



October 2023 Newsletter

Helping your child develop a love for life and learning

A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a great start to the term. We have enjoyed meeting our new joiners in Swifts, Swallows & Penguins as well as those joining in other year groups.

LIVING BY OUR VALUES

In our assemblies last month, we focused on the value of belonging – feeling happy and comfortable within a group of friends, a class, a year group, our school. We then moved onto learning that it is our responsibility to look out for the well-being of others so that they feel a sense of belonging when in a group with us. This month, we turn our attention to friendship. We will discuss what it means to be a good friend and what to do if someone is not being a good friend. I would love to celebrate your children showing these values beyond school. If you have any examples, please email me (head@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk) and I will ensure they receive a special certificate from me. Please be re-assured that I can give my certificates out discreetly for those children who would prefer!

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

The teaching team are looking forward to meeting with you face to face for your Autumn term Parent Consultations on Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd November. Within the meeting, your child's class teacher will share how your child has settled, sharing information on their social and emotional development including the values they live by. They will share with you their assessments of your child's strengths and next steps in reading, writing and maths. Please can you email your child's class teacher beforehand if there is anything that you wish to discuss to ensure that this is addressed in the meeting; we do not want you to leave feeling frustrated with unanswered queries. Look out for more information next week on how to book your appointment. There will be opportunities for you to look through your child's workbooks, catch up with other parents and speak with myself and other leaders across the school.

PROGRESS AGAINST OUR FEDERATED SCHOOLS' DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Whilst the table on the following page does not include all of our successes this term nor all of our areas for improvement, we hope it gives you an informative summary of progress to date.

Finally, as always, please continue to provide your feedback directly to the team at Worpleston so that we know what we are doing well and those areas you would like to improve.

Best wishes,

Kareen O'Brien

Executive Head Teacher

Value of the month – Friendship



Continued

Priority	Summary of achievements so far this term	Focus for the year ahead
Leadership and Management Build leadership capacity across the school including governance, leading to good and better progress within each year group and across the curriculum.	Reviewed and implemented the school's agreed vision with the school community, 'developing a love for learning and life'. Safeguarding training up dated for all staff with all systems reviewed, improved, implemented. Recruited governors with the appropriate skill set to support and challenge school leaders. Nursery proposal presented to the local authority (and awaiting response).	Continue to ensure the community has the resources, high quality training, effective systems, processes and structures to be successful. Continue to actively seek governors with specific skill sets to complement existing board. Once approved, drive our nursery development.
Quality of Education To provide an exceptional education for all children.	Subject leaders have reviewed the curriculum design for their subject ensuring it is coherent and well sequenced, reflecting our school drivers and equips <i>all</i> children with the knowledge and skills for their next step in education. Resources to complement the curriculum have been purchased and are in use. High quality training delivered by an external specialist to subject leaders with a particular focus on how to ensure our curriculum is fit for purpose and meets the needs of all children. Training programme has begun for teachers and teaching assistants which has included curriculum design, values curriculum, safeguarding, behaviour management and intervention programmes.	Continue to review and adapt the curriculum ensuring it is coherent and well sequenced. Implement the coherent and well sequenced curriculum so that <i>all</i> children are equipped with the knowledge and skills for their next step in education and that end of year outcomes are above the Surrey average. Continue to provide interventions to ensure children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep on track for meeting end of year expectations • accelerate progress towards meeting expectations
Personal Development To provide develop, promote, enable and support pupils personal development ensuring their readiness for the next phase in education	Signed up for all sporting events for the year ahead. Set up football clubs so that matches can happen for KS2 year groups. Begun to explore the possibility of creating more play space for the children. Assemblies have included Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and how we can ensure our needs are met to be the best we can be. A new food policy has been written (attached to this Parentmail).	Develop opportunities to ensure the explicit teaching of emotional literacy, and a growth mindset to support positive mental wellbeing of pupils and staff. Provide children with a varied and rich set of experiences that will further develop understanding of inclusion, cultural diversity and social cohesion. Increase the number of clubs provided. To share, implement and monitor the impact of our new food policy.
Behaviour and Attitudes To ensure all behaviours and attitudes are positive and consistently reflect the values of the school and are outstanding	The behaviour policy has been implemented across the school with children already receiving rewards for their good behaviour. Interventions in place for those children whose behaviour requires support.	To further improve our attendance across the school. To continue to drive our values curriculum leading to our accreditation for the Enhanced Values Quality mark.



Updates & Dates

STAFFING UPDATE

Katherine Potter (Assistant Head) has made the decision to move on to pastures new. We thank her for all of her hard work and wish her well in her new adventures.

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

As you know, we have booked our residential visit to Stubbers Adventure Centre in Essex this year for 3 days and 2 nights. Over the last six months, school leadership had many conversations with families concerned about the cost of this trip due to the cost of living increases that we are all experiencing. As a result, we made the difficult decision to reduce the trip from 4 nights away to 2 night away with the hope that as many children as possible could attend. We chose the Essex location because a 90 minute travel time has allowed us to make full use of our travel days, enabling the centre to provide us with a jam packed schedule of 8 activities over the course of our trip.

