



Weekly Newsletter

31st January 2010



Wellow House and the Wider World

Wellow House has always tried hard to balance our lucky position as a peaceful, rural haven in which your children can grow up away from some of the less attractive aspects of modern

life with the need to ensure that our children are aware of the differences, difficulties and diversity of the wider world out beyond those car park gates.

We celebrate diversity through a number of events through the year in order to discover more about different cultures, through celebrations of events like Chinese New Year (many thanks to the Dining Hall team!), the colour run for Holi a few years ago, which we will be repeating in the summer and through communication with schools in other countries, like we did on International Education Day. Miss Lamb is organising for our children to speak to children from schools in Poland and the USA next week while our pupils have conversed via Skype with pupils in Chamonix, France in French lessons in recent years and will speak to Miss Doney's French visitor next week. Our studied texts include stories like The Firework Maker's Daughter and Kensuke's Kingdom, set in far-off lands, while the Year 5 class are currently reading myths and legends from any number of different cultures.

Once the pupils have reached prep school age, they begin to take part in a fortnightly news quiz, which highlights both happy news and the troubles faced by regions facing environmental problems, war or social upheaval. Year 7 study a text in the summer term told through the eyes of a homeless young man dealing with the dangers of life on London's streets.

This way, we feel that our children grow up in our wonderfully safe, protective environment but do not leave us unaware of the wonderful diversity of the Earth and its peoples, or oblivious to how lucky most of us in the U.K. really are.

Mr O'Kane, Assistant Head



Happy Birthday!



Archie, 9 and Arlo, 7



This week's fabulous certificate winners!





Chinese New Year



Foundation Stage Two children have been learning to write numbers to 10 in Mandarin as part of their topic work on Chinese New Year





Our school council were full of great ideas when they met this week



The halls were alive with the sound of music.....

Junior production rehearsals



Year 2 have collected a whole black bin bag full of rubbish on our environmental clean-up today during forest school. The woods across the road from school are now much cleaner!



A big thank you to WHSPA for providing FS2 with our lovely new comfy reading corner cushions.

Your Child's Education – the Next Steps

While we are very excited to be making plans for Wellow House to run to sixteen years and offer GCSE courses in the near future, there will still of course be some of you who will want to be considering other options for your child's (or children's) future education.

Here at Wellow, we have great experience in advising and helping children to gain acceptance into their first school of choice should they wish to apply for entry at 13+ or 11+, having the enviable record of a 100% success rate for children gaining entrance to their chosen school.

The advice we give to parents is to have a look around schools you might be considering with your child in good time, usually as early as Year 5, in order that we can prepare them as effectively as possible, particularly if we feel that your child might stand a good chance of a scholarship in a particular field. These days, these tend to be more of a badge of honour and less financially significant, while bursaries can be discussed with future schools if appropriate and these tend to involve more significant financial support. However, they are very much restricted in terms of annual income and property assets.

For those in the Lincolnshire region considering grammar schools, the 11+ test takes place early in Year 6, so Miss Lamb begins to work on verbal and non-verbal reasoning with any pupils trying to gain entry to these schools during break times from February of Year 5. It should be noted that it is still possible to gain entry to the Lincolnshire grammar schools for Year 7 or 8 too, not just at 11+. Similarly, Nottingham's High Schools do take new pupils at 13, not just at 11, although this is a popular misconception.

Mr Bardsley and I have long experience in advising which secondary schools may suit individual children, dependent on their academic expectations, strengths, size, atmosphere and so on. We will both be happy to talk about this in the forthcoming Year 5 and 6 parents' evenings, while Miss Lamb will be present to answer any queries for the Year 3 and 4 meetings.

A key thing to note is that **while we can advise, application for joining your child's next school and for any entrance exams to be taken needs to come from you.** Once a choice is made, you can request past entry papers for us to go through with your child in readiness for them to sit the tests. It is possible and sometimes sensible to register an interest in more than one school, although there are usually registration fees involved.

The Benefits of Sitting Common Entrance in Year 8 at Wellow

Many of the schools that we traditionally send our children on to after Wellow actively promote the benefits of staying until the top of the prep school (ie. Year 8), gaining the grounding of sitting Common Entrance exams and the maturity of being the school's leaders as pupils. The C.E. process tends to give the children a feel for public exams so that the G.C.S.E.s at 16 years of age are not their first experience of them.

