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**'...where we all matter.'**

Head Teacher's News Letter

September 2017

A very warm 'welcome back' after the long summer break. I hope you all had a lovely rest and enjoyed the time away from school to catch up with friends and family and relax.

We are excited to welcome our **new starters and their families** into Base 1 and the Wrenbury school family: Leo, Joe, Maisie, Emily, Nathan, Ethan and Reuben. We are also delighted to welcome Lauren and Sophie, Declan and Kimberley and Samara and their families, who join us from other schools. A text was sent to our last year’s Y6 wishing them well as they start their high school education.

**Staffing News:**

**Mrs Charlesworth:** At the start of this new academic year, we welcome Mrs Charlesworth our Y5/6 teacher and deputy head to the team and look forward to working with her.

**Mrs Wimpenny** : We send our best wishes to Mrs Wimpenny and look forward to her being able to join us again in the near future.

We welcome back **Miss Smith** and welcome **Miss Rowlands** as 1:1 TAs.

**Mrs McGhie**: We send congratulations to Mrs McGhie and her family on the arrival of baby Mia Rose on 28th August. We have heard that both she and the Mia are doing really well and look forward to meeting Mia Rose soon.

***The Wrenbury teaching team for 2017-18:***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Base 1** | **Base 2** | **Base 3** | **Base 4** |
| Miss Pitchford  Mrs Griffin  Mrs Ball/Miss Smith 1:1 | Miss Phillips  Mrs Winward  Mrs Taylor/Miss Rowlands 1:1 | Mrs Heaton  Mrs Hindmarch | Mrs Charlesworth  Mrs Clarke  Mrs Taylor/Miss Smith 1:1 |

**Teaching and Learning**

This term’s whole school theme is **'Time Traveller'**. Base one are learning about ‘people who help us’ and finding out about people in the past eg nurses and Florence Nightingale; Base 2 are learning to contrast now and then comparing everyday things with the Victorian times eg schools, toys; Base 3 are travelling back to Roman times and Base 4 are looking at Wrenbury and the local area through time. More information will be sent by the class teachers [holistic planning overviews, newsletters and website].

Following our successful focus on writing last year, this year there will be a greater focussing on reading across school. We will continue to develop the work already started in maths and writing.

Our school motto is *Inspire, aspire, achieve because ‘We all matter’*. We are using the word ACHIEVE to help us focus on how we can learn best:

**A**sk (ask questions – why, what, how), **C**oncentrate (focus on the task), **H**elp (Help each other, show others how but do not tell them the answer), **I**mprove (make your work the best it can be), **E**ngage (think about the task and allow yourself to be fully absorbed in your work), **V**alue (be proud of what you do), **E**xplore (Think beyond and around what is being learned). We have shared this in assembly today.

**Pastoral Parent Evenings**

Pastoral Parent Evenings for Y1-6 take place next week at 5pm.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Y1** | **Y5/6** | **Y2** | **Y3/4** |
| Monday 11th | Tuesday 12th | Wednesday 13th | Thursday 14th |

The new starters have a separate meeting on Monday 25th at 3.45pm.

These sessions are designed to be informative about the teaching, learning and expectations for the year ahead for your child at Wrenbury as well as an opportunity for you to meet your child’s new teacher and see your child’s classroom. We hope to see you at your child's Pastoral meeting as the first of our information sharing events this year.

**Calendar**

The **school calendar** is complete and a paper copy will be given to each family. It contains key dates and events for the WHOLE year which should help with organising time off work etc in advance. The website calendar is also updated regularly.

Do keep up to date with news and events in school by **browsing the school website**. Staff will be adding class **news feeds** each week to give you an overview of the focus and learning taking place.

We also have our school policies and statutory documents on the site under the SCHOOL heading. Visitors to school tell us they have looked at our website before visiting us and found it very informative and a great way to get a feel of what we offer and at Wrenbury.

**Well-being**

We know school is a place of learning but we also know that to learn well a child has to have a sense of well-being - a happy mind learns best. If your child is experiencing any difficulties that could be affecting their emotional well-being please can you share them with school (in confidence) so that staff can put the necessary support in place during periods of difficulty: marriage break up / separations / bereavement / long term illness of a family member etc. If you have concerns regarding their time in school it is important that these are shared too with your child's class teacher: friendships, work etc

**Wellbeing Lunch Clubs**

The clubs have proved popular with our children and we have received favourable comments from parents. They start again next week with the children moving into new groups. The theme for this term is ‘**Our feelings and emotions’**; the lunch clubs will complement the work we are undertaking in supporting children’s emotional well-being and continuing to help them develop resilience.

**Punctuality**

We begin Meet and Greet at 8.45am, when doors open and **school officially starts at 8.55am**. We expect **ALL children** to be in school by this time. Arrival after 8.55am is disruptive to the smooth running of the class and unsettling for the late child. We track and challenge **'late arrivals'**.

**Attendance**

Poor attendance is a concern regarding some families. Children should be in school with minor coughs and colds. If they are feeling a little under the weather t the start of the day they should be in school and we will call home if your child is not able to continue being in school during the day. In the vast majority of cases, children are able to cope with school if not feeling quite 100% and will be looked after by staff, as always.

