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

Head Teacher's News Letter

19th October 2015

The first half term has been very busy and comes to a close! I think we're all ready for a rest!

At the start of the term, we welcomed Miss Davies, Miss Phillips and Mrs McGhie to our school teaching team, Mrs Wimpenny joined our Teaching Assistant team and Mrs Rodway continued her 1 day a week in school but this year in Base 4. All have settled in well.

We welcome Mr Andrew Taylor and Mrs Andrea Sanders as new Governors. Mrs Jenny Davies has taken up the role of Chair of Governors. We hope to elect a new Parent Governor after the half term holiday. A letter regarding nominations was sent home last week.

Visitors tell us there is a happy, positive buzz in and around school so thank you to all, for the contribution you make to Wrenbury Primary School to make it a special place to learn.

**Calendar and Website News**

We hope you have found the **school calendar**, given to each family last month, useful and informative. Do keep up to date with news and events in school through **browsing the website** too. Staff are adding class news feeds each week to give you an overview of the focus and learning taking place, which may in turn be useful to know how and what to support your child with at home. We also have our school policies and statutory documents on the site. 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 what we do at Wrenbury.

**Pastoral Parent Evenings**

Thank you to all who attended the Pastoral Parent Evenings. Feedback was positive and parents found them to be informative about the teaching, learning and expectations for the year ahead as well as a good way to meet their child’s new teacher.

**Teaching and Learning**

We continue to **develop our curriculum** and this term each teacher is leading with a story text(s) to inspire and motivate our children in their cross curricular learning as part of their 'Learning Journey'. Y2 and Y6 have joined the rest of the school in working from the New National Curriculum, which was introduced for Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 from September 2014. 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. We are delivering more learning outside the classroom and are pleased to announce that a **new outdoor classroom** will be constructed this week beginning 19th October. This will enhance our provision and extend the learning opportunities in our already wonderful outside space.

**Progress and tracking**

You will receive an information letter along with your child's target grids for writing and maths after the half term holiday. This will outline how we are tracking your child's progress over time now that we are no longer able to use levels to assess our children (government directive).

**Attendance**

We were awarded 'Green' for the 2nd year running for outstanding attendance compared to other Cheshire East schools at the end of the last academic year. This is a huge achievement but we can't be complacent!

 From the start of term to 16th October, the overall school attendance is 96.6%. We aim to be above 97%!

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base 1 | Base 2 | Base 3 | Base 4 | Base 5 |
| 97.8% | 98.4% | 94.7% | 99.2% | 92.6% |

Congratulations go to Bases 1, 2 and 4 for their outstanding attendance! 45 children have had 100% attendance so far this year and a further 45 children have achieved attendance between 97 and 99.9%. This is fantastic - keep it up!

We track **'late arrivals'** so 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. All letters/monies to be handed to the class teacher please to ensure that Debbie is not burdened unnecessarily at the start of the day in the office.

Monitoring letters will continue to be sent to parents whose children’s attendance falls below 90%. This is now deemed as **'Persistent absence'** by the government. Poor attendance is linked to a lack of progress and achievement. Children who miss school a lot can sometimes feel they are 'falling behind' their peers, lose confidence and make less progress. We don't want this for any of our Wrenbury children.

**Safeguarding**

We work continuously to safeguard your child.

**School Site - Construction Work**

All the children and staff have been given a safety talk regarding 'NO GO' zones during the construction of the outdoor classroom and the climbing equipment. Please keep to paths and tarmac areas only inside the school grounds. DO NOT venture onto the grassed area beside the staff car park or onto the small field at the back of school next week please: these are 'NO GO' zones while work is being undertaken. All vehicles entering and exiting site will do so when children and parents are off site or inside building only. Thank you for your understanding and support during the construction work.

We, as a staff, have revisited our **safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures**. All staff have appropriate training. I have attended training for **Educational Visits Coordinators**. All staff 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 attended a training session led by Lesley Price, the 'Channel' Officer from Cheshire's County Terrorism team and have fed back to staff. **E-safety** continues to be taught across school to provide your child with the information on how to safe on-line or using mobile phones.

**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 for pedestrians and especially our children trying to cross the road safely at busy times of the school day. Travelling vehicles have to drive on the opposite side of the road to pass the parked vehicles and visibility is reduced for both drivers and pedestrians. Please support us in keeping our children and families safe on the roads around school. Thank you!

**PCSO Sharon Jones** continues this year to hold lunchtime drop-ins for children across school.

Thank you for keeping 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. 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

**Reading**

Reading is an essential skill that needs lots of practice and there is nothing better than being taken into story world through the sharing of a really good read. Whilst children are engaged in lots of different reading experiences in school, it is very important that they also read at home. We offer the children a variety of books to read (Library Service) and from our own library and also host Book Fairs (commission from our last book fair will be spent on new books). Base 1 are again enjoying the delights and surprise of 'Mystery Reader'. Reading lots of stories helps generate ideas for children in their own story writing! The mobile library van visits the village every 3 weeks. It stops in the car park near the social club and doctor's surgery.

Visiting the library van is a great way to get your child used to reading and swapping books on a regular basis, if you can't get to Nantwich Library.

Do make time for reading - you'll see a rewarding difference as your child becomes more excited, engaged and fluent in reading! So, come on, let's all get 'Hooked on books!'

