



January 2024 Newsletter

Helping your child develop a love for life and learning

A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN

Dear Parents/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. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts to the families who were affected by the extreme flooding last night. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

I have been delighted with the exemplary behaviour that the children have demonstrated this week; it is clear that they are working incredibly hard to live by our school values. Last month we focused on the value of 'care & compassion' and I am hoping your child(ren) demonstrated this over the Christmas break. This month, we are focusing on 'creativity', exploring what it means to see things in new ways, how to think outside the box, how to create something that is unique, and of course the importance of not giving up.

With values in mind, on Monday, I am launching our giving back scheme which encourages children to apply their values beyond school. You will see from the attached documentation, that children will be rewarded with a values badge to wear with pride when they have achieved one of the 'giving back' goals. These goals are graded bronze, silver, gold and platinum, and it is possible for each child to achieve all four badges within one year if they are able to evidence four objectives over four different activities they have completed. When your child has achieved one of these goals, I need you or another family member to email me (head@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk) with the evidence which will lead me to present them with a very special badge for them to wear with pride on their school uniform each day. Evidence can be a description of the activity, photos, videos or anything else that celebrates their success. I really hope that you will support me in driving this new initiative forward.

As we move into the spring term, there are several projects to share. The first project to celebrate is the successful tendering process for our catering service across the federation of schools. As you will know from my previous email, we have awarded Edwards & Ward our contract <https://edwardsandward.co.uk/>. The team have been in over Christmas, getting the kitchen ready for service and we have already had three successful services this week with both kitchens fully staffed serving delicious food in line with the menu advertised. Due to the tight turnaround of the contract, we will be phasing in the following over the next two weeks:

- Salad bar for children to access independently each day
- Use of plates rather than flight trays
- Introduction of a pudding table
- Table cloths and bread baskets on each table
- A second serving hatch

We have already received positive feedback from children, parents and staff. Please do continue to provide feedback because Edwards and Ward are determined to bring their vision to life - providing great nutritious meals to our children.

Another project that is fully underway is our proposal to have a nursery serving our federation of schools. This proposal has received full support from the local community and the Early Years commissioning team at Surrey. We are now awaiting release of funds so that we can start this project. We know that there are families eagerly awaiting confirmation of opening dates; once we have confirmation of when building works can begin, we will be able to share a detailed timescale. Thank you for your patience.

Value of the month – Creativity



Updates & Dates

Another exciting project that we are hoping will come to fruition, as we progress through the rest of this academic year, is our proposal to seek investment to provide an all-weather surface on our field at Worplesdon Primary School. Worplesdon began as a small primary school with four classes (i.e. reception class, split year 1 & class, split 3 & 4 class, and a split year 5 & 6 class). Over the last 15 years, Worplesdon Primary School has gone from strength to strength, which has led to the local authority requesting for the school to expand. There have been four expansions over this time, leading to a significant reduction in our outdoor space. Whilst the school benefits from a good sized field, children are unable to use this in the wetter months and have to use several cramped play spaces. **To help us prove the need for an all-weather surface on our field, please can I ask you to complete a short survey (more information to follow via ParentMail) by Friday 26th January 2024.** The data from the survey will be included in a proposal that will be shared with our various bids for investment.

Finally, later this month we will be holding a parent consultation regarding our Relationship, Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. We would very much like to welcome parents into school on Wednesday 31st January 2024 - 3.30-4.15pm. We will share the aims and objectives of our RSE curriculum and give you an opportunity to ask questions and to share your opinions. The consultation is a genuine opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns in a solution focussed environment so that our delivery of the programme is suitable for all. If you'd like to participate, please email either office@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk / office@woodstreet.surrey.sch.uk or call the school office by Friday 26th January 2024.

Wishing you a wonderful 2024, full of happiness and fulfilment.

Best wishes,

Kareen O'Brien
Executive Head Teacher

P.S. Here is a message from Berties for your children to enjoy ...

BERTIE BOOS' NEWSFLASH

Welcome back! We both hope you had a fabulous break with your families and friends.

All of the small human beings have been amazing on their first week back, wearing big smiles and walking with a spring in their steps, despite the rain!

I started my week back yesterday joining Falcons adults first thing for 'Take Ten' a relaxation session with Ms Baynes, it was utter heaven. Swifts and Swallows sat beautifully while myself and Traci read 'the book with No pictures', they laughed so much that I couldn't stop wagging my tail!

This morning I felt super excited seeing all of the children in our celebration / golden leaf assembly. It was a very proud moment.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Bertie O'Brien