Since sharing the details of the trip, we have been contacted by two parents who are concerned about the reduction in nights away. To enable us to obtain an accurate understanding of the views across our year 6 cohort, we asked our year 6 parents to complete a short anonymous survey. The results are below:

As a family we could afford to pay:

1 night (£125)	5.5%	3
2 nights (£250)	67.3%	37
4 nights (£500)	27.3%	15
Total		55

As a family, we would be happy to support another family by paying more

Yes	18.2%	10
No	81.8%	45
Total		55

If you answered yes for question 2, how much would you be able to pay towards another child's trip:

Between £50-100	80.0%	8
Between £100-150	10.0%	1
Between £150-200	10.0%	1
Total		10

We have decided to keep the trip as planned but to enhance the year 6 experience through other activities with low cost. Thank you for your continued support.

EARLY ARRIVALS

We would like to remind you that our school day is 8.45-3.20. There are several junior children arriving extremely early (from 8.20am). We are concerned that these children are not supervised which could present a safeguarding risk. Please can we kindly ask that children do not arrive so early and that if they do that they are supervised by an appropriate adult. Thank you.

NEW FOOD POLICY

As part of promoting healthy lifestyles, we are introducing a new food policy (attached) which is currently in a draft form whilst School Council finalise the details. With this in mind, we are not encouraging children to bring in sweets and cakes on their birthdays. Instead, we encourage parents to donate a book or small game for the class to enjoy.



Updates & Dates

PARKING

Sadly, we are writing to inform you that we have been contacted by a local resident regarding the inconsiderate parking by a small but significant number of parents/carers (as shown in the photo below). As you are aware Mrs O'Brien, along with senior staff, talk to drivers as necessary asking them to move when parked inappropriately. We know that inconsiderate parking and driving puts our children's safety at risk; we are asking our whole community to work together to keep our community safe for everyone.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.



EARLY BIRDS & NIGHT OWLS

This week at Night Owls we have been celebrating Space week. The children have had great fun at our junk modelling table creating aliens and rockets. Their creations were amazing and it was a pleasure to see them all using their imaginations and having so much fun. Our photos show Harriett and Margot who worked together to make a giant rocket. They were really proud of themselves and Harriett even took it to class to show her classmates. The children also had the opportunity to design a planet using shaving foam and food colouring. They mixed the two together and then using a piece of paper placed it onto the design to create a marbled effect onto their planet. As you can see from our photo the result was brilliant. We also had a chalk area, on our tuff tray, where the children could use star templates to make shooting star pictures. Finally, there was a space role play area where the children could pretend they were going to space.

Despite the warm weather staying with us this week we are aware that Autumn is upon us. We will now be offering a warm option at Breakfast Club of porridge and will continue with the hot food options at Night Owls of beans on toast and spaghetti hoops. With the warm options being added we have decided to remove croissants from our Early Birds menu in the morning every day. Instead, we will offer them one week a month as a lot of the children are ordering them every day and having two at a time. We feel this is not a very healthy option due to the fat content in them. If anyone has any concerns or questions in regard to this, please feel free to speak to Mrs Fyfe at drop off or pick up. Please can we remind you as well to return the All about me forms that have been sent out if you have not already done so. Next week our focus is on our Mental Health as it is Mental Health Day on Tuesday. We will be offering the children a variety of mindfulness activities to choose from.





Updates & Dates



YEAR 5 & 6 CROSS COUNTRY

With the first cross-country race of the new academic year rained off a couple of weeks ago, there was an air of excitement and apprehension on the downs behind Holy Trinity school. The boys' race was first, and with loud cheers from the girls and parents, they set off at a good pace. At the finish line, Worplesdon had 3 representations in the top 10, with Oli coming in third (and Eddie and Austin in 7th and 8th respectively) in a race of around 72 boys!

The girls then raced off round the track, duly supported by the still-puffing boys, and again showed true resilience to finish the challenging course, with Edith coming in 9th.

Out of 10 visiting schools, Worplesdon boys came joint second overall, and our girls came third. With scores combined, Worplesdon came joint second.

We hope the runners are as proud of themselves as we are of them.

Special thanks to the parents for shuttling our amazing athletes, and for the encouraging support!



OFFICE REMINDERS

The office team would like to remind you of the following:

- If you have a change of pick-up arrangements, please if possible, let the office know by lunchtime, as this gives them plenty of time to let the relevant teachers know, thank you. 01483 232126 / office@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk.
- Please can you make sure if your child(ren) have school lunches, that their ParentMail account is topped up, it is Surrey County Council policy that meals are paid for in advance.
- On 4th October a Flu Vaccination reminder was sent out via ParentMail. The school nursing team need the form completed indicating whether you give **consent or not**. We ask that this be done by Thursday 9th November, 4pm.



Eikon are offering free webinars for parents. Their webinars for parents and carers explore ways in which they can support the mental health and wellbeing of their children and young people at home. Combining both theory and practical strategies, the webinars offer a range of accessible ideas for parents to choose from, and to find those that will best suit their family. The webinars last for about an hour with time for questions and answers. The webinars are free to attend and are open to all parents living in Surrey or with children attending school within Surrey. This is the link to if you are interested in attending any of these.

<https://eikon.org.uk/parents-and-carers/parent-support-webinars/>