



Wheatcroft Primary School
Welcome Back Newsletter
Autumn Term 2023



Dear Parents & Carers,

A warm welcome to you all as we start our new academic year. We have really enjoyed working with our new team of staff and thank them and all of our staff for their commitment to our school and children already, by ensuring their classroom environments are welcoming and ready for learning. We look forward to you meeting them at our parent information meetings next week. We were pleased to welcome our new Reception children who have been brilliantly learning the rules and routines of school life supported well during lunch times by children from our Year 5 cohort. Following our successful home visits, we look forward to welcoming our new Nursery pupils next week.

I expect you have seen the work so far carried out on the lower playground; this should now stop the flooding in front of the KS1 doors. When the tarmac is settled, we hope to see the playground markings back for the children to play with. The stage area too has been revamped and we have already seen the children enjoying dancing, singing and entertaining each other in this area without having to navigate the slippery muddy slope!

We have been working with a grounds company to ensure that the twitchel entrance is cleared whilst we prepare for it to be ready for opening. We thank you for your patience whilst this has been out of action and hope to be ready to open it soon. We will let you know.

Thank you to those who took the time to complete our Parent Questionnaire at the end of the summer term, your feedback and comments have been extremely helpful.

We had a lot of responses regarding what the school does well and we are grateful to you for showing your appreciation of the hard work of the staff. The common themes were Forest School & LOtC, providing a safe, creative and happy environment with friendly, approachable and dedicated staff, children are happy and excited to come to school, the buddy system, a strong community feel and school lunches! From the responses received, we were pleased to see that 97% of you state that your child is happy at school and 93% feel safe.

The suggested feedback for what we could do better showed us that a large majority of you feel that the communication from the school needs to improve.

One of the problems faced was knowing in advance when activities are happening particularly during the school day. We have taken these comments on board and aim to improve this for you. Attached with this letter you will find the proposed dates for the autumn term. We aim to provide you with termly dates prior to a term to ensure you have sufficient notice to attend events. Please take note however that some of the sporting events and other outside agency events can be changed or cancelled last minute which are out of our control.

To ensure effective communication about your child, whilst we try to encourage conversations with the class teacher as the first point of access, we appreciate that for some of you this may not be an option. If you have a question then we would encourage a phone call to the office for the quickest answer. If your question can not be answered, then a note will be sent to the appropriate member of staff who will get back to you as soon as possible outside the class teaching hours. If you feel an email is appropriate, this is not always the quickest way to have your question answered but we will

endeavour to get back to you within an appropriate timescale. If appropriate, you will receive an acknowledgement of your email and we will let you know that it has been sent to the relevant person for their attention and action.

If you have a concern about your child then the class teacher is the person to speak with as they will be the person who has the most contact with your child and should be in a position to answer any questions, solve any problems and follow up any concerns or issues you may have. Following this, if you feel that your concern hasn't improved then making contact with the phase leader would be the next course of action. Hopefully you will feel that your concern has been dealt with. If you still feel that your concerns haven't been listened to or things haven't improved for your child, then our concerns policy can be found on our website.

A number of you felt that the school could improve on the amount of clubs and activities provided for the children. Our staff do try to give their time to provide a range of clubs for our children but this can be tricky to organise around meetings, timings and ensuring lessons and activities are well planned. Due to this, we are in regular contact with outside agencies to provide clubs and will continue to research this. If any of you know of any companies who could support us with this please do make contact. We are continuing this year to invite Foundation Sports into the school. We note that some comments state that a wider range of clubs would be beneficial and we have taken this on board. This is also something that helping parents could support us with if you hold a current DBS and have a particular skill. Our children would really benefit if your skill is in languages, art, music or drama. We carry out clubs both during lunch times and after school. We appreciate the time that our staff give to the clubs when they are able to and you will be informed in the next week or so of the individual clubs that have already been organised for you to enroll your child onto. Further clubs will be advised during the term and across the year once these have been arranged and approved. Please note clubs are class &/or phase specific and emails will only go to the relevant children for the particular club on offer.

As we come to the end of our first week, we have been so impressed with how well the children have settled into their new classes this week particularly with the immense heat! Our new teachers and teaching assistants have been a great asset to our school and they have really enjoyed getting to know our children and community. Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to sharing another busy academic year with you all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Miller

Headteacher

Pupil Voice

This week we have been talking about the new school year!

Bonnie Reception 1 – In my new Reception class I am enjoying feeding the babies in the home corner.

Alba Reception 2 – I like the playground in my new Reception and playing with the babies in the home corner.

Parker Yr1 - I like building with the lego and drawing my ghost train.

Hudson Yr1/2 – I liked being in assembly with everyone. I am proud of myself.

Ettie Year 2 - I like being with my new teacher and seeing my friends. I have done well with the maths.

Thomas Year 3 – I have loved learning about Egypt in History and I want to make a mummy out of clay.

Jack Year 3/4 - I have enjoyed History because I liked finding out about the River Nile.

Harrison Yr 4 - I have enjoyed seeing my friends again. I have enjoyed reading the Midnight Fair, we thought about what nocturnal creatures might get up to in a theme park after it has closed.

Amy S Year 5 - I have really enjoyed reading the Midnight Fair because we don't often get to read just picture books. I made a new friend this week

Gabbi Year 5/6 - I have enjoyed having Mrs McLeod as a teacher and writing about our book The Midnight Fair.

