

...in the news!

21st March 2019

This newsletter will keep you updated with events at Wheatfields Primary and it is intended to add to the information you receive on a regular basis from your child's class teacher in the weekly 'Learning Review' and termly curriculum letters.

Odd socks?

Wheatfields pupils and staff are wearing odd socks today to support World Down's syndrome Day and to raise awareness. If you would like to find out more, please click on the link below.

<https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/about/campaigns/world-downs-syndrome-day/>

Funding

As many of you are aware, schools across England are facing dramatic reductions in funding, creating unprecedented pressure, with some schools facing a reduction close to £200,000. A group of parents and carers at St Matthew's school in Cambridge is trying to help, please join them:

April Fool's Day March – meet at 4pm, at Reality Checkpoint, Parker's Piece, Cambridge.

Along with parents, teachers, councillors and celebrities, the children are being invited to dress up as fantasy characters from their favourite TV shows and books, to encourage politicians to stop living in a fantasy land and face up to the reality of what school funding cuts mean for children. Children are also welcome to bring along toys and musical instruments to make as much noise as possible, and to create their own banners protesting the cuts.

This protest march is part of a wider plan to connect with a growing national campaign against school cuts that is being organised by politicians such as Jess Phillips. We are in contact with Jess, and are also getting involved with the organisation schoolcuts.org. We will update parents with more details about how to get involved in the national campaign as soon as we can.

You are invited to join parents and carers from St Mathews Primary School on the march on Monday 1st April at 4pm on Parker's Piece, more information can be found at [facebook.com/groups/fund.our.schools.uk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fund.our.schools.uk) where the march is listed as an event. Please join the facebook group and indicate whether you can attend the event or not as they need to get a rough idea of numbers.

Thank you again Morrisons!

Any donations we get in school to improve the learning opportunities the children have is very gratefully received. Morrisons have helped us out again and this time they have donated bags of compost to the gardening group. Thank you Morrisons!

Captain Morgan Maths week visit

Captain Morgan visited Wheatfields and asked for help to solve the clues so he could sail his boat to find the treasure. Each class had time with Captain Morgan and an opportunity to use their mathematical skills in order to solve the clues. Please see below, a comment from Captain Morgan who visits lots of schools which makes his comment about Wheatfields pupils something to be very proud of.

'I was extremely impressed by the levels of "mathematical resilience" displayed by pupils throughout the school. Each set of questions contains a few that, while still appropriate to the relevant curriculum objectives, are deliberately very challenging - and Wheatfields' children really rose to the challenge by persevering quietly and undemonstratively. For example, there was one group in Year 6 who spent almost all of their time on a single (difficult) question - but they were determined to get to the root of it! And what that says, of course, is that the pupils aren't afraid of problem solving - and the time it takes - which is a fantastic testament to the mathematical culture in the school.'

As you know 'Resilience' is one of our 4 R's that the children practise in order to be the best learners they can be. Well done Wheatfields!

Key priorities for School Development

We have just passed our 2 years since our last Ofsted Inspection in March 2017. The school was judged as 'requires improvement'. I thought it would be good on this 2 year anniversary to reflect how far the school has moved towards the judgement of 'good' as we continue to work hard, in partnership with the local authority to improve further.

Our Key Priorities for 2018 – 2019 are:-



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1. Improve the quality of teaching and learning so that it is consistently good
2. Use assessment to plan more effectively to meet the needs of and challenge all learners
3. Focus on accelerating progress and improving outcomes in reading, spelling and maths
4. Embed new leadership and management roles to ensure sustained capacity for improvement
5. Focus on improving outcomes for these groups; Boys, BME pupils, middle learners and more able.

The school could be inspected at any point between next week and September 2019. There is lots that can be done at home to support our work in school. Don't forget that you have free use of www.busythings.co.uk as well as free use of **Mathletics and Spellodrome**. Research shows that reading for a few minutes every day from a young age gives your child a better chance of passing 5 or more GCSE's at Secondary School. Please contact the school office or your child's teacher if you have any difficulties accessing these resources. Thank you for your continued support of the school in providing the very best learning opportunities on a daily basis.

Scholastic Book fair

Thanks to your generous support of our book fayre, the school has an amazing £714.00 to spend on books for the school library and classrooms. Thank you!

Wheatfields supports Comic relief

This year we sent £235.82 to Comic relief to support those in need of help in the UK and Africa. Thank you for your donations.

Parentview

Thank you to those parents that took the time to complete the parent view survey this year during parent consultations. Parentview can be completed at any time, therefore please do complete the survey as it provides the school with good information about what we do well and areas for improvement. Please use this link to access the questionnaire and thank you for your continued support.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

With very best wishes,

Mrs Thornton

We aim to give you as much notice as possible for school events. All dates can be found using the calendar on our school website www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk. You will also receive our Calendar of Events detailing events through the school year.