



# ST WILFRID'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH 2022



## A MESSAGE FROM MR NORTH...

It has been an exciting couple of weeks in school, with several exciting events taking place. Whilst I was unable to be in school yesterday, I understand World Book Day was a fantastic success, with some outstanding costumes on display. The collection of books available for our Book Swap was impressive – I hope children managed to find a title that will keep them entertained over the next few weeks.

We have managed to get children on the field at break times a couple of times this week. The children much prefer playtimes on the field as they have so much more space, and can play many more games. However, it does sometimes mean clothing can get a little muddy – apologies for this. Children should always have a pair of boots / wellies / in school to wear at break times.

## SPORTING NEWS

The school football team narrowly lost out to Mapperley Plains Primary school in a recent fixture, losing 4:3 away. Mapperley is a large primary school and so has twice the number of pupils to choose from and an artificial pitch they are used to playing on. Therefore, a narrow defeat was an outstanding effort - the team should be very proud of their performance. The team played some brilliant football, scored some great goals, and were very unlucky to finish second. Well done to all who took part in the game.

## UPCOMING DATES

**7th March** Year 6 visit to Southwell Minster

**18th March** Comic Relief (non school uniform)

**22nd & 24th March** Parents Evenings

**23rd March** Year 4 library visit

**29th March** Parent Forum

**31st March** Year 5 Easter Production 2pm

**1st April** Easter egg raffle & last day of Spring term

**19th April** School reopens for Summer term

**9th May** SATS week



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## PARKING & ROAD CROSSING

It would seem the Local Authority have been unable to recruit a crossing officer for the road outside the school driveway. Therefore, please encourage children to cross safely, preferable at a crossing point away from school – the pelican crossing is perhaps a good choice.

Please avoid parking opposite the school drive (outside the chip shop) as parking here restricts the view of the road for anyone crossing and makes it more hazardous for motorists. Accidents outside schools are very common – two years ago a young child broke his leg outside a school I worked at and was lucky not to have been killed.



## ATTENDANCE

Attendance figures in all schools have been affected significantly by covid. Normally, I would expect an attendance rate of about 97% - our overall attendance to half term this year is at about 91%, with around 5% of absences related to covid. Therefore, it is important that children are not absent from school unless ill, or for another permitted reason (eg. a funeral). I recognise holidays booked during school holidays are more expensive, but every day of school missed (including those booked for long weekends) has a negative impact on a child's progress and attainment. I am unable to authorise any holidays taken during term time,

## UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY AND CHANGE FOR PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

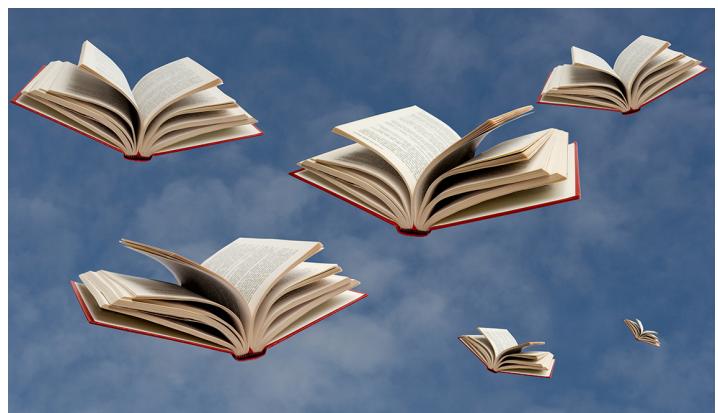
The following workshop is available from the Nottinghamshire Virtual School, aimed at parents / carers of previously looked after children, which will cover the following topics - Understanding Anxiety and Connected Relationships and Story.

This is the second of the three workshops, Understanding Anxiety and Change (transition), will focus on the impact of Anxiety on children and young people's emotional responses particularly at times of stress, and consider strategies which can support managing these anxieties. To book your place please click onto the following link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/217894667817>

This will be delivered online on Wednesday 30 March 2022, 5.30pm - 8.30pm via Zoom

## LIBRARY VISITS

We are keen to develop our link with Calverton library, and have set up visits for each class this term. Libraries often seem to be hit hardest by any cut backs, and so we hope that by encouraging its use, this valuable community resource will be able to flourish. So far Year's 2 and 3 have visited as part of World Book day but other classes will also be visiting over the coming weeks in order to get to know the staff and how the library works. Sharon is our contact at the library and she is more than willing to help support should you as a family decide to visit.



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Please note, we will now break up for summer on Tuesday 26th July (this will be the last day of term) as teachers have been allocated Thursday 28th July as a holiday in lieu of the additional bank holiday allocated by the government to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee during summer half term. Wednesday the 27th July is now an INSET day. Apologies for any inconvenience this causes.

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

On Thursday this week we celebrated World Book Day. As part of the day we held a very successful book swap. We were so overwhelmed with donations that we were able to offer all Reception and Year 1 children a book to take home. Other activities throughout the day included older children reading with younger children and teachers going to read in different classes. We brought it all together in the afternoon with an assembly in which House Captains had to make a final judgement on who each Masked Reader was (results on the left!). Thank to all the parents who gave so generously and helped the children participate by providing them with a costume. There will be photos added to Dojo and Facebook early next week.

**UKRAINE**

We would all rather keep from children the terrible events taking place in Ukraine. Unfortunately, given the scale of events and the blanket coverage of the war in the media, it is inevitable that older children will be aware of events taken place, though the depth and detail of knowledge, will vary significantly. Therefore, it is likely that staff will address this situation in class on occasions.

In school, class teachers are best placed to discuss this situation with children as they know the children well and can monitor their reactions, feeling and thoughts.



When talking about the situation, teachers are likely to make the following points:

- We are very safe in the UK and the conflict is a long way away
- Avoid watching coverage on TV as this can be very upsetting and is not often aimed at children as an audience
- Avoid talking in any great detail about it with friends as they may become upset
- Use the 'Worry Box' if worried or talk to parents / a member of staff
- All wars cause suffering for innocent people
- We can say a prayer for those people affected by it
- Lots of people / children have been displaced; however many countries and charities are helping those people
- Although wars are fought by countries, their citizens often have different opinions – people in Russia are just like all of us.

Whilst all staff have systems in place to deal with discussions of this nature, it is likely children in KS1 are much less aware of events, or understand the nature of them. Therefore, staff in these classes will not mention events directly, but will monitor children's reactions and comments, and be available to talk to children if necessary.

The following links may provide further advice and support to parents:

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

I am hopeful that next week, we will be able to pass information on about how parents and children can support one of the many fund raising initiatives set up to help refugees of the crisis.

Together with this newsletter, I have shared a First News edition parents may wish to share with older children.