



Wheatcroft Primary School



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NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the Spring term, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year shared with family and friends. We are really pleased to welcome new staff to Wheatcroft this term. On the teaching team we welcome Mrs Rampersaud in year 5/6 and Miss Bowden will continue teaching alongside Mrs Waller in year 5. We welcome two new support staff in the Foundation stage; Mrs Collins in Nursery and Mrs Meeks in Reception.

Over the holidays we have had more works carried out in the playground area. The children are really pleased that the slide has now reopened after the steps have been rebuilt. We have also cleared the area outside the year 2 classroom, the main reason behind this was due to the uneven surface meaning it was becoming quite a trip hazard during playtimes. This space can now be used more effectively for outdoor play including an area for the larger playtime games.

This week we have sent out the clubs letter and we are very lucky to have such committed staff and parents to help us run the wide variety of clubs we can offer. If you have experience and are able to support us with our boys' football team please contact me via the school office. I am currently working closely with the Hertford & Ware Sports Partnership to provide appropriate training for our football team and feel it is very important to continue to offer this to our boys. Any help you can give for training sessions and matches, particularly if you have referee experience, would be really beneficial to ensure we can continue to take part in fixtures.

As I'm sure you have been told by some of the children, I set them a 'switch off task' for Christmas day, trying to encourage them to put away laptops and computer games to spend more quality time as a family. Well done to those who did this for part of the day. We have looked at the top ten New Year's resolutions for families and number one is to 'get unplugged' so we have discussed this as part of an assembly. May I suggest a visit to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/my-activity-passport> This is a link from the Secretary of State around keeping children happy, healthy and exploring more of the world around them.

Don't forget the PTFA are looking for new recruits so please come along to the AGM on Thursday 24th January if you are able to. I hope that when you visit your class teachers for parent consultations this term you will once again be able to come into the hall to meet our Governors and collect information from our tables.

This term is shorter than last but I am sure it will seem just as busy. I look forward to sharing with you all the wonderful events and learning that our children will be part of.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs D Miller
Head Teacher



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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.

25.1.19	8.2.19	15.2.19	1.3.19	8.3.19	15.3.19	22.3.19	29.3.19
Year 6	Y 1 / 2	Y 2	Year 5	Rec 1	Year 1	Rec 2	Y 5 / 6

FOUNDATION STAGE

Mrs Smart, Miss Clarke, Mrs Hickman & 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 2019 in Wheatcroft Foundation Stage. This half term Nursery and Reception will be learning about 'Traditional Tales' from the Gingerbread Man to The Three Little Pigs. The children will be exploring these stories through engaging activities inside and outside the classroom, for example measuring and tasting porridge in our three little bears role play or making shoes out of junk modelling for the elves. We'll 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 to the Foundation team a new teaching assistant Mrs Collins, I am sure you will join us in making her feel very welcome

KEY STAGE 1

Miss Brown, Mrs Duffy & Miss Jones

Welcome back we hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday. We have lots of exciting things planned for your children this term. Our main topic will be 'Explorers'; looking at famous explorers, where they travelled and using this to help us with our mapping skills in Geography. In Science we will be looking at seasons and signs the weather is changing, as well as using our investigation skills to help us explore different forces. In RE we will be exploring Palm Sunday, alongside this in PSHE we will be thinking about how to be healthy and our 'Dreams and Goals'. In Computing we will be looking at information around us and how we can use it. In Music we will have the opportunity to learn how to play the ocarina and look at how to read a musical score.

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

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

Mrs Waller, Miss Cutmore, Mrs Gajewski & Mrs Woodier

Happy New Year to you all. We begin our New Year with an exciting topic – China. Many of our lessons will link to our topic so that the children have a really good understanding about the country and culture. We will learn to locate China on the World map and look at how its climate differs from ours in the UK. We will learn about their beliefs and celebrate our own version of their New Year, and during DT we will taste and make our own Chinese food. We will also read and study 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman and try our hand at calligraphy.

In Science, we will study flowering plants and their seeds as well as learning about different states of matter. In French, we will be looking at the story of Petit Chaperon Rouge and writing our own versions. We will be using a computer programme called Scratch to edit and manipulate animations.



