



# Newsletter

AUTUMN 2016 – NUMBER 8 – THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers

## Gardening Group

A big thank you to Mrs Nash, our Wildlife Champions and the parents who gave up their time in the biting cold last week to make a start on the growing area and plant beds running along the drive. At the moment work in progress, it will transform into a productive growing area and a riot of colour as we move into the spring and summer next year. Here are some of the team hard at work.



## Safety on the Internet

I've just found out about an app that a number of children are using called live.me It is a communication/video sharing app and it's clear that it is not entirely safe if not monitored carefully by adults. Please go to this link below to find out more information about the potential dangers:

[goo.gl/O51fly](http://goo.gl/O51fly)

## Spreading the word about Whipton Barton

As you know, we are in the middle of redesigning the school website to make it more accessible for you, the children and prospective parents who might like to make Whipton the first choice for their children's education. I am also preparing a folder that we can give out with our school prospectus and any other information that we might want to share with visitors to our schools. As well as containing photographs, I have asked groups of people to

provide quotes about our schools and I thought I'd share a few with you.

*"Teachers always make learning fun. They help me at break and lunch-times too."* - Junior school pupil

*"I like everything about our school. The teachers are nice and they help you do your best."* – Infant school pupil

*"My child can't wait to get to school each day – I can't ask for more than that."* - Parent

*"My child loves coming to school and we are so pleased with how she has settled. We are amazed at the rate at which she is learning and can't wait to see what she will be doing next."* - Parent

*"It is a privilege to be involved in the vibrant school life at Whipton Barton and to be part of a thriving school community where the young people of Exeter are at the heart of what we do."* – Governor



Thanks to your generosity and the children's enthusiasm, we banked a total of £490.63 across the federation for Children in Need. Our Child.Org collection totalled £314.28. A great effort from everyone.



We even link fundraising with our English lessons. Children in Y6 have been writing persuasive letters to staff outlining the problems of poor sanitation in parts of the world. They are aiming to raise money for a brilliant organisation called Toilet Twinning. You could visit their website, above. If you can't do that, I've included a letter I received from 6BH on the other side of this Newsletter.

Dear Mr Read:

Why did the toilet roll roll down the hill?  
To get to the bottom! (Ha ha ha!)

Talking about toilets and bottoms might sound funny but this is a serious matter that is affecting millions of people all over the world. Shockingly, every minute a child dies because they don't have access to a toilet. You're probably wondering why this is.

Firstly, when people have to urinate or defecate (wee or poo) in the streets and it rains, the waste runs into the rivers. Later, people drink this water from the river and become seriously ill or die from a range of diseases. Also, did you know there are a billion germs in one teaspoon of poo?

In addition, it is also dangerous because if they don't have a toilet, girls and women can get attacked by men or bitten by animals (such as snakes, scorpions etc ) because they have to go to the toilet in the bushes where wild animals live.

This might not be a problem to you but it is to 1 in 3 people in the world who don't have a toilet.

So...how can you make a difference?

Year 6 are raising money to pay for a block of toilets in a developing country such as Pakistan, India, Congo or Chad. It would be excellent if you could donate £1 (or more if you can) to this great cause. You know you could be a life-saver by doing this simple thing.

Don't delay, please pass your donation to a member of 6BH today!

Yours sincerely

Abby

On behalf of 6BH

## Christmas Carols

I want our children to get out in the community, so we will be taking a group of them from across the federation (Y2 and KS2) to sing carols at Pinhoe Sainsbury's at 5.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. I will be writing to individual parents of those children who have been selected to come and sing, but we would be happy to receive a bit of support, so if you are shopping on Tuesday, come and listen (or even join in!)

## Parent Forum - Communication

On Tuesday this week, I had a meeting with a group of parents from across the federation to discuss how well our schools communicate with you. We looked at the following forms of communication: Newsletter, Celebration newsletter, meeting with teachers, Earwig, Text, Facebook, Website, coffee mornings and telephone. It was a really productive meeting and it is clear that with a few tweaks and changes, we can make communication (which seems to be OK at the moment) even better. I will be sending out a summary of discussions and actions very soon.

## Shoe-box Appeal

Mrs Maxwell has organised a "shoe-box" appeal through a local charity called Christian Response to Eastern Europe. They support particularly poor communities in Moldova which is one of the poorest countries in Europe by sending gifts wrapped inside shoe boxes. As expected, they got a generous response from Whipton children and parents as can be seen by this picture of some of our boxes in the charity's warehouse.



## Infant Book Fayre

I noticed that lots of children and parents have been visiting the Infant School Book Fayre and am glad to see such an interest in books and reading. You spent an amazing £438.95 on books at the Fayre and your children will thank you for it!

