



# Wheatcroft Primary School



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10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents & Carers,

A very happy new year to you all and I hope you had a wonderful holiday spent with family and friends. This term at Wheatcroft will be another very busy one. I am so grateful to our staff who are always so committed to ensuring our children have a broad and balanced education as well as so many other opportunities to develop their wide range of skills and abilities. I hope that you are able to take some time to read through the exciting learning that our teachers have planned this term. As well as planning some exciting classroom lessons, we have had a great many of our staff give their time towards supporting our children through a variety of clubs and events outside the classroom. The main events to look forward to this term are the opportunity for our children to perform alongside others at the Royal Albert Hall and the Herts and Ware Music Festival. Our Year 4 pupils will be given the chance to shine on stage through the dance festival, and I look forward to seeing all of the LKS2 pupils perform through their end of term production. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for our Family Reading Session or our Family Forest School events. And don't forget our PTFA AGM and Coffee Morning which you are all welcome to attend. You will have noticed that we once again have workmen on site despite the main part of the roofing project being completed. Many parts of the outside area are beginning to show their age and therefore are in need of repair. We have organised for the safety surfaces under the T-Zone and at the back of the Reception classrooms to be repaired this week and next. Due to having an active forest school, the tree roots are beginning to come through the football pitch so you will see this being relaid in the next couple of weeks too. The Croft area has had new toilets installed and during the Easter holidays we will need to replace the dining room floor. I must take this opportunity to thank Mrs Coates and Mr Dicker for their commitment to ensuring these projects can be organised and managed in a way that does not impact on our children's education.

I look forward to seeing you at some of our events and at our parent consultations later in the term.

Yours sincerely,  
*Mrs D Miller*  
Head Teacher

### ASSEMBLY DATES – Fridays

These dates are for assemblies led by the classes. We invite parents of children in the class to attend the assembly at 3.00pm on these Fridays. If you are attending and bringing younger children please ensure that they can sit through the assembly quietly, or that you position yourself so you can take them out if they cannot settle. Lower Key Stage 2 will not be undertaking class assemblies this term as they will be focussing on their end of term performances. We look forward to seeing you there.

<b>24.1.20</b>	<b>31.1.20</b>	<b>7.2.20</b>	<b>28.2.20</b>	<b>6.3.20</b>	<b>13.3.20</b>	<b>20.3.20</b>	<b>27.3.20</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Y 2</b>	<b>Y 1 / 2</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Rec 1</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Y 5 / 6</b>	<b>Rec 2</b>



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## **FOUNDATION STAGE**

**Miss Clarke, Mrs Hickman, Mrs Smart & Mrs Starling**

Welcome to the Spring term! We hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas with your families and your children are ready for 2020 in Wheatcroft Foundation Stage. This half term Nursery and Reception will be learning about 'Traditional Tales' from the Gingerbread Man, Snow Queen to The Three Little Pigs. The children will be exploring these stories through engaging in activities inside and outside the classroom. Activities will include making bread like Little Red Hen, exploring cold climates when we read Snow Queen and making shoes out of junk modelling for the Elves. We will also be exploring these stories in our Forest School sessions, for example using positional language to find the big bad wolf from Little Red Riding Hood! This term we also welcome back Mrs Smart to the Foundation teaching team.

## **KEY STAGE 1**

**Miss Brown, Mrs Duffy & Miss Jones**

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term; we hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We have a lot of exciting things planned for your children this term. We will be looking at the life and legacy of Beatrix Potter, including reading her wonderful stories. We will also be exploring events that happen in the Jewish and Christian faiths. We will be looking at the common plants found in our local environment and we will visit the forest school area. Following the plant theme we will be investigating and exploring art in our natural environment. In music we will be learning to play the ocarina, a simple wind instrument, and exploring drumming. In computing, we will be exploring how to make a simple algorithm on the program Scratch and we will be following instructions ourselves when we make healthy food, including vegetable quiches in Design & Technology. The healthy theme continues into PSHE where we will be considering how to keep ourselves safe and healthy in different situations. Finally, in PE we will be outside for games (weather dependent) and inside for gymnastics.

As always, your child will need all their clothing and personal items named and PE kit, including trainers, in school every day. We will continue to set spelling homework and to change reading books on the usual days. Thank you, in advance, for all your support.

