Wednesday 5 July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, the weather had taken a bit of a nosedive so that must mean we are hurtling towards the summer holidays at a pace! This month has been action-packed, as you will read below, with lots still to come before the end of term.

**Y4 GOYT VALLEY WALK**

The sun had his hat on (hip, hip, hip hooray!) for the Year 4 walk on Friday 16th June. The children and staff caught the train to Buxton and then walked back through the beautiful Goyt Valley and back to school. The day was rounded off with a delicious chippy tea and then a hot chocolate and film. Well done to all the staff and children involved and thank you for representing our school so superbly!

**SPORTS DAY**

Despite the weather literally trying to ‘rain on our parade’, KS1 and KS2 sports days went ahead on the planned day. The lunchtime picnic had to be abandoned, but fingers crossed we can arrange a similar event next year. Well done to all the children taking part, and those of you who managed to come along and support them.

**BIOBLITZ DAY**

Miss Farrell pulled out all the stops to organise a BioBlitz Day, showcasing some of the fantastic wildlife that is all around us at school. With local experts, as well as RSPB representatives, imparting their knowledge about plants, moths & butterflies, insects and birds, a fantastic day was had by all who attended. The great moth reveal first thing produced loads of different species, there was river dipping, a nature quiz and a fantastic sculpture trail made from recycled goods. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day or came along to take part, and to the weather for not putting a dampener on events!

**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

“Here at WBPS we have begun a new and exciting Safeguarding Committee (SGC). The Committee is made up of three honourable members: Nate Ward, Freya Burns and Brandon Good from Y6. Our job is to advise on how to use the internet safely and responsibly. We would like to reassure you that we are working towards giving the best advice possible to WBPS children so that they can live a lifestyle with safety in mind.”

by Brandon, Freya & Nate, Y6

**BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Book Fair and purchased books – thanks to you, we have been able to raise £265 to spend on new books for our library, so it was a huge success, and we hope the children will enjoy dipping into the new additions!
BRASS ASSEMBLY

There was a fabulous sound drifting out of the hall last Thursday as Year 4 and some of the Year 5 and 6 brass players shared their musical talent with the school and parents. The enthusiasm and performances were sensational. A big thank you to Mr Lloyd and Mr Howgate for a fabulous performance and for all their hard work this year as we move on to different instruments next year.

YOUTH PRESENTS MUSIC

Chapel High School once again invited us to attend their Youth Presents Music event along with other local primary schools. We had a good turnout from the choir and some of our brass players, and for those of you who went along to watch, we’re sure you’ll agree the children did the school, and themselves, proud. A huge thank you to Mrs Baxby, Mrs Winter, Miss Farrell and Miss Worsley for their help.

YEAR 5 BIKEABILITY

Some of our Year 5s have already completed the Bikeability course – some passing the Level 1 part of the training and the remaining children passing the Level 2 as well. Much of the training was undertaken in continual rain! If your child has passed their Level 2 it does mean they can ride to school without an adult – this is part of our bike agreement. You just need to complete a bike agreement which you can get from Mrs Jacevicius. We have lots of spaces at the bike racks at the front of school. Let’s hope the Year 5s that are doing it later in the month have dry and warm weather! A big thank you to Elianna for taking the photographs for the newsletter!

WELL DRESSING 2017

Our Well Dressing was a brilliant success! Our picture was based on a traditional Indian tale Miss Farrell read to the whole school about a blue jackal. The story celebrates being different but also the importance of telling the truth. Each year group was then given an animal/plant to draw and then Mrs Bradley and Mrs Lawes had the very tricky task of selecting a winning design from each year group and then putting a design together! The winners were:

Reception JB: Ruby Cooper, Reception B: Molly Skeldon, Year 1: Megan Smith, Year 2: Jake Farragher, Year 3/4L: Izzy Barlow, Year 3/4W: Kyran Jodrell, Year 4/5: George Knowles, Year 5: Aidan Stenhouse, Year 6: Callum Critchlow.
It took the school just over 4 days to complete, every child had a turn to add petals, stones, feathers and seeds, some of the staff helped at lunch times along with parents, grandparents and even an unexpected little mouse came in to help too. A big thank you to all involved and a special thank you to Helen Jacobs for putting the clay in the frame, Mr Spencer for moving the finished piece very carefully to the outside of school for the community to see, the Choir and Little Voices for singing, ‘Drop of the Ocean’ so beautifully in the assembly and finally to Reverend Margaret for blessing our Well. Dressing!

YEAR 6 GO TO LAKESIDE!

Year 6 had an absolutely amazing week when they went on their end of year residential to Lakeside YMCA. They enjoyed the challenge of staying in tents and were lucky to have lots of sunny, warm weather. During the week, they learnt how to do lots of exciting, outdoor activities such as the king swing, runway, canoeing, raft building, archery, rock climbing and abseiling. Scarlett exclaimed: ‘It was a thrilling experience!’ and Nathan responded: ‘Lakeside was really fun and enjoyable. I got butterflies and a great thrill when I went on the zip wire and king swing!’

YEAR 6 PRODUCTION TIME

Year 6 are currently spending every minute available to them in rehearsals for their end of year production – ‘Mystery at Magpie Manor’. With lots of catchy songs, dynamic dance routines and suspense and intrigue, the 1920s thriller will keep you guessing who stole the Pica family treasure until the very end!

OFFICE NOTICES

Snapchat – Snap Map

You may be aware of a recent update to Snapchat, called Snap Map. This app has the ability for a user to share their location with all of their friends, on a map, to within 5 metres. There is, however, a function to turn off your location by going into ghost mode. If your children use this app now, or in the future, as well as other online apps, please can you ensure you are aware of their privacy settings and remind them how to stay safe online. For more information, please see Google UK safer internet snap map or the UK Safer Internet Centre website at: https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-%e2%80%98snap-maps%e2%80%99-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat
Holidays taken in term time

Following new guidance from DCC on children being taken out of school during term time, please note the following:

- ‘The LA will issue penalty notices, at the request of Headteachers, for a period of unauthorised leave regardless of a child’s ‘wider school attendance’.
- ‘Regular attendance’ is defined by the Supreme Court as being ‘in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school’ – our school policy clearly states that the headteacher cannot grant approval for any holidays taken in term time unless the circumstances are exceptional.
- Any requests must be made in advance, with details of who will be responsible for the children during the requested absence.
- Requests should also be submitted for medical appointments taken during school time, with appropriate documentation attached – forms can be downloaded from the school website.
- Where we have been informed a child is absent due to illness but we are aware they have been on holiday, we will mark the attendance record as an unauthorised absence and request a meeting with the parent(s). Failure to attend this meeting and provide relevant information to support your position may result in a penalty notice being issued.

Our aim is to promote the best possible attendance for your children so that their time spent in primary education can be the best it can be. Please work with us to ensure that your children do not miss valuable learning time. Thank you.

SUMMER TERM DATES 2017

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<td>July</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Bikeability</td>
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<td>4.7.17</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Class moving up morning</td>
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<td>7.7.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 2 class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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<td>12.7.17</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Y5 swim assessments at New Mills pool</td>
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<td>14.7.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Reports to parents</td>
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<td>15.7.17</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>PTA Summer Fair</td>
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<td>17.7.17-18.7.17</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Tuesday</td>
<td>Y6 End of Year Production</td>
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<td>19.7.17</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Y6 Mystery Trip</td>
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<td>21.7.17</td>
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<td>Y6 Leavers’ Assembly</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Break up for the Summer hols – 3.30 pm</td>
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Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher