



## **WELCOME BACK!**

Welcome back to the start of a new, exciting school year. We do hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break. The children have settled into their new classes really well and are already working hard. It is lovely seeing them all so keen and ready to learn!

I am afraid that this newsletter is very long as it is packed with reminders and school information, so please take the time to read it. Many thanks.

## **ATTENDANCE**

At the start of the year we would like to remind parents of the real importance of good school attendance. As an example, if children are taken away for a two week holiday every year and have an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at the end of their secondary years they will have missed an entire year of their schooling.

In school we monitor general absences but also broken weeks which can have the most detrimental effect - for example, taking a 'long weekend' breaks two weeks of schooling so on one hand a child may not complete a unit of work over a week, or they will miss the beginning of the next week's work which can be hard to catch up.

We would be really grateful if you could support us with encouraging good attendance habits in your children which will stand them in good stead throughout their school life.

## **MEDICINE IN SCHOOL**

Please remember that no child should have medicine in school without informing staff, for example paracetamol sachets or cough sweets. We ask that all medicines are given directly to class teachers who will store them safely in the classroom. We are no longer able to administer ibuprofen based products because of potential side-effects.

If your child needs a short term course of medicine, such as an antibiotic, a permission slip must be filled in before staff can give it to your child (available from the office). Please note that staff cannot be responsible for remembering to give the child any medicine that they need to take home (we try, but at the busy end of a day can forget!)

If your child needs an inhaler (especially as the weather starts to get colder) please remember to send one in. (It is surprising how often we have a wheezing child with no inhaler in school.) These will be sent home termly so that you can check that they do not need replacing.

## **BUMPED HEADS**

When children bump their heads we always give them a 'bumped head' sticker but appreciate that these can get lost, and we believe the older children may take them off! So our school policy is to always contact parents and inform them of the incident. If children are taken home with an ice-pack we would really appreciate them being returned to school.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We would be really grateful if any parent who thinks that their child may be entitled to free school meals follows the link below and completes an application. It is a very simple system and school benefits financially if your child is eligible. It is important to note that KS1, who already receive a free meal, still need to apply for the school to benefit.



### Free School Meals – how to apply

Parents and carers can now apply for free school meals online via the Citizen Portal, using the link below. Your eligibility will be checked online, and the portal will let you know whether your child is eligible for free school meals. If your child is eligible you will receive a confirmation message, and the school will be notified directly. If you are not eligible you will be presented with a message stating this.

Please note, if you have already completed a primary or secondary school place application for the 2017/18 academic year via the portal, you do not need to re-register when applying for free school meals. Please use the login details that you have already set up.

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/>

## OUTDOOR 'KIT'

As the weather starts to get wetter children will not be allowed on the field at break times unless they have a change of footwear – this cannot be the trainers or daps that they use for PE. Ideally a pair of wellies or an old pair of trainers should be stored in the boxes outside each classroom. When it gets even wetter waterproof trousers should also be worn (this stops children getting very muddy trousers!)

## CYCLE HELMETS

Please could all children cycling to school wear a cycle helmet. This has been proven to be life-saving in many accidents. Any child undertaking cycle training in school MUST have a helmet as a requirement from the South Gloucestershire Cycle Team.

## PARKING.

Please park considerately when dropping off and picking up at the end of the school. This follows a complaint by a neighbour. Also we ask that you do not park in the staff car park. Thank you for your co-operation.

## HELPING IN CLASS

All teachers would be very grateful for any offers of help in class, whether on a regular or one off basis. Please note that this does not have to be parents – it could be grandparents or other family members. If you can help, please contact teachers directly.

We will continue asking parents coming into school to leave mobile phones in the office, for two reasons: - firstly we have a child in school with a pacemaker and phones can cause interference; secondly as a part of our safeguarding routines.

## Head Teacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following child who has already earned a Head Teacher's Award:-  
Y3: Luke for completing an amazing holiday diary.

## GOVERNORS

We are currently short of three co-opted Governors – this means someone who is not a parent or member of staff but who may have an interest in the school, for example a member of the local community. If you know of anyone who may be interested please contact the school office. We desperately need help to ensure that our Governing Body is running at capacity.

## DIARY DATES

Thursday 28th September—EYFS Disco

Friday 29th September —MacMillan Coffee Morning

5th October—Y3/Y4 Harvest Service

9th October—School Photographer

Please note all key dates are available on the school website: [www.wellesleyschool.co.uk](http://www.wellesleyschool.co.uk)

Also, you can use our School App which is a great way of being reminded about dates. If you have not downloaded this and would like to do so please contact the office for details.

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

You are very warmly invited to join us for our Class Assemblies where the children have the opportunity to share with you some of their learning. Refreshments are provided by FOWS beforehand. Babies and toddlers are very welcome but we do ask that if they become noisy you take them out of the hall (as it makes it difficult to hear!)

All the Assemblies will start at 9:15am.

Year 1 – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Year 2 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Year 3 – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

Year 4 – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Year 5 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Year 6 – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## JOIN US FOR LUNCH

We would like all parents to join us for lunch this term. This is a chance to sample the delights of Helen's cooking and see what is available for the children to eat. We have linked these to class assembly days. More information will come to each class shortly before their date.

## INSET DAYS

We have now set our INSET days for the year when school will be closed to children as staff receive training.

They are:

30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## OPEN SESSIONS

We are pleased to give you the dates for our Open Sessions where prospective parents can visit the school. This involves a short presentation from Mrs Small and the School Council, followed by tours of the school given by our Year 6 children.

If you have a child who reaches school age in September 2017 please feel free to join us, or, let friends and family know. If these times are inconvenient please contact the office and arrange an appointment.

26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 9:30 am

4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 1:45 pm

16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – 7:30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 – 9:30 am

For the evening date, there will be a short presentation and tour of the school.