



# Great Wilbraham CE (VC) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Richard Brown BEd (Hons) NPQH

Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School, Church Street, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB21 5JQ, 01223 880408

Dear Families,

We have come to the end of the autumn term and the children (and staff) are really looking forward to Christmas! This morning we sang carols accompanied by Tim Brown playing the piano and then had some Christmas stories around the tree – the children were magnificent.



## Christmas Service and Choir

Yesterday we had an amazing Christmas service at St Nicholas's. From having the bell ringing to welcoming us in, the musical accompaniment from Miranda, David and Tim and the quite frankly superb singing from everyone; it was a great celebration before breaking up for the holidays. A special word of thanks to Mrs Featherstone, Mrs Lane and Tim Brown for their work with the choir – they were magnificent yesterday (Carol of the Bells was my favourite). I can see why the choir is becoming more and more popular, the children really enjoy it.

*"We really enjoyed Carol of the bells which is a Ukrainian folk song, it was hard to learn at first but we got there! We like and appreciate the teachers who have helped us learn these songs, some of them are very difficult but they help us a lot."*

Ellie and Jack

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## Friday Dance

Another incredibly popular and effective club is Friday Dance. Miss Charlotte has done a superb job with the children. Its popularity is growing and growing and so many children are enjoying the club and the performances. The dancers performed in two of the nativity performances and then again on the Friday to parents – superb work and very professional. Well done to all the children who took part and particular congratulations to Miss Charlotte for her hard work and dedication.

*"We really like the individual parts we do in dance and although we have different dances we prefer, we like them all. We felt really proud of how far we have come, we don't give up and always try our best."*

Esme and Nikolai

## Christmas lunch

Huge thanks to June and Gundega in the kitchen for producing a fabulous Christmas lunch last week and thank you for coming in to join the children; it was fantastic to have so many of you come in and share lunch with the children. Everyone looked great in their Christmas jumpers and it was brilliantly organised – thanks to Mrs Crisp for the rota which worked superbly!

## Production

Wow! What can I say? A superb nativity production by Squirrel and Fieldmice classes. To have Nursery perform on the Monday during the dress rehearsal was an added bonus and the two performances on Tuesday and Wednesday were really well performed. Thanks to teachers and TAs for their help and well done to the children – a great effort!

*"We were really proud to be Mary and Joseph in the Nativity. It was really good fun and we really enjoyed telling the Christmas story to parents."*

Sage and Ben

## PTFA events

The PTFA have been very busy these past few weeks. The hot chocolate and cookies after school on Fridays have been very successful and the Christmas jumper swap and raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers were also excellent fundraisers. Lastly, the film night this week was a resounding success. I don't think I have ever seen such a well supported film night here, thank you to all the volunteers for their help and organisation.

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## iPad fundraising

I am really pleased to announce that the money raised from the Christmas hamper raffle, the hot chocolate sales, film night and donations at the Nativity have meant that we can add three more iPads to our collection. In addition, I would really like to thank the Buckley family for their incredibly generous donation via Pay360 which will fund an additional iPad. This means that four more iPads will be used by the children across the school, tremendous work in just one term. Thank you to everyone who has been involved, this will make a real difference to the children.

## Front car park gate

Please note that the car park gate will be shut from 9am-3.30pm every day. If you need access, please let the office know.

## Building work update

I was very excited to let you know about our environmental works in my last newsletter. This has been delayed until 2023, but we should see work starting over February half term.

## Attendance updates next term and expectations

We know attendance has been affected somewhat in the past couple of weeks with some nasty viruses and illnesses about. We analyse attendance on a regular basis but if there is anything we can do to help with improving children's attendance please let us know. Our Local Authority Attendance Officer (LAAO) may be involved if a child's attendance is lower than 90% and we aim for every child to have at least 96% attendance where possible.

*Attendance whole school 2022-23: 95.61%*

*Best class attendance: Badger Class 96.66%*

## Lilibet garden

We would like to hold an official opening of the Lilibet garden and invite fundraisers, governors and parents to a grand opening on 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm. The children will be there, before returning to their classes to be sent home. We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate this great achievement.

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## Volunteers

We would love to have volunteers in to help with children's learning. This would usually involve reading with children. In order to facilitate this we would need to take up a DBS check; please contact Mrs Crisp ([office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk)) for more details.

## Thank-you

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for the gifts and best wishes that have come through in the past week. I would also like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and endeavours to keep themselves, the community and particularly the children safe whilst also providing a high-quality learning environment.

Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2023!

**Richard Brown**

## Dates 2022 – 2023

### Spring Term 2023

Wednesday 4th January – school re-opens

Sunday 15th January – National closing date for Primary places

Wednesday 18th January – Governors Meeting

Thursday 19th January – Census Day - all KS1 children to be offered lunch

Wednesday 25th January – Year 5 to Friendship Games – Coleridge School

Thursday 26th January – Hedgehog Class – Natural History Museum online lesson

Tuesday 7th February – Safer Internet Day

Friday 10th February – PTFA Film Night

Friday 10th February – school closes

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February – half term

Monday 20th February – school re-opens

Tuesday 21st February – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd March – Badger Class residential trip to Aylmerton Outdoor Centre

Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day – we will celebrate our World Book Day on Monday 6th March

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Thursday 9th March – Fieldmice Family lunch – more details later  
Monday 13th March – Governors Meeting  
Monday 13th – Friday 17th March – Science Week  
Tuesday 14th March / Wednesday 15th March – Class Visits related to topics - tbc  
Thursday 16th March – Squirrel Family lunch  
Friday 17th March – Comic Relief  
Monday 20th March – Class photos  
Tuesday 21st March – Easter Service  
Thursday 23rd March – Hedgehog Family lunch  
Thursday 30th March – Badger Family lunch  
Friday 31st March – Spring Concert  
Friday 31st March – school closes

Monday 3rd – Friday 14th April – Easter holidays

## **Summer Term 2023**

Monday 17th April – school re-opens  
Monday 1st May – May Day holiday  
Friday 5th May – Governors – Budget Approval  
Friday 5th May – Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight checks  
Saturday 6th May – Coronation of King Charles III  
Monday 8th May – Coronation Bank Holiday  
Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th – KS2 SATS  
Thursday 18th May – Census Day  
Friday 19th May – KS2 Scooter Workshop  
Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th May – Community Week  
Tuesday 23rd May – Sports Day - pm  
Thursday 25th May – Open Morning and Picnic Lunch  
Thursday 25th May – school closes  
Friday 26th May – Professional Development Day – school closed

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June – half term

Monday 5th June – school re-opens  
Monday 5th June – Friday 23rd June – Year 4 Multiplication Check  
Week beginning 12th June – Phonics Screening Check  
Friday 16th June – PTFA Summer Fair  
Friday 14th July – Governor Morning in School  
Tuesday 18th July – Leavers Service  
Wednesday 19th July – Leavers Assembly  
Wednesday 19th July – School closes

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