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

Head Teacher's News Letter

January 2017

After what seemed like a very short Christmas break, we are well and truly back into the rhythms and routines of school life at Wrenbury. The start of the term has been particularly busy and exciting for both the children and the staff. I'd like to thank staff for the fantastic start to the new term that they have given the children.

Mrs Francis, our deputy head and Y6 teacher, has made a very positive impact in school during the short time she has been with us. In the hall we have a new wonderful, large artistic piece of artwork created by Y6 (and Mrs Francis) to introduce our Learning Journey (topic) theme for this term - Journeys.

We welcome Ms Bassi who will be working in Base 1 in the afternoons.

**GOVERNANCE**

We welcome June Morris (Alfie in Y1's granny) and Terry Whalley to our governing body. Mrs Lesley Midwinter (Laura Y2 and Charlie Y1's mum) will become a Parent Governor when the Full Governing Body next meet in March.' Thank you to each of them for making a commitment to working with us to ensure the education we offer is the best it can be for all our pupils.

A percentage of parents responded to the Parent Survey saying that they did not know our governors. Our governors are actively involved in school life. There are always (and have always been) a few representative governors in attendance at our open parent events, whether they are the festival events and celebrations at Church or school, sharing afternoons, fundraising events or monthly Coffee Stop. They attend not only to support the school but to ensure you have a chance to get to speak to them and get to know them. They are recognisable by their black governor lanyarns (identity badges).

Please also look on the school's website - Our People - Our Governors. You can read a short biography for each governor. Other information around the work of the Governing Body and the termly newsletters from Jenny Davies, the Chair of Governors, are also on our website.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**
We continue to work on moving the school forward alongside offering a rich, broad and balanced curriculum to excite a love of learning. I've received a number of complimentary comments about how children are really enjoying the experiences and opportunities we are offering to enrich their learning. These have been passed on to staff. Thank you.

Our focus on **improving writing** across the school has been the main thrust of this last term and continues this term. To this end, the teaching staff (and the TAs for some sessions) have been undertaking regular training alongside Bunbury and St Oswald's in 'The Writing Project'. It has had a very positive impact on the way the teachers and the children are engaging with writing, enjoying a wider range of literature. As one Year 6 pupil noted in their class news feed last week: *' I believe I speak for the whole class when I say Year 6 are enjoying their literacy lessons!* and this sentiment is echoed through school in pupil voice.

In **maths**, there has been a drive to ensure fluency, reasoning and problem-solving, key features of maths lessons across the school week. One aspect of maths that hinders some children's progress Y2-6 is their lack of quick times table recall. Please do help at home: sing along, rote learning, games!

We are hosting **two curriculum events** this term: one on numeracy teaching and one on literacy.

There are hosting a sharing afternoon this week. We also have two parent evenings at the end of the term.

**Sharing Afternoon**

Our Sharing Afternoon is on **Friday 3rd February from 2.15 - 3.30pm**. The Sharing Afternoons are lovely occasions for the children who love seeing mum or dad in school. Do come in and share your child's autumn Learning Journey Book and let them enjoy telling you about all the lovely learning that was undertaken. Refreshments will be served in the school hall.

Grandparents have really enjoyed the opportunity of coming in and spending time with their grandchild(ren). We look forward to welcoming Base 4 and 5 grandparents in the near future

**COMMUNICATION - CALENDAR AND NEWS**

Debbie has produced and sent out to each family the key dates for this term. The school **calendar** on the website is also up to date. Staff add regular class **news feeds** to give you an overview of the focus and learning taking place in each class and other events and updates are fed through the news feeds.

Why not **like us on our homepage** and receive immediate **alerts** when a new newsfeed article is added?

Please see attached the document outlining all the ways used by school to communicate with you.

**ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

We do have a number of children and families whose attendance is a cause for concern. Children who miss school a lot often feel they are 'falling behind' their peers, lose confidence, feel anxious and make less progress. We don't want this for ANY of our children at Wrenbury. **Poor attendance is linked to a lack of progress and achievement.**

We will continue to track and challenge **'late arrivals'** and '**poor attendance'**. Do endeavour to have your child in school in time to join their class by 8:55am and not have to come through the school's reception door. Your child MUST attend school as much as is possible. The school's **Educational Welfare Officer, Glen Haig,**  has spoken to a few parents with her concerns and **monitoring letters** will continue to be sent to parents whose children’s attendance falls **below 90%.** This is deemed as **'Persistent absence'** by the government.

From Monday, the **school bell will be rung at 8.45am** to signal that school is open!

**Safeguarding**

**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.

**PC Amy Fletcher will be giving a 'Keeping Safe on Line' talk to pupils in Y5 and 6 on Wednesday 8th March. She is also hosting TWO parent talks on the same day: one at 3.35pm (children will be supervised in school) and a later one at 5.30pm. I urge all parents to attend. You may think you know about online and mobile phone safety - but you'll find that there's lots that you don't. You need to be informed to ensure that you are able to safeguard your child. Please use these opportunities to listen to and ask questions of someone who is in the know and up to date on keeping our children safe online.**

**Road safety** - a 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**.** 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 PCSOs will be regularly monitoring the traffic situation outside of school to keep our children safe.

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

**Well-being**

Our Well-being Lunch Clubs for all our children in Y1-6 are going well and both staff and children are enjoying their weekly half hour together. We are working through Friendship Terrace and learning how to be Friendship Builders not Blockers at the moment. We will then start to look at how we can be more resilient, able to persevere and to develop a Growth Mindset rather than an 'I can't' attitude and approach to life and learning.

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

**PE**

Thank you to Miss Phillips, Mr Sargeant, Mrs Winward and Mrs Clarke for continuing to offer sporting opportunities and competition experience to our children through your commitment and volunteered time. It is hugely appreciated.

**Assemblies and visitors**

Rev. Alison has led an assembly.

Mark Thomas led a whole school assembly on water safety as representative of the RNLI folowed by a workshop for Bases 3 and 4.

Paul Geraghty spent a day in school inspiring a love of writing and illustration.

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

**Community Hub School**

The Coffee Stop continues on the third Tuesday of the month 9am-10am, except for this month - Tuesday 14th February.

\* **Trialling NEW additional Coffee Stop time - Wednesday 1st February 3-3.30pm and Wednesday 1st March 3-3.30pm. Please pop in and use the opportunity to chat over a cuppa before children's pick up at 3.30pm.**

**All are welcome, including pre-school children and toddlers**. We look forward to you joining us.

**CLUBS**

In the parent survey, some of you felt that not enough extra curricula activities were offered in school. We host a wide range and number of clubs both at lunch time and after school. They are offered by staff, who volunteer their time. Once your child has signed up to a club, please ensure that they make the commitment to attending regularly. *We have one or two incidences of children having signed up to a club but now not attending - having possibly taken up a place of another child.*

**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 know. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mrs Cador