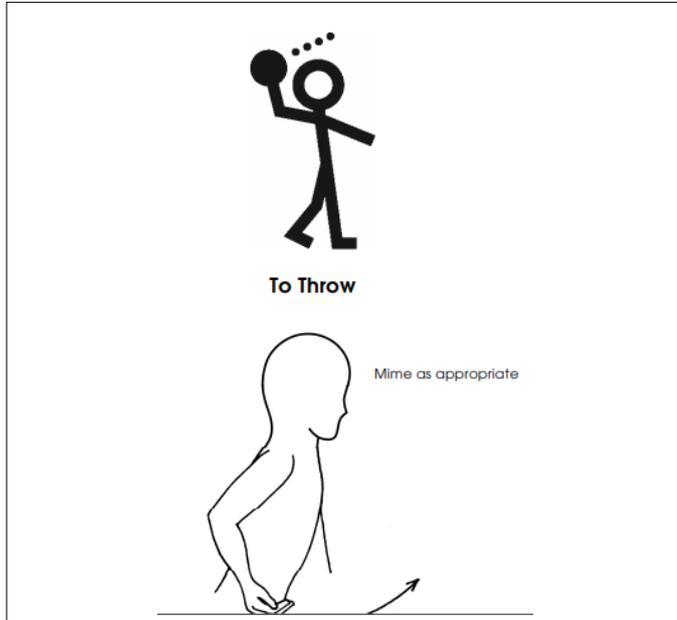
Josh Year 6 - I have really enjoyed having a new teacher. Also, I liked creating artwork based on 'The Midnight Fair' and learning about figurative language in English. I am looking forward to the rest of Year 6.



Word of the week

EYFS: patience Y1: attend Y2: unwrap Y3: biased Y4: prolonged Y5: plethora Y6: melodic

Sign of the week



Can you help?



If you have a current DBS with the school and would like to volunteer to hear children read or help in any other way, please do get in touch with a class teacher next week. We will soon be organising a 'grounds day' to tidy up some of the areas outside which will involve some bench fixing, gardening and painting of various areas. If you feel you have the skills to help or your workplace offers Community Days with this do let us know. Thank you

Team Points to begin w/c 11/09/23



Achievement Awards

Table listing achievement awards for R1, R2, Y1, Y1/2, Y2, Y3, Y3/4, Y4, Y5, Y5/6, and Y6.

Birthday Books



Thank you to Emily S and Marco G for celebrating their birthdays with us. Please find below the links for our birthday book wish lists on Amazon if you would like to participate. UKS2 https://amzn.eu/i0t4uju LKS2 https://amzn.eu/6hje7q7 KS1 https://amzn.eu/4YEtkju Foundation https://amzn.eu/b3VYbeQ

Health & Safety Reminder

During drop off and pick up times can we please remind you not to allow any children to use the T-Zone or the Trim Trail. These are only for use under staff supervision during school hours. Thank you

Autumn Term Dates

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday 4 th September	8:55	Start of the Autumn Term
Monday 11 th Sept	2:45-3:15	KS1 Parents Information Meeting
Tuesday 12 th Sept	2:45-3:15	Reception Parents Information Meeting
Tuesday 12 th Sept	5:00 – 5:45	Y5 Cuffley Residential Parents Info Meeting
Wednesday 13 th Sept	2:45-3:15	LKS2 Parents Information Meeting
Thursday 14 th Sept	2:45-3:15	UKS2 Parents Information Meeting
Monday 18 th Sept		Clubs Commence
Wednesday 20 th Sept	All day	Y5 Residential trip to Cuffley Camp
Friday 22 nd Sept	PM	Y5 Residential trip returns
Tuesday 3 rd Oct	ALL DAY	Individual Photos
Friday 6 th Oct	PM	Harvest Festival
Thursday 12 th Oct	3:15-4:15	PTFA Magic Show EYFS & KS1
Friday 13 th Oct	2:45-3:15	Year 5 Cohort Assembly
Friday 13 th Oct	After School	PTFA KS2 Discos
Tuesday 17 th Oct	4:00-7:00	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 18 th Oct	3:30-6:00	Parent Consultations
		Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October Autumn Break
Thursday 2 nd November	AM	Reception 24 Intake Tours
Monday 6 th to Friday 10 th Nov	All Day	Y5 & 6 Level 1 & 2 Cycle Training
Tuesday 14 th Nov	All Day	School Nurse Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 15 th Nov	AM	Reception 24 Intake Tours
Friday 24th November	SCHOOL CLOSED	Occasional Day
Monday 27th November	SCHOOL CLOSED	Inset Day
Friday 1 st December	All Day	Decorations Day
Sunday 3 rd December	1:00-3:00pm	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 5 th December	9:30-10:30	EYFS Nativity
TBC		KS2 Christingle All Saints Church
Thursday 7 th December	2:00-3:00pm	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December	6:00-7:00	KS1 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 13 th December	12:00-1:15	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 th December	2:00-3:00	KS1 Christmas Performance
Monday 18 th December	During day	EYFS/KS1 Panto
Wednesday 20 th December	1:30	End of Autumn Term

*Please note that class assemblies will take place in the spring and summer terms