**PE**

Sportscape has been employed to take on the role of our school PE Co-ordinator. Mr Aspinall and Mr Ellis are working together to undertake this role. Sportscape teach Base 3 and 5 PE on Thursday afternoons.

Sportscape are also coordinating our involvement in the Crewe and Nantwich School Sport Partnership competitions and to keep the profile high at Wrenbury.

Please note that Mr Booth, Mr Aspinall or Mr Ellis will be in attendance at various sporting events after school as **members of our school staff**. We have already competed in Diamond Cricket, Quad Kids, Football fixtures, Tag Rugby and Boccia this term and would like to build on our participation and success next half term.

Thank you to Rachel Ashley (Esme's mum) for providing her support and expertise to Base 4 and Mrs Rodway in the teaching and learning of Tag Rugby.

We are focussing in PE on learning skills and also raising our fitness and stamina levels.

Our new climbing piece of equipment will be constructed this week and will support our aim to increase our children's fitness levels. The equipment is aimed at KS2 and has been provided through a Lottery Grant we received in the summer.

***Swimming*** is underway and Y3 and 4 have been attending sessions on Friday afternoons. Base 5 will be starting their lessons shortly and letters will be sent to parents with more details.

**Educational Visits**

**Base 3** had a wonderful Roman Day in Chester as part of their Learning Journey work this term.

During the last week of this half term, **Base 4** visit the Museum of Science and Industry as part of their Learning Journey focus through their class story 'The Railway Children by E Nesbit' on the steam train and the growth and impact of the railways in Wrenbury, Crewe and nationally.

**Base 1** will be travelling to Underwater Street Liverpool in November.

**Clubs**

**Sporting** - Sportscape run a lunch time tennis club on Thursdays. On Fridays, the football team practice from 12-12.30pm. Sportscape also offer other clubs which can only run with enough uptake. Mrs McGhie will be running a Netball club after the half term holiday for Years 4, 5 and 6.

**Wildlife and Gardening Club -** These continue to be popular clubs. A big thank you to Jo Greenhough, Helen Waters, Lindsay Hamilton for coordinating and running the Wildlife Club and to Rachel Ashley for running the Gardening Club. Rachel is also helping school to develop the fenced area between the school garden and School House to make it a sensory, outdoor learning area which our children can benefit from in the near future. Thank you!

**Photographs**

On the first day back after the half term break, **MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER**, Tempest photographers will be back in school to take individual and family photos. Families with younger, pre-school siblings can be brought in from 8.15 These will make ideal Christmas presents!

**Assemblies and visitors**

Nantwich Foodbank willbe the beneficiaries of our Harvest Service led by the children and held in St Marget's this week**.** Thank you for your donations and to Rev Alison for facilitating our service in church.

Rev. Alison has joined us this half term to lead an assembly and will help lead our **Service of Rembrance** after half term.

Mrs Goldstraw kindly joined us on Monday 19th October to share some wonderful meteorite samples she has been given access too. Our budding scientists were very impressed!

Mrs Clarke organised for Mr Howard from The Bible Society to visit Base 3 as part their RE unit on The Bible. He was 'hot seated' and the children had the opportunity to ask him lots of questions that they had prepared in class.

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

**Community Hub School**

October's Coffee Stop will be a **demonstration of cooking with a slow cooker and hints and tips**. Each visitor to the Coffee Stop will receive a raffle ticket, with the chance to win a slow cooker (kindly donated by Cheshire East Rural).

This month, we have Jan Melia from Wulvern Housing, Sharon Jones our PCSO and Gareth Siggee from Lifelinks who will be attending as well as Cheshire East Rural Representative Carol Hill.

At **September**'s Coffee Stop, Charlotte's mum, **Mrs Jones'** completed questionnaire was the winning entry for the **food hamper**.

Next month, November 17th, we are making **Christmas cards**. December's Coffee Stop will be a festive gathering with homemade mincepies on **Tuesday 15th December.**

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**. We look forward to you joining us.

**Friends Of Wrenbury School ~ FOWS**

We hope to update you with news following my letter last week informing you that we didn't have a Chair for FOWS and the implications this would have for our children. FOWS are meeting on WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER at 7.30pm in the Dusty Miller. Do pop along - you'll be warmly welcomed.

**Summer Fair**

The Wild West themed Summer Fair proved to be a great success in a number of ways: it raised a large sum of money towards our outdoor classroom; brought the community together socially and provided a credible alternative to the Scarecrow Trail. A huge thank you to all involved in both organising, running and supporting the event.

**Disco**

The disco was well attended and there was general agreement that hosting a disco for Base 1 and 2 followed by a disco for Base 3, 4 and 5 was the right way forward. The hiccup at the beginning (late arrival of the DJ) did not spoil the first of the year's fundraising events.

**Bags2School**

Do please fill the plastic bag(s) sent home and return on the collection day. This is a simple but effective fundraiser for school. Every kg counts!

**Helpers** As always, school is very grateful to the volunteer helpers who support our children's learning in school and the governors who work behind the scenes to support and challenge the education we offer here at Wrenbury.



**A little reminder:**

* We are NOT in school on Friday 23rd October (Inset), we put our clocks back 1 hr during the night of 25th October and return to school on **Monday 2nd November,** smart and smiling for our **photographs**.

**Enjoy the half term break.**

Kind regards,

Mrs Cador