

27th January 2023

This newsletter will keep you updated with events at Wheatfields Primary and 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 Class Dojo posts.

Introducing our Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) Lead

Hi everyone, I wanted to properly introduce myself and my new role here at Wheatfields. A lot of parents may already know me, having worked across year 3,4,5 and 6 as an LSA for the past six years. I came to Wheatfields in 2018 after working as an LSA in a school in Huntingdon for 17 years. As a parent of two, a daughter 19 at university and a son 14 in year 9 at St Ivo, I am all too aware of the difficulties in raising a family especially with the modern-day stresses we find ourselves battling with.

I thought you might like to know what qualifies me for this role. I have over 24 years of experience working with children in school settings and am currently studying for a degree in counselling and psychology, as well as a certificate in child and adolescent mental health for mental health leads. I have a certificate of higher education in Psychology, a diploma in Skills and Theory for counselling young people and have completed a Youth Mental Health First Aid at Work course. Continuous training is essential within this role to keep up to date with current best practice and research.

My role here at Wheatfields is to help identify any SEMH barriers that children might have to their learning and then work with the school staff and parents to support, empower and signpost them and their families to appropriate support. It may be that I will have weekly chats with your child, or that a referral to Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is suitable, the family might be referred to Leanne Martin our Education Inclusion Family Worker (EIFA) by me or signposted to a workshop. Whatever the plan is, be assured that every child and family is treated with respect, confidentiality and compassion. You are never judged, 'it is okay to ask for help, asking for help is a strength'. I want to ensure that every child is given every opportunity to reach their potential both academically and socially and emotionally.

Miss M Cutbush
SEMH lead

Planned Industrial Strike Action – Wednesday 1st February

I wrote to you on Tuesday to make you aware of the potential impact of the Strike on your child at school next Wednesday. I understand that parents and carers would prefer to be able to plan their working day and other commitments, but Staff are under no obligation to inform their employer of their intentions prior to industrial action, which makes planning a challenge. We will be led by our School's risk assessment as to whether or not it is safe to remain open or conduct full or partial closures. We aim to send out a decision to parents by the end of the day on Monday.

Girls' Football

This week our girls football team played against Roundhouse in their first match. Having waited for this game for a while (since it was postponed in December) they did everyone at Wheatfields proud, and played incredibly well. They won with a final astonishing score of 10-2! Well done to all the girls who took part in this match, and thank you to Mr Puckey and Miss Parkinson for organising it. Our boys' teams are also doing incredibly well, and have two more matches scheduled for next week. We wish them the best of luck!

Parking – Residential Area

As you are well aware, Wheatfields is located in a very busy residential area making drop off and pick up times particularly busy, and we understand sometimes parking can be tricky. However, we have received some complaints from residents about kerbs being blocked, being unable to get on or off driveways or through to their residents parking spaces and being met with some rude behaviours when they ask people to move. Please be aware that residents and the school may contact the authorities, including the police service, if we feel that parents are not parking appropriately or are causing an obstruction which inhibits the safety of the children or the community. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Parent Consultations: Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February

After nearly three years, we are finally able to invite parents in to School once more for face-to-face parent consultations! You will have received a letter on Tuesday this week detailing the format of the evening, and how to book your appointment via the online booking system. This is open now for bookings and will close on Thursday 2nd February. We look forward to sharing with you, in person, your child's learning and progress.

Stay & Read Sessions

Since our first session in November, our numbers of parents, carers and family members coming into school and reading with the children have increased. The children love to share their books with you and it has raised the profile of reading even more in school, so thank you for taking this time! We look forward to welcoming you to our next session on Thursday 23rd February.

Class Dojo

The introduction of Class Dojo has seen a number of wonderful posts from all classes, and some whole school stories to celebrate our School community. We hope you have enjoyed viewing them and would welcome your feedback! Please remember that direct messaging to class teachers requires a parent account. We have been informed that there is an option to pay for 'extras' with a Dojo account at home, but we do not expect you to do this – we only use the free service. Please reassure your children that only Dojo points awarded at school will be added to house point totals!

I hope you have a lovely weekend!

*Mrs Verney-Davies,
Deputy Headteacher*