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Weston Mill Community Primary School
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Friday 31st January 2014



Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have noticed some recent changes to our school grounds. In the last couple of weeks our willow structure has been created and some lovely trees are adding colour and interest to the playing fields.

We have now formally completed our consultation to form a Co-operative Trust with Stuart Road and Stoke Damerel Primary Schools. Together with our partners, the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust and City College, we will legally be formed on 1st February 2014. We have already arranged some very exciting opportunities for both children and staff and are keen to begin working together.



Road Works

From Monday 3rd February, there will be road works starting on Ferndale Road, near the school back gate. These fairly major works are to remove a tree and to fix underground drainage and are expected to last for around a week. In that time, please take extra care when using the road and be considerate of other traffic and especially vigilant of pedestrians.

Mr Rusty's Report

We have been fortunate in receiving funds from Plymouth City Council and have been working closely with them to ensure what is best for the school. We have had a new hedgerow, some cherry trees and a willow tunnel planted this week. This will all help reduce noise and car pollution spilling into the school grounds.

In preparation for our solar dome, the forestry area is being cleared and work will start on the foundations in February.

We are looking to reduce our carbon footprint further, by implementing energy saving measures such as solar panels. LED lighting and added boiler controls.

I am now running an Eco Club. The children in the club have drawn up an Eco Code, which is on our website. We hope that all parents and children of Weston Mill will want to follow this code and help make our school and its grounds a better, greener place to be.

Running Club

Running club is on the go and have already completed 1.5 miles! Sponsorship forms will be sent home with the children who have signed up for the club, but there will also be some in the school for anyone else who would like to support our runners. All money raised will be going to Clic Sargent.

Website information

It has been noticed by some parents that on occasion, when they access the website the writing comes up in an italic font. This is only the case if you are opening the website on a phone, or other mobile device. If you download the website app this should solve the problem. The font appears as normal when the website is accessed through the app.

Year 5's day on the trading floor



Last week, six Year 5 pupils took part in the Stock Market Challenge with nine other primary schools. Working as a team, they bought and sold shares in fictitious companies. Their smart investment strategies and quick reactions resulted in a well-deserved third place!

The children experienced the buzz of the trading floor and the thrill of anticipating rises and falls in the price of stocks over a condensed 5-day trading period. They watched realistic news bulletins and had access to a business newspaper for each day of trading.

Upcoming events

Wednesday 5th February – Movie Night. Remember to return your slip and money in an envelope by 4th.

Bags to School. We will be having a collection in the next few weeks and blue charity bags will be sent out soon. Please fill them up and return to the school by Thursday 13th February.

26th February – we will be holding a table-top sale for parents to sell old clothes and toys. If you are interested in booking a table at £3 please let Gemma Ley know.

Getting to School Safely

There are some busy roads around our school, so please make sure that you and your children are very careful when crossing them – particularly if your child walks to school on their own.

We also ask for your continued support with dropping your children to school in the playground instead of the front of the school as this is much safer for everybody.

If you are dropping your child by car, we ask that when parking you are considerate of the people who live in the school area and, if possible, avoid parking outside houses.

Half Term Activities

Plymouth Children's Theatre Workshop (based at Ford Baptist Church) are running two full-day workshops on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February from 10am till 4pm. The sessions cost £20 per day and include lunch, snacks and drinks. For more information please go to : www.plymouthchildrenstheatreworkshop.co.uk

For older children (11 and over), Whiz Kids Careers Workshops will be running at City Business Park. For more information and for a list of workshops offered, please visit: www.wkfeb14.eventbrite.co.uk

Important Dates

W/C 17/02/14 – Half Term
28/02/14 – School Disco
10-14/03/14 – Music week
21/03/14 – Reports for Parents
28/03/14 – School CLOSED
04/04/14 – Last Day of Term
22/04/14 - First day of term 5
5/5/14 – Bank holiday, School CLOSED
23/5/14 – Last day of term 5
2/6/14 – First day of term 6
25-26/6/14 – Year 6 London Trip
27/6 – School CLOSED
22/7/14 – Last day of term 6