

Wraysbury Primary School Whole School Newsletter



October 2020

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year at Wraysbury. Most importantly, welcome to all of our new families who are joining the school. I hope you all had a lovely restful holiday, which seems so long ago now and managed to make the most of the good weather. The recent wind and rain is certainly giving an autumnal feel so please ensure that your child has a raincoat in school.

There are a few new (ish) members of staff ...

Firstly, welcome to Mrs Pinkerton who joins us on the Graduate Teacher programme along with Mrs Muggeridge. We are delighted that they are undertaking their training with us.

We also have a new teacher who has joined our Year 4 team. Miss Caplin is teaching in Year 4 and we are looking forward to working with her.

At the other end of the school we welcome two specialist Early Years practitioners; Mrs Privett and Mrs Bhamra have joined the EYFS team.

In Year 1 we also have a new teaching assistant, Mrs Taylor is working with Miss Wise.

In Year 3 we have Mrs Sweetman who is working alongside Miss Preston.

Swimming

A huge thank you to Mrs Turton and Ms Butler for teaching our swimming this term. Although it was only 3 weeks it was a bonus as we can't usually fit it into the timetable in the autumn term but we did it as part of our wellbeing and PE programme and the children loved it! We will be swimming again in May (only 7 months away!)

School Uniform

It was wonderful to see all our pupils looking so smart on their first day. Please can I ask you to ensure that your child's uniform is all named. Footwear is a particular concern. Please ensure that your child has the correct colour socks or tights; dark tights or white socks with skirts and pinafores and black socks with trousers for girls. Plain grey or black socks should be worn by boys.

Trainers should not be worn as part of the school daily uniform, by now everyone should be wearing school shoes. Please write a note to your child's teacher if there is a reason why your child does not have school

shoes. School shoes should be flat and appropriate for all the running around that they do! Boots should not be worn unless we have severe winter weather.

For Games every child should have a white t-shirt with the school logo and navy blue shorts. Tracksuits in a dark colour may be worn for outside games in colder weather. We actively encourage Velcro trainers in Y1 and Y2 as we find they give more support and are easier to do up.

All Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will need a school book bag, whilst KS2 may have a school rucksack or similar small backpack.

Please remember fruit for KS2 children to have at break time **and a water bottle for all children.**

Please remember that no jewellery should be worn in school except for stud earrings. Earrings must be removed for PE so it is better that they do not wear them on days they have PE. Permitted religious bangles must be covered by a sweatband for PE.

Communication

Do please keep an eye on our website. It will be updated with useful information including letters, COVID information, useful links and details of what the children are currently learning. It is also the go to place at the moment for Home Learning. Teachers will try and keep in touch by telephone too; though please be aware that we are experiencing a great deal of demand for the phone lines!

Our New Library

We are extremely grateful to the Wraysbury and Horton Parochial Charities Committee. They have given us £1000 towards the new books for our library! As you may remember the PTFA paid for all the new Library furniture and we gave our old books away to the children of the villages for Lockdown. We are now able to buy some new books for the shelves. We realise that it will take a while to build up our stock but this is a great start. Thank you too if you made a donation at the end of term. We really appreciate it. Please make sure that you filled in a book plate for the front of the books and if you would like to make a cash donation of course we would be delighted to receive more!

School Dinner Costs

Please be aware that Y3 - 6 pupils need to pay for school dinners online (unless you are eligible for Pupil Premium). We can give you a code for accessing the online payment

system. **The cost of school dinners is £2.16.** Whilst it is possible to prebook your child's dinner choice online, please be aware that you will need to cancel it if your child is off sick, decides to have a packed lunch or is sent home. Unfortunately, meals ordered and not taken will incur a charge. It may therefore be best not to book too far in advance. Do please contact the school office to cancel an order by 9.00 am on the day.

Pupil Premium

If you think that your financial situation has changed recently you may be eligible for Pupil Premium. This entitles your child to the catch up programme from November and also for free school meals. It also means that should your child/family have to isolate due to COVID we will give you supermarket vouchers. Please note it will be from us as a school, not from the DfE Edenred system that operated during Lockdown. If you believe that this may be applicable to you then please check on this website. We will then be in touch with you. You just need your NI number to hand.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/rbwm/>

Families who are currently eligible do not need to reapply.

Dogs

Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on school premises even if they are on leads (except for our reading/mental health dogs Dougie and Hattie who have been risk assessed). Thank you for supporting us with this.

Medicines and Welfare

We are fortunate to have Mrs Croft in school who helps to look after the welfare needs of our children. If a child has an inhaler or needs any medication on a regular basis please ensure that it has been given to the Office. We have already been sending home the Health Care Plans for you to renew and their asthma cards to be updated. If medicine needs to be given as a one off such as completing a course of antibiotics or cream for a rash, please ensure a medical form is completed. No medication should be kept in book bags. We are only able to give one dose which we aim to do at 11.45 am. Please can we also ask that if your child is sick then they should not return to school until 24 hours after the last bout of sickness. We may increase this to 48 hours if we have an outbreak of a bug that is difficult to contain. Sometimes children have accidents in school donations of spare underwear would be gratefully received and if your child does borrow a change of clothes please wash it and return it to us asap.

