through our Wray Common passports.
Playground: We want to continue to ensure everyone has a happy and safe lunchtime.
Soap Box: We want to continue to develop our whole school discussion and debating skills through our soap box assemblies



THE GUILDFORD FLAMES

This week, as part of their *Science Healthy Living* curriculum, Year 6 were visited by members of the Guildford Flames Ice Hockey team, who delivered their 'Drug Freeze' presentation. This focused on staying fit and healthy through diet and exercise in order to take part in sports such as ice hockey. The players then showed the children the protective clothing worn in ice hockey and used this as a metaphor to help the children understand different ways in which they can protect themselves from drugs, ie just say no and talk to a trusted adult.



The children were very mature and asked excellent questions. Please do take the opportunity to talk to your child at home about what they learnt during this talk.

SCHOOL FUND AND SWIMMING

Thank you to all of you who have paid your swimming and school fund contributions. If you haven't already, please can you remember to make these contributions. The total amount we receive really will affect the level of swimming provision the school can afford as well as those extra curriculum enhancing activities that we have become used to providing every year, such as the amazing Life Bus that many cohorts of children have enjoyed over a number of years.

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Lowther to the office team although sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Jones. Mrs Lowther has plenty of school experience with three school-age children of her own and as Vice-Chair of Governors at St. John's Primary School.



FRIENDS OF WRAY COMMON

As you will have seen by now we have started to separate FRIENDS news from the school by sending our own newsletter (one per term). In order to continue to receive the Friends Newsletter, we need you to give us your permission by 'opting in'. To do this you can simply click on the link in the newsletters or alternatively email: friends@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk saying 'I would like to opt in to receive communications from the Friends of Wray Common School'. From September, school will no longer send out our newsletter, so unless you have opted in, you will not be on our database and, therefore, not receive it.

You may have seen we are also looking for local businesses who are interested in advertising in our newsletter. If you run a small business and would like the chance to advertise in a letter for £25 (emailed to c600 families) then please email us friends@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk for details. We have advertising slots for our April and June newsletters.

Lastly, the new Friends of Wray Common Facebook Group is now live. Join us on here to see at a glance what is happening!



SHENANIGANS...

What is going on here? Last week, as part of Sport Relief, the children who brought in an additional coin, got to vote for who they would most like to see 'pied' in the face. The photo tells you all you need to know! Mr. Murphy definitely thought the vote was rigged, but both he and Mr. Carter were very good sports- all in the name of Sport Relief!



CALENDAR DATES

Please see the calendar dates for next term and keep them in a safe place. Please note that the start of term is Monday 16th April and school swimming starts on Tuesday 17th April. There is a catch-up session, however, on Monday 16th for 2E and 6R.

DINNER MONEY

Please make sure that you pay your dinner money before the start of next term. The total payable is **£65.25**. Please make payment via Tucasi or by cash or cheque at the school office. Thank you.

SUMMER TERM 2018 – DATES

APRIL 2018		Description	Time
Monday - Friday	16	First Day of Term	normal school times apply
		Catch-up swim 2E and 6R	normal swimming times apply
Tuesday	17	School swimming starts	
Monday - Friday	23-27	Life Bus (all classes)	timetabled during school time
Monday	23	School led clubs start	
		Catch-up swim 2M and 2ML	normal swimming times apply
Monday	30	Dorking Halls Music Festival (Choir only)	Rehearsal starts at 4:15 p.m. Performance at 7:00 p.m.
		Catch-up swim RK and RS	normal swimming times apply
MAY 2018			
Tuesday	01	Year 5 Space Day at The Warwick School	during school time
Monday	07	May Day Bank Holiday	school closed
Thursday	10	Friends' Committee Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Friday	11	Year 4 visit to Bignor Roman Villa	during school time
Monday - Thursday	14-17	KS2 SATs Week	
Monday	14	Catch-up swim 3W and 3R	normal swimming times apply
Tuesday	15	Collaborative Art Day with Reigate Parish School (Year 3)	during school time
Wednesday	16	3W Class Assembly	9:00 a.m.
		3R Class Assembly	2:45 p.m.
Tuesday	22	Class and Leavers' Photos	all day
Friday	25	Celebration Medals Assembly	2:20 p.m. (by invitation)
Monday - Friday	28 May - 01 Jun	Half Term Holiday	
JUNE 2018			
Monday	04	INSET DAY (No School for Children)	
Monday - Friday	11 - 15	Gala Week	timetable to follow
Monday	11	Friends' Father's Day Sale	during school time
Tuesday	12	Friends' Father's Day Sale	during school time
		Year 6+1 Reunion	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	13	Friends' Father's Day Sale	during school time
Monday	18	Catch-up swim RT and 5B	normal swimming times apply
Wednesday	20	Friends' Committee Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Friday	22	Surrey Arts Orchestra Day at RAA	(by invitation)
Monday	25	District Sports Field Events at Sandcross School	times tbc
Tuesday	26	Happy School Bags Collection	9:00 a.m.
		District Sports Track Events at RGS Hartwood	(times tbc)

JUNE 2018 contd.			
Wednesday	27	Year 2 Music Festival	during school time
Thursday	28	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day and Family Picnic	(times tbc)
JULY 2018			
Tuesday	03	Secondary School Induction Day (Year 6)	
Wednesday	04	'Rain-off' Sports Day	(times tbc)
Thursday	05	New Reception Parents' Meeting (Evening)	(times tbc)
Monday	09	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2	details to follow
Tuesday	10	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2	details to follow
		Year 6 Production (Evening Performance)	6:15 p.m.
Wednesday	11	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2	details to follow
		Year 6 Production (Evening Performance)	6:15 p.m.
Thursday	12	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2	details to follow
		Bandfest (Redhill School Group) Dorking Halls School Choir only	details to follow
Friday	13	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2	details to follow
Saturday	14	Friends' Summer Fayre	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Monday	16	Reports home to parents/carers	
Tuesday	17	Optional Parents' Meetings	booked appointments only
Thursday	19	Year 6 Leavers' Ball	6:30 p.m.
		Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	9:00 a.m.
Friday	20	Celebration Medals Assembly	12:45 p.m.
		Break up for the Summer Holidays	1:35 p.m. pick up KS1 1:40 p.m. pick up KS2
	21 July - 02 Sept	Summer Holidays	
SEPTEMBER 2018			
Monday	03	INSET DAY (No school for children)	
Tuesday	04	Autumn Term (first day back for children)	