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In Maths, we will continue our work on the four operations – add, subtract, multiply and divide – as well as extending our knowledge of measurement and geometry.

A busy and exciting term; if you can help us in any way then please contact the class teachers, thank you.

UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Miss Dienel, Miss Bowden, Mrs Rampersaud & Mrs Waller

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are looking forward to the opportunities the new term will bring. Through our CLJ topic 'River deep, mountain high' we will be looking at rivers, water, mountain environments, weather in contrasting locations and the water cycle. A river study trip will complement their studies in this area, as well as learning about famous explorers in our History lesson. Continuing our watery theme, our Art & Design and Technology will be focused on textile techniques to complement our Kensuke's Kingdom book study as well as looking at Eva Ibbotson's 'Journey to the River Sea'. In Science, we will be working on micro-organisms and keeping healthy, along with looking at the circulatory system; French and German topics will also support this work considering healthy lifestyles and sports.

Spring term is always busy for events. Year 6 children have also been invited to Crucial Crew to develop their skills of keeping safe in various situations, which we know is always an event they enjoy and Year 5 will take part in the K'nex challenge and also the local Hertford & Ware Music Festival. We also hope to visit All Saints' Church and carry out a trip to the river later this term – further details regarding this to follow.

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. 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.

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 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**.



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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 2019/2020 – We would like to remind you that the closing date for applications for the **Reception** Intake in September 2019 closes on **Tuesday 15 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 2019, the admission process will open on **Monday 14 January** and closes on **Monday 25 February 2019**.



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CORE DATES FOR SPRING & SUMMER TERMS 2018

DATE	TIME	EVENT
4 January	8:55	First day of Spring term
14 January		Opening date for Nursery Applications 2019/20
14 January		CLUBS Commence
15 January		Closing date for Reception Applications 2019/20
22 January	9:30-10:00	Nursery Open Day for new applications
24 January	Morning	PTFA AGM & Coffee Morning
30 January	16:00-19:00	Parent Consultations
31 January	15:45-18:30	Parent Consultations
5 February	18:00-19:00	Nursery Open Day for new applications
12 February	9:00-12:00	Y6 Big Bang Science Trip St Joseph's in the Park
15 February	Evening	PTFA Disco/Magic Show
18-22 February		HALF TERM BREAK
25 February		Closing date for Nursery Applications 2019/20
2 March	AM	PTFA Family photographer
7 March	All Day	Y5 KNEX Challenge
8 March	12:45	Y6 Crucial Crew at Morgans School
25 March		Last week of Clubs
25 March	7.30 pm	Y5 Cohort Music Festival, Drill Hall, Ware
1 April	18:30	LKS 2 Performance
2 April	13:45	LKS 2 Performance
5 April		PTFA – Easter event
5 April	2:30	Last day of term
8 April		Closed for Spring Break
24 April	8:55	First day of Summer term
2 May	All Day	<i>Provisional date for LKS2 day trip</i>
6 May		May day bank holiday
8 May	All Day	<i>Provisional date for Reception trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park</i>
13-16 May	Each Day	ASSESSMENT PERIOD
17 May	All Day	Summer Fun Day
17 May	Evening	PTFA – Ladies evening
21-23 May	All Day	Year 5 Residential Bushcraft Activity Centre
27–31 May		HALF TERM BREAK
6 June	All Day	Group & Class Photos
June	Evening	<i>Annual Music Concert (tbc)</i>
7 June	Evening	PTFA Disco/Magic Show
10-14 June	All Day	<i>Year 1 Phonics Assessment period</i>
17-21 June	All Day	Y6 residential trip to Norfolk Lakes
19 June	All Day	<i>Provisional date for KS1 trip to Whipsnade</i>
30 June/ 7 July	Afternoon	<i>Provisional date for PTFA Summer Fete</i>
11 July	ALL DAY	Year 6 Secondary Visits
11 July	14:00	School Open Afternoon
17 July	18:30	UKS2 Performance
18 July	13:45	UKS2 Performance
22 July	Evening	Year 6 Leavers Party
23 July	2:30	Last day of term for children

Italicised dates are provisional