



# Wheatcroft Primary School



Head Teacher: Mrs D. Miller  
Email: [admin@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk)

Stanstead Road Hertford  
Hertfordshire  
SG13 7HQ  
Tel: 01992 587899

January 2024

## Start of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term, I hope that you were all able to enjoy your Christmas and New Year with family and friends. It was lovely to welcome all of our children back through our whole school assembly this week. They have come back ready and willing to learn, and we look forward to sharing their successes with you in our upcoming parent consultations in February. Although the spring term is a short one, this hasn't prevented us from packing in many teaching & learning opportunities for our children which you can see from our key stage paragraphs below. We have also included with this newsletter key dates for the spring term including some class assemblies and our LKS2 production, so do make sure you add them to your diaries. One of the upcoming events this term will be world book day and we will be encouraging everyone to dress up this year so start looking for your favourite book character costumes! Also, as stated in our end of term newsletter, we would like to invite parents to a meeting with the Leadership team including the Governors and hope that you will be able to join us to discuss our way forward together this term.

Yours sincerely  
*Mrs D Miller*  
Head teacher

### Foundation Stage

**Mrs Woodier, Mrs Bevan, Mrs Smart, Mrs Guy**

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome you back to our next exciting term in EYFS! This term our topic in Reception is Blast off! This is always an exciting topic and we have been getting our classrooms ready to head for outer space. Please see the curriculum map, which has more details of all the topics we are covering this term. PE for Reception will remain on Thursdays and on Tuesday afternoons the children will be taking part in their weekly Learning outside the Classroom sessions. In Nursery our topics are Bear Hunt and Time to Bloom. We will be listening to lots of different stories and using our observation skills to look for signs of spring. Please see the attached curriculum map for more details of the topics we are covering this term. PE for Nursery is on Monday and we will be taking part in our weekly Learning outside the Classroom sessions on Wednesday. A reminder that in EYFS we are often learning outside the classroom so please can you make sure your child wears a warm coat to school each day. It is also a great idea to check all your child's uniform and coats are clearly named. Thank you for all your help and support with your children's learning and please continue to share any achievements and special events with us on Tapestry.

### Key Stage 1

**Mrs Koniotes, Mr Griffin, Miss Lambert, Mr Wackett**

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. In Science we will be learning all about plants, naming key parts and their functions, investigating seeds and bulbs before planting and watching them grow. Following the plant theme we will be investigating and exploring art in our natural environment. In Geography we will be looking at where food comes from in its natural forms, how it is grown, picked and processed before consumers buy it all around the world. In RE we will be exploring events that happen in the Jewish and Christian faiths. In music we will be learning to play the ocarina, a simple wind instrument, we will learn how to control



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the pitch and explore the range of notes it makes. In computing, we will be exploring how to programme a simple robot 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 as well as thinking about our goals and dreams. Finally, in PE we will be outside for games (weather dependent) and inside for dance. 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 Booth, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Clemmett**

Welcome back to LKS2! We hope that you all enjoyed your family time over the festive break. We are looking forward to lots of exciting things in the spring term. In Maths this term, we will be exploring different multiplication methods, including formal written multiplication. We will also begin to look at fractions. Year 4 children will be studying decimals. We will also be studying length and perimeter. We will be continuing to work on learning our times tables, using TTRS. Year 4 are preparing for the Multiplication Tables Check, which takes place in June (more information to follow). Year 3 are securing their recall of the 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s and 8s. In English we are studying the book 'Journey', practising dialogue punctuation and developing narrative composition skills. In our unit for Mystery and Suspense stories, we will be reading the book 'Leon and the Place Between'. We will be looking at different ways we can build suspense using different writing techniques. Our History topic is Roman Britain and after half term our Geography topic is Rivers and the Water Cycle. We are studying Electricity and Living Things and Habitats. Year 4 will be swimming on Wednesday afternoons. If you have a DBS and would like to help with swimming or with reading on a different afternoon, please get in touch. We are excited to announce that our LKS2 production will be the fun musical, 'Porridge'. We look forward to seeing the children's acting, singing and dancing talents in action.

### PE days

Year 3 Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3/4 Wednesday and Thursday

Year 4 Tuesday and Wednesday (swimming)

## Upper Key Stage 2

**Mr Harwood, Mrs Duffy, Mrs Levesley-Turner, Mrs Tucker**

Welcome back to UKS2! We are excited for what 2024 will bring and hope you are all set to achieve excellence together. As ever, in English, we begin our learning with our essay writing skills: Year 6 will enter the Rotary Competition writing about their future careers and Year 5 will be reflecting on the best day of their life. Later in the term, we will be learning how to hold debates and then produce balanced discussions on a variety of controversial topics, from bedtimes to graffiti. In addition, UKS2 will be exploring newspaper and biographical writing. In Maths, teaching will be mastering fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios and even challenging ourselves with algebra. Our Computing lessons will involve learning about vector drawings, databases, file types and searching efficiently. Our History learning will be focused on the question of 'What makes people go on a journey?' We will examine the journeys taken throughout history, the reason behind them and compare and contrast the experiences people have had. Linked to this, in Geography, UKS2 will investigate the UK's global trade links. For the spring term, PE will be on Thursday and Friday. We will be keeping fit and developing our skills in rugby, basketball and orienteering. That's just a small snippet of our plans; we are looking forward to working with you all this term.



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## A few reminders

### Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day including for PE sessions. All items of uniform must be clearly named. As we are a learning outside the classroom school, we ask for children to wear different shoes when inside. Plain black plimsolls are usual; we may accept other footwear if your child has foot problems. If this is the case, we will require a letter from parents explaining the reasons. Mules, clogs, crocs or slippers are not allowed. We expect footwear to be of a sensible dark colour that will complement our school uniform and request that school shoes are worn, not boots. Hair accessories must not be worn for school, please ensure all long hair is tied up with a plain hair band.

<https://wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

### Reading records/Homework diaries

Please ensure these are written in as frequently as possible, preferably on a daily basis. This will enable the teachers to monitor your child's reading and homework. All diaries must be initialled by an adult at the end of each week.

## Spring Term Dates 2024

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	08:55	<b>Start of Spring term</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	AM	Reception 24 Intake Tours
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	4:30-5:30	Parent meeting with Leadership team incl. Governors
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	2:45-3:15	Year 5 Class Assembly
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	4:00-5:00	Nursery 24 Intake Tours
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	3:15-4:15	PTFA Magic Show EYFS
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	After School	KS1 & KS2 Discos
5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> February	All day	Children's well-being week
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	4:00-7:00	Parents Evening
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	3:30-6:00	Parents Evening
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Spring Half Term</b>		
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	4:00-5:00	Nursery 24 Intake Tours
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	2:45-3:15	Year 6 Class Assembly
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	World Book Day
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	9:00-10:30	Supporting your child with reading - workshop for parents
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	2:45-3:15	Year 56 Class Assembly
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	6:00-7:00	LKS2 Performance
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	2:00-3:00	LKS2 Performance
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	During Day	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	1:30	END OF TERM
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April Easter BREAK</b>		
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>