## **LOWER KEY STAGE 2**

**Mrs Cole, Mrs Gajewski, Mrs Leishman & Mrs Woodier**

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and are looking forward to the opportunities the new term will bring. This term we will be learning about the settlement of the Scots and Anglo-Saxons. We will be looking at where the invading troops came from and their daily life after they settled in Britain. We will also be exploring what artefacts can teach us about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. In Science we will be exploring electricity in our everyday lives and will be looking at the difference between a conductor and insulator. This topic will link to our DT lessons where we will create our own circuit boards using a switch, light and buzzer. Our art lessons this term will focus on learning about and creating our own silhouettes. In our computing lessons, we will be using a computer programme called Scratch to edit and manipulate animations and simulations and will explore how to debug our programmes to fix any flaws.



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This term we will also be focusing on our dreams and aspirations and how we can challenge ourselves. We will work together on a challenge, focussing on team building and overcoming obstacles. This reflects in our PE lessons where we will be learning to work as a team in team games. We will also be developing our gymnastics skills with Mr Nicholls. Finally, a highlight has to be our production: if you are able to support us in ways such as sewing, crafting or making props, please do speak to your child's teacher – your support is always greatly appreciated and adds that extra sparkle to your already talented children!

## UPPER KEY STAGE 2

**Miss Dienel, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Rampersaud & Mrs Carter**

A very Happy New Year to you all from Upper Key Stage 2! We hope you are all well-rested and have had a lovely holiday and are ready for a fresh new term. Spring term is always busy in our phase and this term is no exception! Our overarching topic is entitled, 'The Digital Age' which will cover changing land use and building styles in History, Geography, Art & Design. We are looking forward to using Sketchup to design our own futuristic buildings, as well as looking at how different architectural styles have changed over time. In Computing, we will be using Scratch and the raspberry pi computers to complete more complex programming, working with LEDs and motors, building to make our own Scratch-powered game. Along with a mix of non-fiction, English will also see us entering the Rotary Essay Competition (Y6) and the BBC 500 Words Competition (Y5&6); we look forward to reading lots of wonderful entries! Maths will cover a variety of number, shape and data topics, whilst we begin to prepare for Year 6's formal assessments in May. In languages, our French topics will cover clothes and the use of the verb *porter* (to wear) before moving onto describing places in our locality and our journey to school. German will also cover directions, places, weather and the seasons before we narrate our own weather forecast. In Music, we will be working on a cantata written by composer Paul Burrell for the Year 5 Music Festival; many of our children are also looking forward to the Royal Albert Hall performance! We also look forward to the Easter Journey at All Saints Church (Y5), as well as Crucial Crew (Y6), the Knex Challenge (Y5) and a trip to St Albans (Y6). PE will cover indoor athletics and cricket and our PSHE work complements the essay writing competition as we reflect on setting appropriate dreams and goals to be the best we can possibly be. All in all, a very busy term but a lot to look forward to. Additionally, we continue to need support with volunteers to hear readers and to support Mrs Milson and the librarians, so please see your class teacher if you can help. As the weather improves, sometimes our PE days change so please ensure your child has correct indoor and outdoor kit in school daily, including clean trainers for indoor athletics.

We wish you all a happy and productive 2020.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Live Kitchen** – Invoices are no longer available for meal payments. Please ensure that you have signed up for Live Kitchen and where appropriate help your child choose their meal before school. We will not as a rule change the meal option when an order has been placed at home, so please discuss this with your child to ensure it is something they will eat. Please note the preferred method of payment for Herts Catering is by direct debit. Details for this method of payment can be provided on request. If you do not wish to pay by direct debit sufficient funds should be available on your child's account to cover the cost of meals before they are taken. Electronic payments can also be made via School Gateway.



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**Music** - Invoices have already been issued. We would like to remind you these are to be paid in advance not in arrears therefore immediate payment is required.

**School Comms/Gateway** - Thank you to all that are making use of the School Gateway system to make payments to school. This is a much safer and quicker method for payment of most items i.e. dinner money, trips, swimming, music etc. If you have lost your login details or forgotten how to use the system please contact the office and we can arrange to resend you the details. Your prompt payment would be appreciated.

**Website** – Our website has recently had a small makeover and we regularly update the site with weekly bulletins, please take the time to look at it. We will also be sending more communications via email rather than hardcopy and uploading these to the web. If for any reason you are unable to receive emails please let us know so that we can arrange to send home a copy. In addition please ensure you keep us informed of any change of details to ensure you are kept updated. We regret that our system will only allow us to send emails and texts to your number one priority contact.

