



## William Penn Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Read Write Inc Guide for Parents

As many of you know, from September 2016 we have been teaching English using a very structured, concrete approach called Read Write Inc. In order to help parents understand and support their children's learning, Mrs Constable, who leads English in school, has written a guide to help make sense of the approach. Please take time to read the document which accompanies this newsletter and can also be found on the school website.

### School Finances – The Governors Meet Jeremy Quin MP

On Friday of last week, members of the Governing Body met with Jeremy Quin MP to discuss the concerns of schools in West Sussex, including William Penn, regarding proposals to change school funding. Issues explored included the current proposals which will affect almost all smaller schools in the country, and certainly in the county, facing a reduced budget at a time of increased expenditure. The governors were able to give a context to the concerns in preparation for Mr Quin's forthcoming meetings with MP and ministerial colleagues.



### School Finances – What Can Parents Do?

Several parents have asked whether there is anything that they can do to register their concern at proposals to reduce funding to the school. There is one very simple, quick and easy way and that is to complete a short survey which should take no more than about 5 minutes. A letter setting out the context and giving the link to the survey has been sent out by Mrs Jackson with guidance/sample answers which, if used, will make the task very straightforward. **Please don't leave the survey for other parents to complete as the DfE use the volume of returns as a measure of concern as well as any comments made.** Thank you in anticipation of your support for the school.

### Easter Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

This year we will be holding the Easter Egg hunt with Mrs Lutman kindly coordinating the event. We would ask for donations of **small** eggs on the 30<sup>th</sup> March in return for wearing non-uniform.

### Community William Penn Wildlife Area Working Party

On Sunday 2nd April we are inviting families to get involved in a wildlife clearance activity. Adam Cort won £500 in the recent WWF Climate Challenge competition; this money needs to be used on an environmental project. He is keen to upgrade the pond for use as an outdoor classroom and learning resource. Can you help? We aim to start at 10.30am; bring a flask some cakes and a picnic, gloves, boots, long sleeved tops, shears, pruners, shovels, parents and children. We will be focusing on clearing the brambles and putting chicken wire on the dipping decks. In October we will have another community working party to cut back branches and clean out the pond. Please can you let Carrie Cort know if you can help? Even an hour or two would be great. [cort@sussexgreenliving.co.uk](mailto:cort@sussexgreenliving.co.uk)

### Red Nose Day Reminder

Red Nose Day this year is on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. We would like to take part in the fundraising and have made the day a non-uniform/fancy dress day for those that would like to take part. We know that some children have already made costumes in preparations for World Book Day earlier this month and this would be an ideal occasion to wear them. We will be collecting donations for Red Nose Day and would suggest a £1 donation for taking part.

### Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Elizabeth Flood who has achieved a Distinction in her LAMDA Grade 1 Acting exam. If you have any pupil achievements that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please e-mail the office: [office@williampenn.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@williampenn.w-sussex.sch.uk)

