

Wildmoor Heath School

Newsletter

Friday 9th September 2016

WELCOME BACK!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break. In my first newsletter of the year, I would like to warmly welcome those children (and parents) who are new to our school, whether they are in Reception or in other years. We currently have 199 on roll with waiting lists in several year groups. We are currently 11 short of being full and we have 36 more than we did at this time 4 years ago.

We have an exciting year planned and we have posted key dates and information on the website. You can also download an A4 copy of our general calendar there. Keeping you informed is an important part of the office staff's role, but they can only communicate effectively if they have up to date contact details. You will shortly receive this year's 'data collection' form – please make sure you return it promptly, particularly if there are any changes to your details. The form also asks for medical information and asks your consent for local / low risk offsite activities. Also, if you haven't yet done so, please sign up for 'School Comms', our e-mail and text service. As well as the website and this newsletter, we increasingly keep parents up to date with events at school via Twitter. If you would like to follow us, you can find us at @WildmoorHeath.

Mr G Strudley (Headteacher)

** NEW - Reading Target Cards **

If you haven't seen them already, our Reading Target Cards have been updated and your child will be coming home with their new one shortly. The reason for the change is the higher expectations and different requirements of the new National Curriculum (NC). The cards will work in the same way and the colour scheme works as before. Most children will be on the same colour as before, but because there are more (and different) targets, they may spend longer on the card than previously. Another change is the dots we use on the card. Rather than the green and yellow previously used, we will be using red (working towards a target), blue (achieved) and orange (mastered). This links better with our assessment software and the new NC. Mr Peale will be running a workshop next week.



Adventure Playground

Great news! We have now raised enough money to order the new piece of adventure playground equipment, replacing the 'Cargo Net'. We have an installation date of w/b 10th October with the chipping and railway sleepers going in shortly afterwards. This means that the new equipment should be ready to use before half term! Our thanks to both the PTA and the Crowthorne Trust, which both granted money towards the refurbishment of the playground.



New Library & ICT Suite

During the summer break we worked hard to move the library into the 'old' Year 3. As well as new shelving, we bought new furniture and installed 15 new PCs. These, in conjunction with our existing laptops, will mean we can have whole class Computing lessons.



Most importantly, the new library space will make IPC 'knowledge harvests' more effective, allowing teachers to teach and children to practise research skills. In addition, we will be able to promote a love of reading more effectively. In the next few weeks, we will appoint new pupil librarians and children will be able to start



borrowing books during lunchtime and after school. We also plan to start some book and other clubs. To help expand the reading stock, I have given Mr Peale a budget of £4,500 to buy a range of fiction and non-fiction books. We will ask the children to suggest some titles. We were grateful to have received substantial grants from both the PTA and the Crowthorne Educational Charity.

Interested in being a Governor?

The Board of Governors currently has two vacancies: an elected parent governor and a co-opted 'community' governor (the latter, preferably having finance or business skills).

Governors are responsible for broad matters of policy with detailed implementation being carried out by the professional staff, led by the Headteacher. Working in partnership with the Headteacher, Governors are involved in setting the school's aims and policies, improving standards of teaching and achievement, setting the budget plan, monitoring expenditure and recruitment. They also act as a link with the local community.



An election for the parent governor position will take place later in the term. If you are interested – or know of a relative, colleague or neighbour that might be interested in the 'community' governor vacancy – please contact Celeste Moruzzi, the Clerk to Governors, at clerk@wildmoorheath.bracknell-forest.sch.uk to find out more.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It is school policy for all governors to have a satisfactory DBS enhanced disclosure certificate.

Our New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of staff to our team:



Mrs S Holtzhausen
Teacher – PPA & Interventions



Mrs E Dalton
Teacher – Reception Class



Miss M Lee
Teaching Assistant in Y6



Dr J Moynihan
Trainee Teacher



Mrs A Norwood
Teaching Assistant in Y5

I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to Wildmoor Heath School. We are looking forward to working with them!

Drinking Water

The school policy is to make drinking water available in every classroom throughout the day. To help with this, we have given a water bottle to every child in the school. **If your child needs a replacement, please see the Office or send them with a bottle from home.**



We allow water in class because we know that good hydration helps the brain work well. **Children are welcome to bring in juice, flavoured water, squash etc for their lunch, but not for drinking during lessons. These other drinks should be kept in your child's lunchbox.** Please note that 'fizzy' drinks, sports / isotonic drinks and high-sugar drinks are not acceptable in any instance. In Reception, because of the age of the children and the structure of their day, the children often have a drink and a snack together. The children will usually have milk, but sometimes the staff will serve squash. At other times, however, the children are encouraged to drink water.

Packed Lunches & Snacks

Packed lunches should be balanced and nutritional (i.e. contain a mix of carbohydrates, protein and vitamins / minerals). The following foods should not be included in lunchboxes:

- Nuts or food containing nuts (because of allergies);
- Chocolate bars and sweets;
- Fizzy drinks;

Older children (who do not receive free fruit) are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack for break time, this should be a piece of fruit, cereal bar or yoghurt tube; chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks are not acceptable.



Dates for your Diary

15 Sep 16 - Reading & Phonics Workshop
06 Oct 16 – Writing Workshop
w/b 10 Oct 16 – Y6 / Y4 Residential Trip Meetings
13 Oct 16 – School Council Elections
14 Oct 16 – Harvest Festival (KS1)
17 Oct 16 – Festival of Rugby (House Comp)
19 Oct 16 – Y6 BF Tag Rugby
23 Oct 16 – Last day of half term
31 Oct 16 – School re-opens

(Please check the website and 'school comms' for updates)



REACHING for our BEST

Respect - Everyone - Achievement - Courage - Helpful & Caring – Individuality - Never Give Up - Go for It!