xx





Updates & Dates

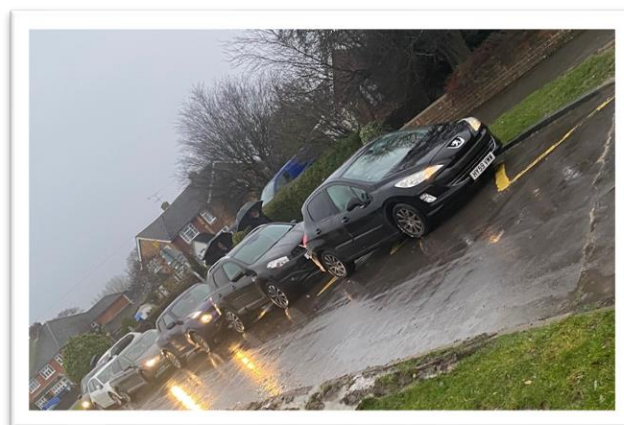
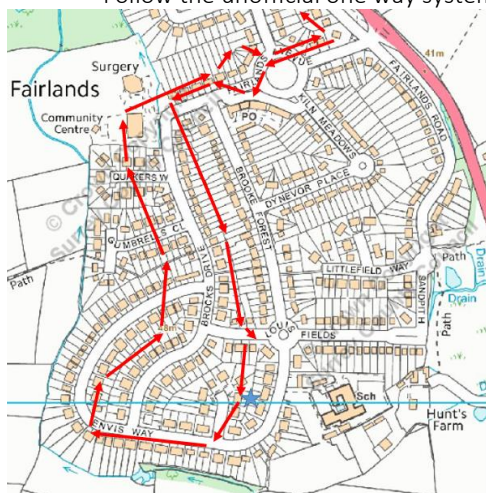
PARKING

We believe that it is the responsibility of every member of our community to be a role model to the children in our care; the behaviours I have highlighted below are unacceptable and our children should not be witnessing these behaviours each day:

1. **Unsafe driving** (for example: speeding; driving along paths being used by pedestrians; and a lack of awareness of bikes using the roads leading to very near misses).
2. **Stopping on zig zag lines** and the roundabout to drop off and pick up.
3. **Inconsiderate parking** of parents (for example: parking on grass verges; blocking drives; and blocking the school gates).
4. **Verbal abuse** (from parents to residents and between parents)

So, how can you help to make the area surrounding our site safe for all the children at Worpleston Primary School?

- ✓ Make a promise to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride at least once a week
- ✓ Park considerately which may mean driving further away from the school entrance
- ✓ Do not park or drop off on the zig zag lines at the front of the school or on the roundabout
- ✓ Never park across residents' driveways
- ✓ Be role models to all children
- ✓ Follow the unofficial one way system as shown below



SCHOOL UNIFORM

In addition to teaching and rewarding children to live by our school values, research shows that a smart and consistent school uniform helps to give children a sense of belonging and in turn, helps their behaviours. 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
- ✓ Absolutely no earrings on P.E. days (in line with Surrey policy)
- ✓ Boys hairstyles should not include tram lines or shaved patterns of any form
- ✓ Shoulder length hair should be tied back at all times (boys & girls)
- ✓ Black shoes / ankle boots 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. Pale blue gingham dress in the summer

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs O'Brien or another member of staff if you need support with financing uniform; we are always happy to help families and we always do this discreetly.



Updates & Dates

EARLY BIRDS & NIGHT OWLS

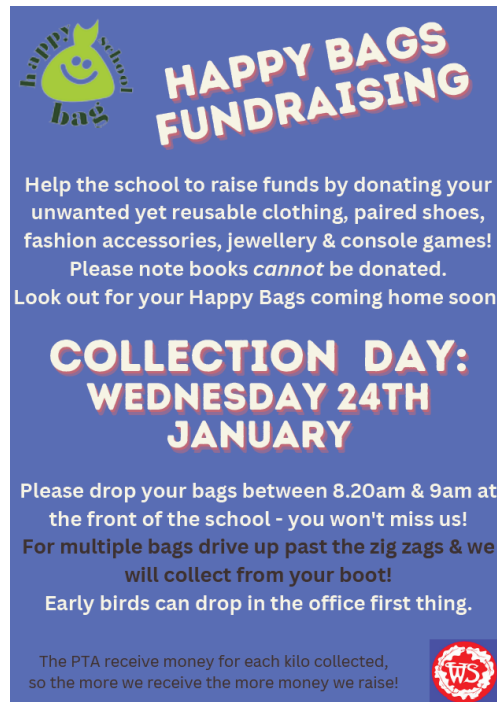
It was a pleasure to have all the children back at our extended day sessions this week. We had great fun listening to all of their exciting stories about what they got up to during their Christmas breaks. They have all settled back in really well and back into their routines. This week we had a craft activity where the children could colour in and make their own calendars for the year to hang up in their bedrooms. Over the next few weeks we will be focusing our crafts on different arctic animals and learning about their habitats.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and all the best for 2024!



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR PTA!

Our packed events schedule is kicking off with another **Happy Bag day** on **24th January**! So, if you're having a new year's clear out please hang on to all those unwanted items until then - don't forget the PTA receives money for every kilo collected!



happy school bag


HAPPY BAGS FUNDRAISING

Help the school to raise funds by donating your unwanted yet reusable clothing, paired shoes, fashion accessories, jewellery & console games!
Please note books *cannot* be donated.
Look out for your Happy Bags coming home soon!

COLLECTION DAY: WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY

Please drop your bags between 8.20am & 9am at the front of the school - you won't miss us!
For multiple bags drive up past the zig zags & we will collect from your boot!
Early birds can drop in the office first thing.

The PTA receive money for each kilo collected, so the more we receive the more money we raise!



Please note the first **Break The Rules Day** is being postponed to February - date to follow!

If you want to get more involved we'd love to see you at our **social on Thursday 11th January - 7.45pm at The Worplesdon Place**. For more info drop us an email: worplesdonprimarypta@gmail.com.