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Mrs Emma Verney-Davies  
 Headteacher  
 Mrs Gemma Edwards  
 Deputy Headteacher

## Wheatfields Preschool

## *Learn and Grow Together*

## Kids Club

Dear Parents and Carers,

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Calendar of Events – Important Information about Performances and Trips

I have pleasure in enclosing the Calendar of Events for this academic year. We have tried to include all dates that you need to know, though inevitably some events will come up during the year, the details of which are not yet finalised. As and when any new dates are confirmed, we will let you know.

You may notice that there are some changes with regards performances and residential trips. In July I wrote to you to discuss the mixed age year groups that were coming into effect this year. The reorganisation prompted us to make some decisions around how we run our calendar and the practicalities of having events in certain year groups, that at the time I was unable to confirm.

### Performances

All children across the school will be involved in a performance at some point during the school year. For various reasons including timetabling of rehearsal space, numbers of children in the cohort, curriculum requirements etc., Reception and KS1 (Years 1&2) will have Christmas performances, LKS2 (Years 3&4) will put on a spring performance, and UKS2 (Years 5&6) will have an end of academic year performance, with Year 6 taking the lead on the majority of roles in their final year of primary school. All classes will have a Class Assembly and some of our older children will be able to take part in Music Performances at the Christmas & Summer fayres, and at our Music Concert in the summer term.

### Residential & Day Trips

We have reviewed our curriculum to ensure this works for our current cohorts and mixed age year groups, and so some of our day trips may change in theme. These will continue for all year groups, with at least one curriculum-linked 'event' taking place per year in either a day trip out or as a visitor coming into school.

With regards residential trips, those that we offer historically no longer align with the curriculum and, as such, we have had to think carefully about our residential offer. Coupled with this, the increased cost of living impacts significantly on costs of a residential trip to families and the school. Falling numbers of children signing up for these types of trip mean that we have faced significant challenges in ensuring sufficient staff for both the residential and the remaining children. This all makes for a model that is unsustainable.





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With this in mind, we have made the very difficult decision that, moving forward, we will need to limit the residential to alternate years and for UKS2 (Years 5&6) only, with the first mixed cohort residential taking place in 2026-27. This means that Year 6 Ironbridge in October will be the last residential trip for the next two years.

We understand that this may be disappointing for some children and parents, but we have tried to compromise by looking carefully at previous opportunities children have had and provide an alternative. Many of our current Year 5 children attended Thorpe last year, and they are joining in with some of the activities taking place during Ironbridge week. For our current Year 3&4 cohort, we will be organising an adventure-themed day out in the summer term 2025 in place of the residential. We are yet to confirm details but will do so over the coming months.

We recognise that performances and residentials are a key part of primary life that children and parents both enjoy, and can learn from. We will work hard to provide a replacement that takes account of costs to all, and can be enjoyed by the majority, rather than by smaller numbers.

As always, we provide financial assistance for school costs, including trips, to those in receipt of Pupil Premium and Free School Meals. Once details of the events are published, should you as a family feel you need support with costs, please do get in touch and we will do our best to help.

Thank you for your continued support of your children and Wheatfields School.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Emma Verney-Davies  
 Headteacher

