

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful day we had last week on International Day. Thank you so much for all the effort everyone made to send their children in national costumes—the school was awash with colour! The cultural diversity at Windmill is its unique feature and it was wonderful to see the children learning about each other's cultural backgrounds. A big thank you also to the parents who joined in and shared information about their different countries. The children found it really interesting. Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to the kitchen team for preparing some great food for us to taste in the afternoon.

I'd also like to say thank you to those of you who brought kitchen utensils from around the world. These have been used and photographed this week and will be returned at the end of this week. These will form part of a big project to redecorate the dining hall with an international theme.



## **Midday Supervisor Vacancy**

We are looking to appoint a midday supervisor to start in January. If you are interested, please request an application form from the office. You will require a clear criminal record.

**Closing date: 13th December 2019.**

## **Academy Governing Body**

I am delighted to say that Misbah Azad is our new parent governor on the Governing Body. There is still a parent vacancy so if you are interested, please ask to see me or ask at the school office. You will need to complete a short expression of interest form. If more than one expression of interest is received, then we would need to hold an election. You will need to have a clear criminal record and have a good level of English. It would be great to have another parent on the Governing Body.

**Closing date: Friday 20th December 2019.**

## **In this half term...**

- International Day
- Midday Supervisor Vacancy
- Academy Governing Body
- New Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body
- Positive Quality Assurance
- Relationships Education Update
- Goodbye for a while to Miss Thomason
- Congratulations to Miss Gascoigne
- Windmill at the Half Marathon
- Basketball Team
- School Dinners
- The Panto, Sleeping Beauty
- Diary dates

## **New Chair and Vice Chair of the Academy Governing Body**

I am delighted to tell you that we have a new Chair, Cynthia James and Vice Chair, Stacey Castillo. Both have much experience of sitting on governing bodies and also sit on Huntingdon Academy Governing Body. They have been incredibly helpful and supportive of Windmill when we have found it difficult to recruit governors. You can contact them via the school office. The Governing Body want to express their thanks to all the staff, children and parents/carers for the amazing support and hard work everyone is putting into the school.

## **Positive Quality Assurance**

Jan Connor, Director of Schools for L.E.A.D., visited the school for a day to see how we have been progressing since her last visit. She was very impressed with our children, stating in her report that pupils' across the school had excellent attitudes to learning. The learning ethos across the school is well established. As she walked around classrooms, pupils were able to talk about their learning using the technical vocabulary with confidence. Pupils across the school work hard because they fully understand the school's expectations and that they want to do well and achieve their learning targets.

## **Relationships Education Update**

Over this term, I have been having meetings and attending training on the new Relationships Education. We have almost completed our policy and will be ready to start sharing this through consultations in the new year.



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# Windmill News

**Date: Autumn 2**

## **Goodbye for a while to Miss Thomason**

As you know, Miss Thomason will soon be having her baby, so will be leaving to take her maternity leave at Christmas and is planning to return to prepare for the next academic year in September. I'd like to wish Miss Thomason and her family all the best and we will keep you posted when we hear about the arrival of her baby. I'm pleased to say that we have Mrs Willder joining us to cover Miss Thomason's leave. Mrs Willder has a lot of experience in Early Years and is looking forward to joining us.

## **Congratulations to Miss Gascoigne**

Congratulations to Miss Gascoigne, who got married last week. Miss Gascoigne will stay with her present name for the rest of this academic year, but then from the next academic year (September 2020), when she has her new class, she will be known as Mrs Spring.

## **Windmill at the Half Marathon**

Did you know the Windmill staff ran the Robin Hood Half Marathon? The staff running team at Windmill wanted to make a difference as well as keeping fit, so we decided to enter the Robin Hood Half Marathon on 29th September to raise money for the Nottingham based charity, When You Wish Upon a Star. This charity works to make dreams come true for children living with life threatening illnesses. We trained hard for a year and when the big day came, ten members of staff took on the challenge and we all completed it!



## **Basketball Team**

Our new basketball team have started the year really well with lots of wins. I watched them this week as they beat the visiting team from Jesse Gray in West Bridgford. They were incredibly impressive! A big well done to them all and thank you to Mr Dannheimer who gets them into great shape for competitions.

## **School Dinners**

At £1.70, our school dinners represent great value for money. It is wonderful to see so many children taking up dinners, especially on a Friday! Mr Singh and the kitchen

team are working hard to make our dinners interesting and tasty. Please encourage your children to try our dinners. Remember, they are free for our younger children, Foundation and Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2).

## **The Panto—Sleeping Beauty**

What a wonderful opportunity our Key Stage Two children had at the Nottingham Playhouse last week. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we all started to feel a bit Christmassy. A big thank you to parents/carers for waiting patiently whilst we ensured that we handed your children over to you safely.

## **Windmill Christmas Dates 2019**

Christmas will be upon us before we know it and the Christmas tree will be going up in school this week. Please see below, dates for Christmas events across the school. Further details and reminders will be sent out nearer the time, but I thought you may like to know the dates in advance.

**Wednesday 11th December**—Christmas in the City (choir) at the Royal Concert Hall.

**Thursday 12th December**—KS1 performance at 2pm

**Friday 13th December**—KS1 performance at 2pm

**Monday 16th December**—EYFS performance at 2pm

**Tuesday 17th December**—EYFS performance at 10am

**Wednesday 18th December**—School Christmas lunch

**KS2 Christmas Crafts Week.** Come and make Christmas crafts with your children and hear our lovely choir sing to you.

**Monday 16th**—Year 3

**Tuesday 17th**—Year 4

**Wednesday 18th**—Year 5

**Thursday 19th**—Year 6

**Friday 20th December**—Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) and break up from school, returning on **Monday 6th January 2020**

I would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to sharing the festive season with you.

Teresa Shrestha  
Headteacher





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# Windmill News

Date