



NEWSLETTER NO 2 - Tuesday 13th September 2021

	Term Begins	Finish	Half Term	Return	Term Ends
Autumn 2021	Thursday 2 September	Friday 22 October		Tuesday 2 November	Friday 17 December
Spring 2022	Wednesday 5 January	Friday 18 February		Tuesday 1 March	Friday 8 April
Summer 2022	Monday 25 April	Friday 27 May		Tuesday 7 June	Thursday 21 July

Inset Days: 1 November 2021, 4 January 2022, 28 February 2022, 6 June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite returning to some sort of normality, we still find ourselves in a world where panic-buying and perceived fuel shortages stand to impact our working lives and potentially the learning of the children. It remains vital that we make getting the children to school every day and on time an absolute priority please.

School is so much more than Maths and English - all of our routines and responsibilities become life-long habits and the norm for later in life. The importance of presentation, organisation, punctuality, effort and resilience are all planted as seeds at a young age and both home and school provide a safe place to grasp these, make inevitable mistakes and prepare our children for all that lies ahead.

This links with our new school bible verse which we are introducing and exploring this half term:

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter." **Matthew 13:31-32**

The connections with the children, our community and growth as a school are clear but overall this reinforces our Christian roots and how we invest in the children together in order to create a safe and inspiring learning environment.

Although our newsletters can sometimes appear a list of demands and 'moans', we share these things in the hope of making life easier for you and the children in the long term, especially when higher education settings and the world of employment are less forgiving.

We will be revisiting and exploring these ideas in a Growth Mindset Workshop for parents following half term (Wednesday 10th November, 7.00pm) and I would especially recommend this for new parents to the school since we last explored this as part of our school vision development. This will be an interactive but informal session; more information will follow closer to the time.

PSHE Awareness Evening for Parents

A final reminder that this session is taking place in the school hall tomorrow evening (Wednesday 29th September) at 6.30pm. Lasting no more than an hour, Ms Lee and I will be presenting on the recent developments around the Personal, Social & Health Education curriculum and the important role this plays in the children's well-being and preparing them for life.

Harvest

Due to circumstances, we are unable to hold a whole school service for Harvest this term but will however be marking the festival in several ways. Firstly, the children have all produced a Harvest-themed piece of work which are being displayed in the church over this coming Harvest weekend. On Monday 4th October the children are all invited to bring non-perishable food items into school for us to donate to the Vineyard Foodbank. We will be walking the children down to Wingrave Church to place their donations and share in a prayer of thanks. On Wednesday, Revd Howard will then be leading a whole school assembly on the theme of Harvest.

EYFS Curriculum Evening for Parents

On Tuesday 12th October at 6.00pm, Mrs Neaves and I will be leading a session for our new EYSF parents focussing specifically on the curriculum and the nature of learning at the Early Years Foundation Stage. This will take place in the classroom and last no more than an hour with an opportunity to ask questions on your experience so far this term.

Birthday Sweets

Last year we took the decision not to give out birthday sweets in class due to the hygiene and allergy implications and this remains the case. If, however, children have made or baked something as part of their homework tasks we are happy to share this with the class for them to take home and check with parents before they eat it as this is part of their learning. If the children would like to mark the occasion of their birthday with the class, some families have donated a book for the class library and we can provide a bookplate to go inside. Please speak to the class teacher if this is something you would like to do.

Wet Weather Coats

A great number of children are still coming to school without a coat. Please remember that we still like the children to have playtime outside when it is raining so please remind your children to wear or carry an appropriate coat to school, especially with the weather taking a turn this week.

School Collection Permission Form (Years 1 - 6)

Attached to this newsletter email, please find attached a school collection permission form. This should be completed by all parents who rely on other parents or adults to collect their children. Please provide updated details which will replace any existing arrangements from the previous term.

Parking

Some improvement in parking has been noted, especially in support of the Twelve Leys development traffic so thank you. Please can we continue to monitor this as the weather worsens and there is inevitably a drop in those families walking to school and choosing to drive instead. Please could we also highlight the number of cars who keep their engines running when they are stopped. This has been raised by parents and children who are conscious of the impact on the environment and health; again, something to be extra aware of when we are enjoying our car heaters on those cold mornings.

Long Hair/Head Lice

Please can I remind parents that all children with shoulder length hair should come to school with it tied up, not just partially tied up. This includes boys and girls. No bandanas please and hair bands should not be extreme but plain and dark in colour.

We currently have an outbreak of head lice so it would be appreciated for the benefit of both children and staff if you could **please check your child's hair today**. Head lice and nits (eggs) are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. You cannot prevent head lice, but you can help stop spreading them by treating head lice as soon as you spot them. You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day. There is no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing or using a special fine-toothed comb. Alternatively, please seek advice from a pharmacist regarding medicated treatments, some of which may require to be repeated. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Earrings

Girls or boys should not be wearing these to school on PE (or swimming) days. If your child cannot remove their earrings because they have only recently had their ears pierced, please provide your child with their own tape to cover over their ears during PE. Any earrings worn should be studs only.

Morrisons - It's Time to Grow

If you shop at Morrisons, please download the MyMorrisons app, register and nominate Wingrave School to receive Grow Tokens. We will then be able to exchange tokens for free gardening equipment after the collection period. The collection period will end on 24th October, so please remember to download the app and scan it at the checkout every time you shop. Thank you.

Congratulations

Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:

EYFS		Year 3	Alfred, Charlotte, Ellie, Aidan
Year 1	Rory, Annie, Aida, Jimmi-Jai	Year 4	Grace B, Arnav, Nancy, Ellie
Year 2	Jamie, Joshua, Matilda, William	Year 5	Lydia, Ahmed, Morley-Jack, Olivia S
		Year 6	Oliver, Gracie, Addison, Isabelle

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

29 Sept	PSHE Awareness evening for parents, 6.30pm
4 Oct	Harvest, non-perishable donations
7 Oct	School Census Day
12 Oct	EYFS Curriculum evening for parents, 6.00pm
14 Oct	School Photographs
20 Oct	PTFA Disco – EYFS & KS1 5.00-6.00pm, KS2 6.15-7.30pm
21 Oct	Years 5 & 6 trip to Cadbury World
W/C 25 Oct	HALF TERM
1 Nov	Inset Day
2 Nov	Children return
5 Nov	Whole School Flu Immunisation
10 Nov	Growth Mindset parent workshop, 7.00PM

Tea and Tots

Starting Friday 1st October 'Tea and Tots' 10.00 am to 11.00am every Friday in term time at Wingrave Parish Church. This is a time for the babies and toddlers to play, sing and hear a story by Revd Howard and for the grown-ups to have a cuppa. All welcome and all free.
For more details contact Sarah Kennedy 01296 681749