



NEWSLETTER NO 7 - Tuesday 10th December 2019

	Term Begins	Finish		Return	Term Ends
Autumn 2019	Wednesday 4 September	Friday 25 October	Half Term	Tuesday 5 November	Thursday 19 December
Spring 2020	Tuesday 7 January	Friday 14 February		Monday 24 February	Friday 3 April
Summer 2020	Monday 20 April	Friday 22 May		Tuesday 2 June	Tuesday 21 July

Inset Days: 6 January 2020, 1 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of the term and 2019! Whilst there is lots to celebrate and enjoy this time of year, there is unfortunately also some difficult news to share and wider school concerns for us to address together.

Mrs Buysman Illness

Thank you all for your concern following Mrs Buysman being taken ill at school this morning; we appreciate your patience and flexibility being rerouted on arrival at school. We wanted to reassure parents and children that Mrs Buysman is being looked after in hospital and we will update you as appropriate.

Neal Edwards

Following an official communication from the Pre-School, some of you will know that Stephanie Edward's husband, Neal, suddenly and tragically passed away yesterday. I know you will join me in passing on our thoughts and prayers to the family at this incredibly difficult time. The school have of course offered our full support to Zoe, the Pre-School team and Committee in sustaining all provision and arrangements over the coming weeks.

Online Behaviour and Abuse

It has unfortunately come to my attention that following the posting of an inaccurate message online, abusive responses ensued from several people including some school parents. I am really grateful to the concerned parents who came forward to share this as such behaviour regarding our school, pupils and community will not be tolerated.

I have sought advice from the Police who have stated anyone who is concerned about anything written or threatened online should contact the non-emergency Police number, 101. Screen shots of the comments online have been provided to the school for our records.

We regularly stress to the children that you cannot trust everything or everyone online and this is illustrated perfectly in this situation which was taken completely out of context and subsequently blown out of all proportion. What turned out to be a minor playground game-related incident with a group of children was dealt with and resolved successfully at the time.

The majority of the difficulties we face in school are due to a misunderstanding and this is why I am so keen to maintain an open and approachable organisation. If anyone has any concerns about an incident in school, the priority is always to contact us so that we can clarify and bring context to what has been shared or witnessed by the children. Although messages are monitored, if this is outside school office hours however, I am contactable directly at head@wingrave.school should an urgent matter arise. Thank you.

School Collections and Supervision

As noted in the organisation of the Christmas Fayre, we cannot stress enough to parents the importance of clear collection procedures and instructions; some of you may have been aware of the Junior-age child who went missing straight after school for a number of hours last week in Aylesbury in the Turnfurlong School area. It is our collective responsibility to make sure we do everything we can to safeguard the children on our site and make sure

the handover to parents and carers is thorough. With all this in mind, please can we ask for your support in the following:

- Please do not distract the children through the windows whilst waiting in the courtyard - this is prime 'reminder and letter' time in class and we do not want the children to miss anything.
- Once children have been handed over, please make sure they stay in your sight and are appropriately supervised. Once the external gates have been opened there is nothing to stop a child from leaving the school grounds in multiple directions.
- If you need to speak to the class teacher, please wait until all the children have been dismissed so the staff can concentrate. If a child is not collected the staff may need to arrange another time to talk to you while they make arrangements for the child.
- If you are unable to collect your child for any reason please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can inform the staff and make arrangements. If you are able to send someone else to collect them, please also let us know who so we know permission has been given.
- **Unless we have written or verbal confirmation from a parent, we will not allow a child to be collected by someone else.** Attached to the newsletter link email is a new record form for you to state who has permission to collect your child on any occasion. We will still accept changes to arrangements via email, note or phone call but we hope this record will provide some flexibility and convenience for all involved. Regardless of previous conversations with staff or parents, please complete this form to cover all existing and future arrangements.

Thank you for your support.

Mr M Tomson
Headteacher
head@wingrave.school

PTFA Christmas Fayre

Thank you to our PTFA, parent volunteers, staff and yourselves for making Friday's Christmas Fayre so successful. We really appreciate all the time and energy freely given in preparation and during such an event; a special mention to Mrs Cuthbert, Mrs Lamont and Mrs Biley who oversaw the whole process - thank you!

We did note and appreciate everyone's patience waiting to come in for the Fayre especially when the weather took such a turn. We continue to review procedures to make them as slick as possible but our priority at the end of the school day must be to make sure all the children are collected and dismissed safely.

Congratulations to Joseph (Year 1), Logan (Year 4) and Noah (Year 5) who found and won this year's Headteacher Vouchers! The boys will be joining me in the new year on various Headteacher duties and getting a look behind the school scenes.

