

**Wentworth Primary School**  
**Newsletter No. 7 - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Dear Parents/Carers

We are rapidly approaching the end of Term 3. There are a number of exciting developments to report:

**Open Evening**

We look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming open evenings on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February. This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and identify areas for development.

**Artsmark**

Last week, after the submission of our case study following two years of development, we were awarded Artsmark silver in recognition of the quality of our music provision. A huge thank you to Mrs Forcella-Burton for driving this initiative with the support of Mrs Archibald.

**Young Voices at The O2**

53 members of our school choir enjoyed a memorable experience as part of the Young Voices concert at The O2 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Over 8000 children collectively sang to a packed audience of family and friends. For those of a 'certain age', having Tony Hadley sing Gold and True from his Spandau Ballet days was a particular highlight. Once again, my thanks to Mrs Forcella-Burton for organising this event.

**Meadowside Day Care Centre for the Elderly**

We have made links with Meadowside Day Centre and we are looking forward to them joining us for school music and drama events over the coming years. Our choir entertained them during their club on Monday, singing items from The O2 concert as well as some of the old favourites.

**Development of Foundation Stage:**

Over the half term week, the canopy in Foundation Stage is being replaced and the pathway underneath is being widened and relaid. This will support outdoor learning and further enhance the department.

**Forest School**

We are looking forward to Foundation Stage starting at the Braeburn Park Forest School after half term. This will give them the opportunity to develop a range of skills as well as promoting collaborative learning. We are currently drawing up plans to develop our own forest school in the grounds alongside the environmental area.

**Re-development of the school field**

The school field has been a poor quality sports surface for a number of years, having been sited on top of an old landfill site. To remediate this the pitch is being rotivated, de-stoned and a brand new pitch laid in its place. This should allow us to develop a good quality sports surface to promote our sports curriculum. It does, however, mean the surface will be out of action for a short period of time to allow the grass to become established. To complement the new pitch, we have also purchased new goals which were used for the first time last week.

### **Sports Fixtures**

We have had a number of fixtures over the term with both the boys and girls winning against Temple Hill and suffering narrow defeats against Joydens Wood. We have also had netball matches against Our Lady's of Hartley and West Hill. My thanks to the staff who give up their time to make these competitive opportunities possible.

### **Sportsmark and Sports Leaders**

Mr Harrington has done an excellent job in reviewing our PE and Sports curriculum and extra curriculum programme in order to match the criteria for Sportsmark.

Part of this review has been the selection and training of pupil Sports Leaders to become actively involved in the organisation and running of events. One of the key changes has been the expansion of our sports provision. An example being the auditions and final of a KS2 dance competition that was held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Twelve different acts performed in the finals, demonstrating traditional, street and Irish dancing. The winners will be announced in assembly on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Well done to all who participated.

### **Science Week**

During w/c 11<sup>th</sup> February, we have a range of activities organised for Science Week, including the visit of Skydome, a mobile planetarium and the crash landing of an alien spaceship on the school field! Reports to follow. My thanks to Mrs Cooper for organising this week.

### **Immersion Room**

A very exciting new addition to the school is being created in March with the construction of an immersion room. This is a room that allows a range of interactive backgrounds to be projected on to three walls as well as the floor. These backgrounds are interactive and allow children to experience any number of places, events and locations. Various interactive backgrounds can be used to stimulate writing, children can be taken back in time to past periods of history, they can be transported to different geographical locations and children can be immersed in a range of sporting contexts in which they can interact to develop co-ordination and tactical awareness. In addition, school trips can be filmed and re-visited on return.

### **Parent courses**

My thanks to Mrs Hill for organising a range of courses to support parents in developing new skills. Please contact her if you are interested in joining any events, details are provided on the website.

### **Wentworth Parents (Facebook group)**

While I fully appreciate the positive aspects of social media in sharing information etc, I am also aware of the damage it can cause when used inappropriately. I would therefore urge anyone using the Wentworth Parents Facebook account to ensure they use it appropriately. As I have stated in previous letters, I will not hesitate in referring defamatory comments regarding the school or its staff to our solicitors.

**Half term next week - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
We return to school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February for the start of Term 4**