



Newsletter March 2017

Governor Update

A number of governor subject visits have taken place in the last month and it is pleasing to see the children are happy and progressing fantastically well over a broad cross section of subjects. Thanks to all the teachers and support staff for their efforts in making the learning environment and education as challenging, rewarding and enjoyable as they do!

You may have seen recent news regarding national school funding. There has been a re-model of schools budgets for 2017/18 onwards, and whilst this has a national tag line of “fairer funding” a number of schools see budget squeezes rather than gains.

Ashby Willesley does unfortunately see a small reduction in funding, however with a healthy balance sheet and a revised budget (including projections into 2018/19) the school will meet this squeeze with minimal impact to the children. We will of course be keeping a close eye on school finances and any further national challenges thrown our way.

The mix of activities taking place in school is truly excellent, (to name a few) a number of us saw muddy kids return from a day of cross country, whilst others participate in swimming galas, choir performances or stay away on residential visits all in conjunction with the focus on learning and individual progression; even some mock SATS for year 6 have taken place. We see this as a really healthy balance of learning and extra-curricular accomplishments – well done all!

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and enjoyable term break.

Regards

Nigel Harrison - Chair of Governors

Year 3 had Dr Martin Insley visit them to talk about rocks. He was impressed by how much we know from our topic work so far. He brought in many types of rocks including a real ruby and sapphire. The children loved it.

Year 5 pupils were proud to be part of a Commonwealth Day ceremony at Ashby Memorial with the Mayor. They helped raise the flag & were great ambassadors for the school.



Sport

March has been a very busy month in terms of sport at Ashby Willesley with our students going to a number of different events.

These include, Tag Rugby at Manor house, Girls Football at Ashby Ivanhoe along with four games being played by the Year 5 Boys football team in the Rose Bowl competition. As well as all of this, there is still a Year 3 Badminton Festival and two further Boys football competitions at Measham to attend.



So Close! Our **Year 6 girls** progressed to the semi-final to unfortunately lose to Hugglescote 1-0 late on in the game. Miss Elliot, Mrs Blackburn and Mr Smedley are extremely proud at their efforts and felt that they epitomised what a team representing Willesley should be all about. Well Done to all of the girls that took part.

The **Year 5 boys football team** have completed 4 league games in the Rose Bowl competition and are now into the knockout stages. The boys have won all four games and the results were: 2-1 against Woodstone, 12-0 against Packington, 3-1 against Hill Top and 6-0 against Blackfordby.



Victorious! Willesley triumphed at the Manor House Tag Rugby Tournament after beating Melbourne in a tightly contested final which saw Willesley win 4-3.

The PE team at Willesley would like to **thank all of the pupils** that have represented the school during March and hope that the great attitude that has been shown throughout this month continues to occur.

WASPs - It's was eyes down last Friday for the first WASPS event of this year. Our Chocolate Bingo was a sell-out (thank you to all those who've purchased tickets from us in the parent shelter). We had a great evening. Thank you also for the donations of chocolate related prizes on Friday.

We'll then be finalising all aspects of the **Spring Fair on 19th May** which this year is based on Alice in Wonderland and the 'Mad Hatters Tea Party'! We've a host of new games for all to enjoy, plus we'll have a 'Mad Hats' competition this year instead of Spring Bonnets. Details of this to follow after the Easter break.

Also at the Spring Fair, we'll have a number of new stalls selling children's clothing, reclaimed timber items, keepsake gifts and a plant stall courtesy of Sunnyside Garden Centre in Ellistown. An opportunity to buy some beautiful spring blooms for hanging baskets and patio pots.

Once the fun of the fair is over our remaining date for your diaries is the **Music Festival on 23rd June**. It will host the final of Willesley's Got Talent 2017 alongside live music from some local bands. Again details will be released nearer the time.



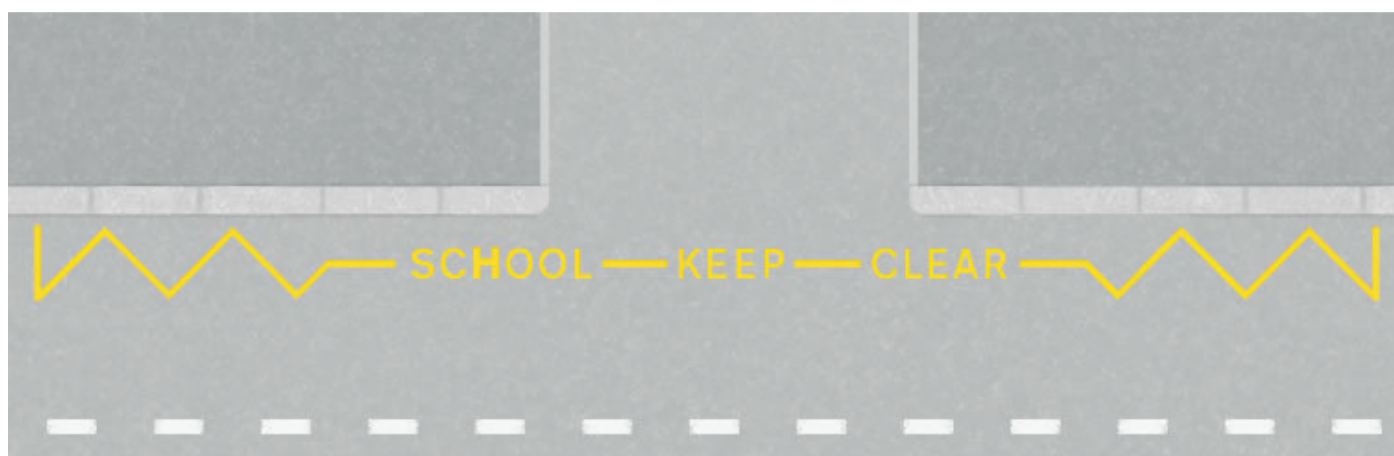
So, thanks again from all of us and don't forget to drop us a line if you can help at events... or even if you have an idea for fundraising. We're always after new ways to raise money for the school and our children.

Safety in and around the school grounds

You may or may not be aware of the new **5MPH** speed limit sign that has been put of the gates at the entrance to the school car park. Please be aware that should you need to drive into the car park, there could be children/adults walking across the area, especially in the morning when dropping off at Breakfast Club. Please reduce your speed.



May we also remind you that parking on the zig zags against the main entrance to the school is hazardous to the children's safety, illegal and hinders access to school for deliveries.



Please be considerate when parking in the local area as we often get complaints from local residents about blocking drives and restricting vision making driving dangerous.

Activ8

For those children not already using the Activ8 scheme, a flyer was emailed recently about how it works. Cards and application forms are available from the school office.

Dinner Money

Please continue to keep your child's dinner money account in credit, especially as we reach the end of term.



Diary Dates:

April 2017

Mon 3rd to Fri 7th Y5 Bikeability
 Mon 3rd to Fri 7th Y6 Red Ridge residential
 Fri 7th Acorn 1 Class Assembly 9:15am
Mon 10th to 21st **Easter Break**
Mon 24th **New Term starts**
 Mon 24th to Wed 26th Y4 Hollowford residential
 Tue 25th Y3 New Walk Museum
 Thurs 27th Y5 & Y6 – Fame at Ivanhoe

May 2017

Mon 1st May Day Bank Holiday
 Mon 8th to Fri 12th Year 6 SATs
Fri 19th **WASPs Spring Fair**
 Wed 24th Class Photographs
 Fri 26th 3GW Class Assembly 9:15am
Mon 29th to Fri 2nd **Half Term**
June