



### NEWSLETTER NO 9 - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

	Term Begins	Finish		Return	Term Ends
Spring 2020	Tuesday 7 January	Friday 14 February	Half Term	Monday 24 February	Friday 3 April
Summer 2020	Monday 20 April	Friday 22 May		Tuesday 2 June	Tuesday 21 July
Autumn 2020	Wednesday 2 Sept	Friday 23 October		Monday 2 November	Friday 18 December
Spring 2021	Tuesday 5 January	Friday 12 February		Monday 22 February	Thursday 1 April
Summer 2021	Monday 19 April	Friday 28 May		Monday 7 June	Wednesday 21 July

Inset Days: 1 June 2020, 1 Sept 2020, 4 January 2021

**Please note 2 Inset Days in 2020/21 academic year are yet to be set**

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a very eventful and productive couple of weeks since our last newsletter and I know everyone has been keeping up with all the latest updates through our school website, Twitter feed for trips and Tapestry online for our younger classes.

All our platforms provide a great opportunity for you to ask your children what they have done during their day and combat the stereotypical responses of 'nothing' or 'don't know'... A national survey last year found that children under 14 were spending an average of 1 hour 43 minutes talking to their family compared to 3 hours 18 minutes on personal devices like mobile phones and tablets - over double the time. Striking a balance with technology and making time to talk with our children models important social skills but also increases confidence, self-esteem and family relationships.

As you know, we always aim to strike that balance at Wingrave by embracing technology, outdoor learning and traditional resources which will enhance the children's learning in the best possible way. Over the past two years, the PTFA has been especially supportive of our IT needs and our vision to keep the school up-to-date. With our new iPads and laptops already in use across the school, this trend continues and we are incredibly excited that our school is about to venture into the world of Virtual Reality! Combining funds acquired through the Tesco Community grant and a very generous donation from the PTFA, we are investing in our own set of Virtual Reality headsets and a subscription to an educational software catalogue. Following the success of a visiting VR workshop last year, we quickly saw the potential to transport the children to endless places all over the world, the universe even, and provide rich experiences to inspire their imagination and learning. We hope to take delivery of the equipment next week and, following staff training, we will be embedding VR use across the curriculum. E-safety obviously continues to be a priority but the joy of having our own equipment means we can provide access to all children for appropriate amounts of time and to content which is overseen and securely managed by our staff. Whilst it is early days, we aim to develop this resource further by creating our own content with the use of 360 cameras and 3D graphics which the children can produce themselves. The possibilities are endless and we look forward to demonstrating the VR resources at future school events. Thank you to the PTFA for their ongoing support and generosity - please do continue to get involved as parents so that we can provide these amazing resources for the school and your children.

#### **Roving Bookshop - Friday 7th February**

As we know, reading is the route to all learning and we are keen to encourage our children to enjoy reading as much as possible both themselves and by seeing us enjoying reading too. Next week we welcome the Roving Bookshop to our school when the children, parents and members of the local community will be able to browse and buy. Although similar to past book fayres, there are some key differences to the organisation. On Thursday 6th February, the children will bring home a leaflet and an envelope should you wish your child to make a cash purchase themselves the following day, or you yourself are unable to attend; letter of explanation will accompany them. During the Friday morning, classes will each have a chance to visit the bookshop in our hall to browse, or buy if they have brought cash. During the afternoon between 1.30 and 4.00pm the bookshop will be open to parents and the public when you will be able to make purchases by cash, card or cheque. Tea and coffee will also be on sale, provided by our PTFA, should you wish to make an afternoon outing of it! If you plan to enjoy child-free browsing in the afternoon, please ensure you collect your children from the courtyard as normal at the end of the day - you are very welcome to return to the bookshop with your child afterwards using the front entrance. Thank you.

#### **Young Voices 2020**

We were incredibly proud of our Year 5 and 6 children who represented us at this year's Young Voices concert in Birmingham last week. It was a long day for our singing stars but they had a super time joining 6000 children from across the country for the show. An event of this nature takes a great deal of organisation and we want to take this opportunity to thank Miss Richman and Mrs Kirkpatrick-Brown for the administration involved - everything from bookings and tickets to labelling t-shirts were in their capable hands and, as with all school occasions, we are very grateful for everything they do behind the scenes. Another big thank

you to our staff who accompanied the trip, giving up their evening and overseeing arrangements well into the night - Mrs Brown, Miss Carter, Ms Garwood, Ms Lee and, of course, Mr Vickers who has spent the past few months rehearsing with the children in preparation. Thank you all for enabling our children to take part in such an event.