We look forward to sharing the grand total from the PTFA Christmas Fayre as soon as possible.

Absence from School

Please remember that it is school policy for parents to report their child's absence from school, initially by telephone on the first morning using the absence option, followed by a letter on their return. If a reason for absence is not provided, an unauthorised absence will be recorded. We will be reviewing attendance data of all our pupils in January for this Autumn term so that we can highlight any specific concerns and support as necessary.

Emergency Closure Procedures

In the potential event of snow over the coming months we will do our best to keep the school open and limit the impact on the children's learning and parental commitments. Obviously our rural location brings added complications but, the major factor in deciding if the school should be closed is the health and safety of everyone travelling to/from school and whilst on site. Our ability to ensure that we can supervise the children appropriately is also key if staff are unable to travel safely to work, in some cases a considerable distance.

If the decision is made to close the school, we will aim to give maximum notice whilst leaving enough time to make the most informed decision. Ideally a decision will be made by 7.30am at the latest on a given day and will be uploaded to the Buckinghamshire County Council website - this will also trigger a notice on Mix 96 local radio. The School Transport Team is informed in the same way but may make a separate decision based on the safety of the roads. We cannot guarantee communicating via email or the website on these occasions so please prioritise checking the BCC website or local radio.

If school remains open during snowy periods, we will allow some flexibility around arrival times to allow safe travel and the children are encouraged to wear wellington boots to school and bring their shoes for indoor use. If school is open but you feel your location or circumstances prevent you from travelling to school safely, please inform the school office as soon as possible so we can take this into account regarding attendance.

Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day

We know we ask a great deal of our parents throughout the year but we especially appreciate your generosity in the build up to Christmas. We raised a total of £179 for Save the Children with our Christmas Jumper Day - thank you.

Christmas Parties

The children's Christmas Parties are all taking place this Friday 13th December in the afternoon. You should now have received a letter asking for your support with food donations but can we please also remind you that the children can wear their own clothes and/or party outfits to school for the whole of that day. Following the Fayre, the PTFA have kindly donated cakes for the parties and the school will be providing drinks.

AIP Christmas Lunch

Any problems experienced on ParentPay when ordering the Christmas lunch for 17th December should now be resolved. If you have not yet ordered your child's Christmas lunch, please do so by tomorrow midnight. The Spring term is also available to book so please remember to order meals for return by Wednesday 1st January.

PTFA Christmas Mugs

For those who have ordered mugs in your child's design, please bear with us as delivery problems have been experienced. Please be assured they will arrive before the end of term.

Governors Update

The Governors wish to provide more information to parents about their role and the strategic development of the school. After each committee meeting, a brief summary will be provided to include in our school newsletter.

Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee (FPP), Thursday 22nd November. At this meeting the Committee reviewed the school budget and spending plans for the next three years taking account of the school development plan. The Learning Space project was discussed and it was agreed that a Project Manager was needed to drive this forward. Suitable candidates to be sought from the school community, including parents and local stakeholders. Academisation was discussed and a request was made that the school undertake additional financial analysis about the impact of this. The services that the school currently receives from Bucks County Council were also reviewed as part of this discussion. The Headteacher confirmed that the staff appraisal cycle had been completed and pay adjustments resulting from this were approved. There were no significant issues relating to Premises or to Health & Safety.

If you would like to know more about the Governing Body or think you would like to get involved in the strategic management of the school, please contact Mr Tomson at head@wingrave.school.

Congratulations

Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:

Year R	Matilda, Joshua, Jamie, Autumn	Year 3	Arthur, Olivia S, Elsie-Jane, Barnaby, Ahmed
Year 1	Ella, William, Archie, Emelie-Grace	Year 4	Donnie, Imogen, Tilly, Lucas, Sienna
Year 2	John, Lois, Alfie, Verity	Year 5	Kartik, Freddie, Sammy, Aavik, Susan, Alex M
		Year 6	Yasmin, Joshua, Louis, Sparsha, Phoebe, Mary

DATES FOR THE DIARY (New items or amendments in bold)

11 Dec	Nativity (EYFS, Years 1 & 2) 2.00 – 3.00pm and 6.00 – 7.00pm
13 Dec	Christmas parties
17 Dec	AIP Christmas Lunch
19 Dec	Christmas Church service, 9.30 – 10.30am
19 Dec	Wingrave's Got Talent
19 Dec	End of Term
6 Jan	Inset Day
7 Jan	Children return to school
8 Jan	Year 3 swimming starts