**Every** child should attend school as much as is possible. Monitoring letters will continue to be sent to parents whose children’s attendance falls below 90% and the Educational Welfare Officer will be informed and will get involved where attendance does not improve. 'Persistent absence' or poor attendance are directly linked to a lack of progress and achievement.

**Safeguarding**

We work continuously to safeguard your child as we have a duty to act in the best interest of the child. We, as a staff, revisited our **Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures** during our INSET days. All staff have appropriate training and have undergone online **Prevent** Training as part of the government's **PREVENT AGENDA** against Radicalisation and Extremism to ensure we have the skills to spot the signs and know how and where to report concerns, to fulfil our duty of care. It is important that the whole community are vigilant.

We continue to be part of **Operation Encompass**. Any domestic abuse reported to the police, having taken place in the family home of any of our pupils over-night, is reported to school by 8.30am so that staff can be vigilant and support the children in question where necessary.

**E-safety** continues to be taught across school. With an increase in the number of children (often starting at an earlier age than anticipated) who have a mobile phone, play games on line or have access to social media (Facebook, Instagram, What's app, Snapchat etc) , it is increasingly important to provide our children with the necessary information on how to stay safe on-line or when using mobile phones. As a parent, please do **monitor your child's online and mobile phone activity** and ensure the **correct privacy settings** are in place. **REMEMBER**: whilst the internet and social media have many benefits they also pose a lot of risk. *Not everyone is who they say they are!*

**Road safety** - a polite reminder that there should be **no parking** (even for dropping off) in the yellow marked area outside school **OR** in unmarked areas opposite the road junction outside School House**. (Cars should not park on the road within 10 metres of a junction - Highway Code)**. Such parking causes danger and obstruction for pedestrians and especially our children trying to cross the road safely at busy times of the school day. Our PCSO will be regularly monitoring the traffic situation outside of school to keep our children safe. The doctor’s surgery carpark is an ideal drop-off and collection point as the children can walk along the ‘MUGA’ path and straight into school without crossing the road.

Do keep us up to date with changes to **home-time arrangements** and contact detail changes.

**PE**

Mr Ellis from Sportscape continues to take on the role of our school PE Co-ordinator, supported by Miss Phillips. Sportscape are also coordinating our involvement in the Crewe and Nantwich School Sport Partnership competitions and helping to keep the profile of sport high at Wrenbury. Do encourage your children with their sporting / fitness activities – it doesn’t have to be competitive sport but sport for good health!

We have a new coach this year, **Mr Booth,** who will be teaching Base 3 and Base 4 PE on Thursday afternoons

***Swimming***, this year, is on Fridays. Base 4 have their lessons this term; Base 3 will be starting their lessons in the Spring term.

Bae 1 and 2 are receiving a term of specialist gymnastics coaching through **Beth Tweddle’s Total Gymnastics** programme.

**Community**

There is an open invitation to parents, children, staff and governors on **Sunday 10th September at Broomhall and Sound Methodist Chapel** at 10.45am. Mrs Minshull Thomas (Sound) and I have been invited as the chapel’s service will focus on Education Sunday and the work of our local schools.

September's Coffee Stop will be on Tuesday 19th September at 9am-10am.

The Coffee stop aims to provide the opportunity for our school community to meet socially and at the same time find out about what is on offer to all families through different organisations linked to young children and families within the Nantwich area. **All are welcome, including pre-school children and toddlers**. We look forward to you joining us.

Ruby the dog continues to come into school with Berney Lunt and share a lovely reading experience with some of our children.

**Looking ahead:**

* **Book Fair –**26th- 28th September in Hall 3.30-4pm
* **FOWS and school ‘Welcome Back’ event** – Friday 29th September 3.30 -5.00pm (outside hopefully)
* **Film Night (pupils) –** School hall – Thursday 19th October 3.30-6pm
* **Christmas Fair -** Friday 8th December – School 6-8pm

Events don’t just happen – they need lots of people to help in lots of different ways. If you can support in any capacity, your help would be very much appreciated. Please do let school know if you can as we would like to get ahead with the preparations.

Over the summer, Mr Eaton and Mrs Roberts again worked tirelessly to get the school clean and ready for another school year. The teachers have moved classes and set up their new learning environments with a lot of thought and care**.** I am really proud of what they have achieved in readiness for their new classes. I had a child come up and tell me yesterday ‘I love my new classroom Mrs Cador’. That’s what it’s all about and when you know the hard work is worth it!

We had the back of school painted this summer, overseen by Mr Eaton. Mrs Mansfield has reorganised our sewing stock and found some very old and interesting buttons.

Mr Eaton, Mrs Mansfield, Mrs Charlesworth and I had a lovely time looking through old photos from the school’s archive, some dating back to 1910. We hope to have them on display after half term. Mrs Rowlands has worked behind the scenes keeping our every mounting list of admin jobs in check and ensuring all paper work is ready for the start of term. I'd like to express a very big thank you to them all for their commitment to the school.

**Parent helpers / volunteers**

We are very grateful for the support we have from our parents and grandparents. If anyone feels they can offer the school and our children a skill or expertise, some time to listen to readers or help out in class or at events, please do let your child's class teacher or Debbie know. Thank you.

I look forward to working with you and your child again this year and working with the Wrenbury Team to make the school the very best it can be.

Kind regards,

Mrs Cador