

...in the news!

15th September 2017

This newsletter will keep you updated with events at Wheatfields Primary and it is intended to add to the information you receive on a regular basis from your child(s) class teacher in the weekly 'Learning Review' and termly curriculum letters.

Welcome Back

A warm welcome to the start of the Autumn Term 2017. I hope you all managed to have a good break over the summer. The children have started the term with enthusiasm (despite what they might say at home!) and there is as always lots to fit in to the curriculum before the half term break so we are already busy learning.

Calendar of events

The calendar for 2017-2018 is on our website and can be found at www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk. Please check the calendar for class assemblies that will continue to take place on a Wednesday morning. Parent consultation dates and times are also on the calendar. Separate letters will come out nearer the time with instructions on how to book a session with your class teacher(s).

Signing children in and out of school

From Monday 18th September, children can only be signed in or out using the touch screen in the front entrance. Select the 'pupils' box, the 'year group' and then 'class'. You will then be asked to select the day of your child's birthday and your child's name will show on the screen. Select your child's name and you will be given options to explain the reason for signing your child in. If you need to collect your child before the end of the school day, it is the same process for signing out.

Unexpected fire alarm!

The unexpected fire alarm practice on Wednesday was caused by someone pressing onto the red emergency fire alarm point without realising it. The school was evacuated promptly and very calmly. Our EYFS pupils in particular showed great resilience and coped extremely well with the situation on only their 3rd morning in school! I am going to look into the possibility of having the alarm point moved but please be aware it is there, especially during busy times in the front entrance.

Year 6 House Captains

The elections were well contested this year with a high number of year 6 pupils standing for selection to be House Captain. The standard of election speeches was very high and every house was well represented. The results are as follows. Rubies House Captains are Robert Adcock and Libby Woods. Emeralds House Captains are Sophie Everett and Alfie Everett. Diamonds House Captains are Sam Gledson and Natalie Clark and Sapphires House Captains are Tahlie Carrier and Isaac Saunderson. Congratulations to those elected and thank you and well done to all of the year 6 pupils that stood for election.

Parent helpers

If you have any time to spare and you are interested in helping in school, we would like to hear from you. There are many jobs to do during the school day and having parent help makes a real difference to the children and the adults in school. We would like the children to settle into their new classes therefore we need helpers from after half term onwards. If you are interested, please ask to speak to Mrs Moffat who will be happy to help.

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Staffing

In addition to the new staff mentioned in my last Newsletter, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Kirsten Bilby to the staff as SENCo to cover Mrs Edward's maternity leave. All staff are their enthusiastic selves and are working hard to get to know your children and to settle them into their new year groups.

Playground

When the morning whistle goes, we would ask that you stand back, away from the children's line so that the teachers can clearly see all of the children. If you need to speak urgently to a member of staff, please do but if a longer time is needed to communicate something, please make an appointment via the admin team. Please can parents let the year 2 classes go through the small gate by the side of KS1 first so that the children can keep together, before going through themselves.

Driving Improvement

Following our curriculum meetings, there are 4 key priorities we are working on this year that you can help with at home :-

1. To improve outcomes in reading by practising answering questions about a book and finding the answers in the book.
2. To improve outcomes in writing by writing down the answers to a question that has been talked about first
3. To improve outcomes in maths by asking the children to explain their thinking and how they found the answer. Can they find another way? How can they prove they are right?
4. To learn all of their times tables by the end of year 4.

We hope that the curriculum meetings, curriculum grids, learning reviews and the website will support you when you are helping your children with learning at home but please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Free School Meals

We are so lucky to have such a brilliant team in our kitchen.

Do you know that you can apply for your child to have a cooked meal, free of charge when your child is in KS2? You can also apply for Free School Meals when your child begins Reception because although they receive a cooked meal free of charge under the Infant Free School Meals scheme, your family and school also benefit from extra funding to support learning including uniform, trips and residentials from the start of their reception year until year 6.

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits, such as Income Support.

Applications for free school meals can be made online, at

https://www5.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xforms_form.aspx?formID=26&language=en

Alternatively, forms are available from the school office.

Please contact the school office in confidence for further assistance. You can claim your entitlement for Free School Meals, even if your child prefers a packed lunch.

The school receives additional financial support for each child who receives free school meals, and we are able to offer reduced costs for school trips, and also free packed lunches, to those children who are in receipt of free school meals.

Nut Free School reminder

There are pupils attending Wheatfields that have an allergy to nuts. Please can you avoid nut products when providing a healthy snack or a packed lunch. Thank you for your continued support.

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We aim to give you as much notice as possible for school events. All dates can be found using the calendar on our school website www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk . You will also receive our Calendar of Events detailing events through the school year.

Mrs Theresa Thornton, Headteacher.