Head lice

With the start of the new term there is always a rise in the number of head lice cases. Please check your child's hair regularly and remember that the best way to prevent an outbreak is to continually comb their hair through with a very fine comb and loads of conditioner.

NUTS!

Please be aware that we are a nut free school and have children and staff with severe allergies. Please do not send nuts into school or products that contain nuts. Thank you for your support.

Lunch Boxes

A reminder that lunchboxes should be as healthy as possible and should not contain sweets or chocolate bars.

Parking and the Gates!

A reminder that we have spread families out across the 3 gates. The gates are open from 8.40-9.00 and from 2.50 each afternoon. Please do not park on the grass verge, the white zig-zags or yellow zig-zags outside the front of the school or on yellow lines.

Cars should park according to the Highway Code and not block the school's double gate which is the access for the emergency services or people's driveways.

Also please note that Fairfield Approach (opposite school) is a private road and has parking

restrictions too. Please do not park down this road.

The George has given permission for parking in the pub car park but for mornings only.

A good place to park is the Village Hall Car Park which is along The Green and then walk.

Scooter/Cycle Pods

We hope the children will use the scooter and cycle pods! These were bought for us by the PTFA. Please encourage your child to walk or scooter to school with you where possible, rather than drive. Please be aware that we cannot take any responsibility for any loss or damage to them. Please consider locking your child's bike/scooter.

Please adhere to our Beginning and End of the school day reminders in the COVID arrangements.

Attendance

Please remember to ring the school office if your child is not going to be at school because they are ill. If we don't hear from you, we will send a text followed by a phone call to your named contacts in order to check that everything is OK and it is vital we know the reason for absence in order to monitor and report to the borough and other authorities.

All term time absence needs to be requested on a term time absence form, available from the office or the website. A

reminder that holidays cannot be authorised in term time and exceptional absence can only be authorised in extreme circumstances. Please ensure that you ring in every day at the moment if your child is off in order to update us on the reason. Further guidance on attendance in relation to COVID will also be available soon.

Phase Letters

You will have received a copy of the termly newsletter for each phase of the school. This will give you detailed information on the curriculum being covered, ways you can support your child and things to remember. If you have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to ring your child's teacher or the Phase Leader, after school is a better time than first thing in the morning.

Parents Teachers Friends Association! Wednesday 7th October 7.00 pm

This week the PTFA will hold its first meeting of the term - remotely. The PTFA is a great group of people who help to fundraise for the extras whilst having "fun". Everyone is very welcome and the link will be sent out shortly, it is a great chance to make new friends and socialise with other parents even if we can't get together. Don't worry if you can't commit to loads of meetings; there aren't loads! You can do your bit by perhaps just helping

at one event! At the end of this year many of the experienced members will be leaving and without new blood to fill a few gaps the PTFA will be no more! Do you have any financial skills, publicity skills, DJ skills? Do you have an attitude where you are willing to get stuck in? If you do then please let us know as we would love you to shadow someone this year and maybe take over next year. Please email us at: wrayburyschoolptfa@gmail.com.

It is going to be a strange year for fundraising do please join us and share your ideas.

Governing Body

We are sad to be saying farewell to one of our Governors. Mrs Cramner has served 2 terms on the Governing Body (8 years) and has been a dedicated Chair of Governors during this time. Although she has not left us completely, as she has a child in our school, we have elected our new Chair and Vice Chair and will be looking for a new parent Governor in the coming weeks.

Mrs Jayne Kennedy has been elected as the new Chair of Governors and Mr Ben Bristow and Mr Doug Robinson have taken the role of Vice Chair jointly.

We also have Roly Latif (a member of the community) joining us as a Governor and Ruth Fogg joining us as an Associate Governor.

A huge thank you to the whole Governing Body for the time and effort they put into the role and their commitment and loyalty to our school.

Year 6 admissions to Secondary School

Please be aware that the admissions into Y7 are now open and you should do this online by 31st October 2020. Please apply to your home authority and read the information carefully about completing the form, particularly in respect of the selective schools (Grammar Schools).

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions/applying-secondary-middle-or-upper-school>

Parents' Evenings and Open Mornings

We are all really trying hard to make school life normal whilst working within the guidelines and restrictions. We are looking at how we can run our parents' evenings and our Open Mornings. We do have some ideas on how we can meet up with you and are busy organising this at the moment so watch this space.

Thank you all so much for your support this term which has been a tricky one. Do please remember that there is an INSET day on Friday 23rd October and then the following week is Half Term.

We believe that school will be closed for the INSET Day and Half Term Break, unless we hear anything to the contrary. Term will restart on Monday 2nd November.