Every two years, we invite schools such as Oakham, Repton, Worksop and Stamford to visit Wellow for an information night and they always say how well balanced the Wellow pupils who join them tend to be and how much they benefit from joining at that slightly older age. Our next scheduled evening will be in the autumn term.

I hope this is all helpful and look forward to discussing options at forthcoming parents' evenings.

Mr O'Kane, Assistant Head

CAR PARK SAFETY

Please could we politely remind all parents to drive slowly into the school car park at drop-off and pick-up times, especially as it is still quite dark at 5pm.

Also, it is essential for the safety of both pedestrians and drivers that everyone follows the clockwise one-way system of driving along the left flank of the car park nearest school before turning at the far end around to the right to follow the football pitch side.

Many thanks for your cooperation.



This little fella has spent the week with me. If you are missing him, he is safe in reception.

- Mrs Dolby

Sport

A tough afternoon the U11's at Lincoln, with a good 3-1 win over Lincoln B but two difficult games in defeat against Lincoln A and Burton Hathow. Particular mentions for keeping going when up against it to Ted, Mikey, Oscar and Giancarlo.



Well done to Archie who completed his 11th parkrun this weekend. He finished in 2nd place out of 28 parkrunners and came 1st in his age category. Congratulations!



Upcoming Sports Fixtures

Monday 3rd February

U9 A&B Football v Nottingham High School (H) 2.00pm

U9 Netball v Nottingham High School (H) 2.00pm

All Wellow House teams will return to academic lessons at 3.30pm

Wednesday 5th February

U11 Football v St Hughs & Orchard School (H) 2.00pm

U11 Netball v St Hughs & Orchard School (H) 2.00pm

Please note that the start times may be brought forward, if Orchard School need to depart early. Any changes to the start times will be announced next week on Classdojo.

U9 A&B Football v St Hughs & St Martins (A) 2.15pm LN10 6TQ

U9 A&B Netball v St Hughs & St Martins (A) 2.15pm LN10 6TQ

ETR back at Wellow House School is 5.15 - 5.30pm

Friday 7th February

U11 Mixed Football 'Notts Forest Celebration Tournament' @ YMCA Newark (A) 10.00-2.00pm NG24 4FH (Lord Hawkes Way)

After the Tournament, all our players will be returning to Wellow House School for academic lessons.

Those children who are selected for the U11 mixed football squad will be handed a letter by Mrs Nichols or Mr O'Kane. Please could the parental consent form be completed and returned by Wednesday 5th February.

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP ACTIVITIES

Wellow House School holiday sports camp activities are organised for children of Prep School age. Pupils are very welcome to also invite and book places for their siblings and friends. Please book your child for any of the February Half Term activities listed below by initially emailing Mrs Nichols direct by **Friday 7th February**. Further details will be emailed to parents, confirming whether there is enough interest for the activity to go ahead. Email: lorraine.nichols@wellowhouseschool.co.uk

Sport & Fitness

Monday 17th February

9:30am-4:00pm

£30

Mr Hucknall is back to being able to offer his sports & fitness activity days. The final choice of activities will be decided in discussion with those children who sign up for the day and your child would need to provide a packed lunch. We need a minimum of 8 children for this activity to go ahead, please email Mrs Nichols if your child wishes to book a place.

Athletics Workshop

Wednesday 19th or Thursday 20th February TBC by Mr Fendley

9:30am-12:00pm

£15

Peter Fendley is an Athletics coach with over 30 years experience and has coached athletes to national level. For the past two years he has been assisting with the development of the Wellow House athletics programme during the Summer term and also kindly runs Athletics Workshops during school holidays. We have several pupils who have shown great promise for Sportshall and Quad Kids competitions and we hope to continue building on this success through these additional training sessions. We also hope children new to athletics may come along to have a go, as there is a wide range of skills required for the different Run, Jump and Throw events.

DATES FOR THE DIARY, EASTER HOLIDAYS ACTIVITIES

Friday 27th - Monday 30th March Back 2 Basics Bushcraft course and camp out. Initial application deadline is Monday 16th March

Tuesday 31st March

Sports & Fitness - Mr Hucknall

Wednesday 1st or Thursday 2nd April

Athletics Workshop with Peter Fendley

With best wishes from the Pupils and staff at Wellow House School



