



# January 2020 Newsletter

*Helping your child develop a love for life and learning*

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with your family and your children are feeling refreshed, ready for the term ahead.

Whilst I am sure it has been challenging to get back in to the school routine, I would like to thank you for ensuring the children have arrived promptly and looking so smart in their school uniform. It did come to my attention at the end of last term that some of our school rules regarding school uniform were slipping so I thought it would be helpful to remind parents and children of a number of school uniform expectations.

- Hairbands should be **plain** in style without, for example, bows, flowers or animal ears.
- Make up, nail varnish and tattoos must not be worn in school.
- Boys hairstyles should not include tram lines or shaved patterns of any form.
- Shoulder length hair should be tied back at all times.
- Black shoes (**not trainers**) to be worn in school.
- Boys should wear grey trousers (long or short), light blue shirt/polo shirt, scarlet v-neck sweater or sweatshirt.
- Girls should wear medium or mid grey pinafore dress or skirt. Mid grey shorts or trousers of approved design. Light blue blouse or polo shirt, scarlet v-neck sweater, cardigan or sweatshirt.

With this recent cold weather, please can I stress the importance that children bring in warm coats, hats and gloves. Furthermore, children may wish to wear boots or alternative shoes for their journey to and from school, but should bring in their usual school shoes to change into once in the classroom. Children are welcome to change into these warmer alternatives for playtimes. I hope this clarification is useful; please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss our uniform policy further.

The term started a little earlier for staff who attended our INSET training led by international speakers Dr Neil & Jane Hawkes. The training was entitled The Inner Curriculum and focused on how to teach children to be aware and in control of their internal world of thoughts, feelings and emotions. We explored how to nurture self-energy, in the context of thinking about and applying positive values such as resilience, empathy, courage, altruism and justice. Our aim is that with further focus on The Inner Curriculum our children will be more resilient and less susceptible to mental illness in the future. Look out for parent workshops later this term on our curriculum and how you can support at home.

This term we have much to look forward to, including a variety of exciting school trips to Wisley, PGL (Marchants Hill), Woking Mosque, PGL (Osmington Bay) and also Sports Relief. Year group term fees letters which detail the additional activities planned for your children this term and the associated costs will be shared next week. Please look out for this information and follow the link to our online payment system (SCOPay). You will notice on the term fee letter that there is an opportunity to support other families going through financial hardship – this has been in response to parents who have approached me about wanting to support others.

Thinking of others has been a focus in our assemblies this academic year, considering the impact of our actions on others. This month we are focusing on our dreams / goals and the importance of breaking these dreams down into manageable steps and the special qualities that we need to have to be able to achieve our dreams. If you have any examples of your child(ren) setting their own goals and taking steps to achieve these goals, I would love to hear about it (via my email: [head@worpleston.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@worpleston.surrey.sch.uk)) so I can give them a 'special head teacher note of thanks'.

Finally, thank you to those parents who have provided feedback via our online questionnaire. Over the next few weeks, we will be analysing the results and creating an action plan in response to the areas you have identified that we need to develop. Once our action plan is finalised, we will alert you to the fact that the action plan is on the website for your information.

I look forward to catching up with families over the next few weeks and I hope 2020 brings you all much happiness.

Happy new year & best wishes,

Kareen O'Brien  
Head Teacher

Value of the month – Quality



# Updates & Dates



## IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

We are delighted to inform you that the installation of a pedestrian refuge on the A323 Aldershot Road has been granted.

Not only will the refuge provide a safer crossing point for families wishing to walk to school, it will also provide a safer crossing point for residents wishing to use Broad Street Common for recreational purposes.

The hope is that the refuge will be in place by the end of the Easter holidays.

With safety in mind, please remember our school goals:

- Promise to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride at least once a week.
- To drive further away from the school entrance and ensure we are all parking considerately.
- To resist the temptation of parking on the zig zag lines at the front of the school.
- No stopping in front of the yellow road cones in order to drop off or collect the little people.
- When pulling into the drive to drop off (if you have prior permission), slow down and look for people exiting.
- When crossing the road, only cross in front of the School Crossing Patrol Officer and please look at him, not friends or mobile phones.
- To turn off engines when stationary.

Please be aware, we are now able to take photos of anyone parking on the markings and forward to the police.

Please keep trying to make a little change to help us make a big difference!

## ATTENDANCE ... EVERY DAY COUNTS

The Education Welfare Officer continues to visit half termly to monitor Mrs O'Brien's decisions on authorising absences and to focus on those children whose attendance is less than 95%. I am delighted to inform you that whole school attendance is currently at 97% so we are on track to achieve our end of year target of 96.1% **for the first time ever**. Currently, our Reception children have the best attendance rate at an impressive 99.6% and across the school, boys are doing slightly better with 97.2% compared to girls at 96.8%. Thank you to those families supporting us by adhering to our Attendance Policy.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Surrey Cricket Skills Festival

Children across the school were randomly selected to participate in a cricket festival on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The children, most of whom had little experience of playing cricket, were given some coaching from Surrey Cricket representatives and experienced some competitive cricket games. A big well done to all of the children who took part – they were ambassadors of our school values. They all had a brilliant time and some discovered a new passion for cricket. A particular well done to James G (Year 5) who found out that he had a hidden talent for fielding – bowling out 3 players and catching someone out!

## IMPORTANT FUNDING - YEAR R, 1 & 2 UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS – CENSUS DAY

Funding for universal school meals for Year R, 1 & 2 children is based on the average meal take up on the two census days in Autumn and Spring, which is why we would like to encourage as many children as possible to have a school lunch on these two days.

In January, the national census day falls on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**. Please support the school to achieve our maximum funding!

## GOVERNORS

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new governors Neil Monro (Parent Governor) and Pauline Alexander (Co-opted Governor).

## PTA

The PTA will be holding their Spring Planning Meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm, in the Staff Room. All welcome 😊.

## WELLINGTON BOOTS (Junior Sizes)

If you have any unused wellington boots that are looking for a new home, Mrs Sherlock would be very grateful to receive them as spares for her Forest School and Gardening Clubs. Thank you.

ATTEND TODAY  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



ATTENDANCE WORKS