**Copy Letters** – We are finding that we are spending a lot of time chasing for signed permission slips. The usual response received is that the child didn't bring it home or that they have lost it. Quite often these are then found in book bags. To enable you to access these and respond more quickly we are arranging for a copy to be placed on the school website where you can download extra copies for completion. These can be found under **Parents Information** then **Letters and Forms**.

**Lost Property** – Unfortunately we are still finding a lot of items in lost property unnamed. All unnamed items are recycled or disposed of at the end of each half term. To ensure your child's items are safely returned to them can you please ensure that all items are regularly clearly marked and that the marking is visible.

**Reception & Nursery Admissions 2020/2021** – We would like to remind you that the closing date for applications for the **Reception** Intake in September 2020 closes on **Wednesday 15th January**. If your child is currently in a Nursery or pre-school setting you need to ensure that you have re-applied for Reception places. Please spread the word to friends and neighbours! For families looking for **Nursery** places with effect from September 2020, the admission process will open on **Monday 13th January** and closes on **Friday 28th February 2020**.



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## CORE DATES FOR SPRING & SUMMER TERMS 2020

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>7 January</b>	<b>8:55</b>	<b>First day of Spring term</b>
9 January	9:15	Last Open Day visits for new Reception applicants
13 January		Opening date for Nursery Applications 2020/21
13 January		CLUBS Commence
15 January		Closing date for Reception Applications 2020/21
16 January	9:30-10:30	Nursery Open Day for new applications 2020/21 Intake
24 January	Morning	PTFA AGM & Coffee Morning
29 January	All Day	Y6 trip to St Albans Anne Frank Exhibition
31 January	Evening	PTFA Disco/Magic Show
3 February	8:45-9:15	Parents Reading Session
5 February	4:30-6:30	Parent Consultations KS1 & 2 Only
6 February	3:45-6:30	Parent Consultations KS1 & 2 Only
12 February	9:30-10:30	Nursery Open Day for new applications 2020/21 Intake
12 February	TBA	HWSP Proposed Cross Country Event
17-21 February		<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>
26 or 27 February (TBC)	Evening	Y4 Dance Festival
3 March	4:30-6:00	Mental Health Talk for Parents
5 March	All Day	World Book Day to include PTFA Book Sale
6 March	9:30	Preparing for Y7 Workshop for Y6 Parents
6 March	12:45	Y6 Crucial Crew at Morgans School
8 March	Aftn/Eve	Royal Albert Hall Concert
14 March	13:00-15:00	Family Forest school Reception & KS1
23 March		<b>Last week of Clubs</b>
<i>23 March</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>Foundation Stage Parents Consultations</i>
23 March	7:00	Y5 Music Festival Drill Hall Ware
25 March	9:15-12:00	Nurse Visit Reception Height & Weight Measurement
26 March	TBA	HWSP Y5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament
30 March	6:00	LKS2 Performance
31 March	1:45	LKS2 Performance
3 April		PTFA – Easter event
<b>3 April</b>	<b>2:30</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>
<b>6-20 April</b>		<b>Closed for Spring Break</b>
21 April	8:55	<b>START OF SUMMER TERM</b>
25 April	13:00-15:00	Family Forest school KS2
1 May	TBC	Y4 trip to Henry Moore Foundation
6 May	TBC	Y4 trip to Henry Moore Foundation
8 May		<b>BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED</b> Note this is a change from our advertised calendar date
11-15 May		Assessment Week
15 May	All Day	Olympics Fun Day
15 May	Evening	PTFA Ladies Pamper Night
19 – 21 May	3 days	Yr5 Bushcraft residential trip
25 May – 29 May		<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>
4 June	All Day	Class & Team photos
5 June	After school	PTFA Magic Show & Discos



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W/C 8 June	All Day	Year 1 Phonics Screening
<i>10 June</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Y2 trip to Southend</i>
13 June	13:00-16:00	PTFA Summer Fete
15-19 June		Y6 Norfolk Lakes Residential Trip
<i>24 June</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Y1 trip to Southend</i>
9 July	All Day	Y6 Visits to Secondary Schools RE: Transition
9 July	2:00	Open Afternoon
14 July	6:00	Y5 / 6 Production
15 July	1:45	Y5 / 6 Production
16 July	TBC	Year 6 Leavers Party
17 July	2:30	<b>END OF ACADEMIC YEAR</b>
To be confirmed	8:55	<b>Start of 2020/21 Academic Year</b>

*Italicised dates are provisional*