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

Head Teacher's News Letter

January 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. It was lovely seeing all the children again. They have settled back in to school, with the new rhythms and routines really well.

**TEACHING**
At the start of this new academic year, we welcome two new teachers to the teaching team; Miss Pitchford to Base 2 and Mr Sargeant to Base 4. Our teaching and support team are pleased to be joined by Miss Willis who is supporting in Base 1, Miss Hindmarch in Base 2 and Mrs Griffin in Base 3. We also welcome Mrs Taylor, Mrs Peek and Mrs Ball to our support team, who are working 1:1 with children in school. Everyone has settled in well and our school has a very calm and purposeful feel.

The Wrenbury team is very nearly complete; after much negotiation behind the scenes, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Francis, our new deputy head and Base 5 teacher, is being released early from her current contract and will be joining us **full time** rather than part time from 6th October. Until Mrs Francis takes up her Deputy Head position in school, I will continue teaching Y6 full-time with the support of Mrs Clarke. As always, I am happy to meet you, should you wish to see me, but this will have to be through a mutually convenient appointment arranged through the office rather than the drop-ins I am usually able to offer. I anticipate your full understanding of the commitments I have to Y6 at present alongside my other duties and responsibilities as Headteacher.

**GOVERNORS**

We welcome Mr Andy Williams and Mr Mark Burrows (Ruby's dad) to our governing body.

**CALENDAR AND NEWS**

The **school calendar** is nearly complete and a paper copy will be given to each family. It will contain key dates and events which should help with organising time off work etc in advance. The website calendar is also updated regularly by Debbie (office).

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. There is lots of relevant information to be found under the PEOPLE heading on the menu bar. 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.

**Pastoral Parent Evenings**

We will, once again, be hosting Pastoral Parent Evenings for Y1-6. In the past, parents have reported that they have found them informative about the teaching, learning and expectations for the year ahead as well as a good way to meet their child’s new teacher and see their child's classroom. We hope to see you at your child's Pastoral meeting next week.

Mrs McGhie will hold her meeting for parents of Reception children during week commencing 26th September and a letter will be sent shortly.

**Teaching and Learning**

Each teacher is leading with a story text(s) to inspire and motivate all our children in their cross curricular learning as part of their 'Learning Journey'. This term we have a whole school theme: 'Into the forest'. It is aimed at delivering more learning outside the classroom. Y6 have prepared the school garden and raised beds for each Base to have their very own garden area in school to grow vegetables and flowers. If anyone is able to donate any bulbs to school for the children to plant, that would be very much appreciated.

We continue to drive improvement in school and have a focus on better writing outcomes across school. This also involves a greater focus on the children's understanding and application of grammar and punctuation and increasing their capacity to be good spellers.

In maths, we are learning more about how to show a deeper knowledge of what we have learned through not only learning key skills and facts but being able to apply them, problem solve, reason and explain our learning and understanding.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

We were awarded 'Green' for the 3rd year running for **outstanding attendance** compared to other Cheshire East schools at the end of the last academic year. **Congratulations** to all those children (and their parents) whose attendance and commitment to their learning contributed to this achievement.

We do have a number of children and families whose attendance could be a lot better. 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.

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 should attend school as much as is possible. **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. Poor attendance is linked to a lack of progress and achievement.

**A little reminder:**

All letters/monies to be handed to the class teacher please not sent to the office.

**Safeguarding**

We work continuously to safeguard your 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. I have undertaken further Home Office training in Prevent this week and will be rolling out this training to all staff in due course.

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 10metres 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 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**

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

We are setting up Well-being Lunch Clubs for all our children in Y1-6. These will start next week.

**PE**

Mr Ellis from Sportscape continues to take on the role of our school PE Co-ordinator, supported by Miss Phillips and Mr Sargeant. 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. Please note that Mr Aspinall or Mr Ellis will be in attendance at various sporting events after school as **members of our school staff**.

Sportscape teach Base 2 and Base 5 PE on Tuesday afternoons

***Swimming***, this year, is on Wednesdays. Y6/Base 5 have started their lessons. Base 4 will be starting their lessons later in the term.

**Photographs**

The photographer will be in school on 26th October to take both individual portraits and class group photographs.

**Assemblies and visitors**

Rev. Alison will join us this half term to lead an assembly and will help lead our **Service of Remembrance** after half term. Nantwich Foodbank willbe the beneficiaries of our Harvest Service led by the children and held in St Margaret's on 20th October at 9.30am**.**

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

**Community Hub School**

September's Coffee Stop will be on Tuesday 20th 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.

 It would be lovely if as many parents could support **October's Coffee Stop in aid of Macmillans nurses**. Donations for coffee and cake will all go to this good cause.

**Christmas Fair**

**School and pre-school will be jointly hosting the Christmas fair this year -** date to be confirmed shortly.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 have worked tirelessly to clean and paint inside the school building and within the school grounds**.** We had the front of school and the flagpole painted and some internal plumbing work undertaken, overseen by Mr Eaton. Mrs Mansfield volunteered two days of the holiday to help reorganise the school's library. Our teaching staff, some of our support staff and my family members gave up time to help set up classrooms, reorganise the office and make school 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 know. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mrs Cador