### Wendover Cross Country 2020

With the Cross Country season well under way, we were delighted to attend the Junior Cross Country races in Wendover on Saturday 18th January. 37 members of Years 3 to 6 turned up on the sunny but crisp morning to take part of separate boys and girls races for each year group. Our older runners who competed first certainly had the best deal as the ground gradually warmed becoming muddier as the races progressed - but that's all part of the fun. Congratulations to all our runners for taking part; several children beat their personal bests whilst others were running for the first time simply out of curiosity! Particular congratulations to Lucas, Alfie and Ethan who came third overall and were awarded medals as a Year 3 boys team. A special mention for Abigail in Year 4 and Lydia in Year 3 who were the sole runners in their races and did us proud with their determination and huge smiles! Thank you to Miss Weeks, Ms Garwood, Mr Boland and Mrs Moore for their help with this event and cheering everyone on. And last, but not least, thank you to our families who supported us by travelling out on such a fresh Saturday morning.

### Healthy Eating & Drinking

Please can we remind parents that the children should only be bringing water to drink throughout the day in their water bottles, not squash or juice - if the children would like something different to drink with their lunch then this should be in a separate container to avoid confusion. Children will be provided with water if this is not the case.

Can we also please remind you that children should only be bringing fruit, vegetables or a plain cereal bar as a break time snack. As we are a nut-free school, due to both staff and pupil allergies, please also double check that cereal bars are nut-free. Thank you.

### School Shoes/Trainers

The recent weather has meant that we are experiencing a great deal of mud around the school grounds and whilst we endeavour to keep the children as clean as possible with changes of clothes, children wearing 'trainer' shoes are not consistently changing them for PE or specific outdoor activities. In line with our uniform policy, all children should be wearing appropriate, supportive school shoes (not boots), however on the rare occasions that shoes have been damaged or misplaced and you have informed the class teacher, please ensure a change of footwear is also provided for outdoor activities so we can keep the school as mud-free as possible too. Thank you.

### Children's 500 Words Writing Competition

BBC Radio 2's 500 Words writing competition is now open and entries must be submitted online by February 27th. Although this is not something we can facilitate en masse in school, we know several children have entered previously and we want to encourage as many of our young writers to have a go. This year's grand final is at Buckingham Palace! All details can be found online at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2)

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### Congratulations

Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:

Year R	William, Reyaan, Autumn, Rocco, Emily, Lilly, Harrison, Jamie	Year 3	Elsie-Jane, Arthur, Vova, Livvie, Tilly, Alfie, Ethan
Year 1	Aidan, Freddie B Whole class - for being Charlie the Chimps when challenged with using mod roc	Year 4	Tyler-Jay, Imogen, Ebony, Alex, Luke, Addison, Oliver, Abigail, Lucas, Henry, Gracie, Lola
Year 2	George, Teddy, Chloe, Lois, Zach, Leo	Year 5	Katie, Alex C, Aavik
		Year 6	Ella Megan, Ruby, Zahara

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

4 Feb	Years 3 & 4 Faith Tour
4 Feb	No Game On Clubs
<b>7 Feb</b>	<b>Roving Bookshop</b>
11 Feb	School Development Meeting for Parents, 7.00pm
13 Feb	PTFA Disco EYFS/KS1 5.00-6.00pm/KS2 6.15-7.30pm
17 - 21 Feb	HALF TERM
24 Feb	Years R & 6 NHS Height and Weight Screening
3 Mar	Learning Discussions, 4.00-7.00pm
5 Mar	World Book Day
5 Mar	Learning Discussions, 4.00-7.00pm
<b>26 Mar</b>	<b>Bag2School Collection</b>
<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>Yr 4 Waterside Theatre Performance</b>

### Egg Box Appeal

If you have any unwanted large egg boxes (12-egg) please bring them to school for use in Year 2.