

WREN PARK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

6TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, and Children,

Welcome back to a new school year 2024-25!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer break, filled with relaxation, fun, and quality time with family and friends. Whatever you got up to I hope you were able to enjoy a break from the term-time routine.

It has been wonderful to see the children back these past couple of days looking the part in their new uniforms and a little bigger than they were in July. I hope they have enjoyed moving into the new classes.

It has been lovely to catch up with quite a few of the children and hear about what they have been doing and I think they have enjoyed seeing their friends again, they all seemed very chatty and enjoyed playing with each other at play and lunchtime. I hope to catch up with many more of them over the coming days.

We would particularly like to welcome our new children in Reception and their parents. I hope the start to term goes well, please do speak with any member of staff if there is anything you don't know or are worried about and we will do our best to help (we were all new once!)

It may take a day or two for some children to find their "school legs" again as listening, learning and playing can be physically and emotionally exhausting. However, as they get used to their classes, lessons, year group expectations and routines then I am sure they will develop their stamina and resilience and be off to a great start to the school year. Once they start their new topics then I am sure they will be full of excitement and positivity. I am sure the short week this week will have been helpful to them. After a weekend I am sure they will be ready to take on a full week next week.

Whilst we welcome the new reception children to school, I would just like to mention last years Y6 (they may be gone, but not yet forgotten!)- we were very proud of them all, we hope they take good memories with them and build upon their great achievements and confidence in their new and exciting times ahead. We wish them well in their new start at secondary school.



What's New This Term?

This term promises to be full of exciting opportunities for our pupils. From new topics in the classroom to outdoor learning experiences (building upon the success of last terms Outdoor Week).

We've planned a range of activities designed to inspire and challenge our children. Here's a sneak peek at what's coming up:

- **Curriculum Highlights and Information:** This term, we'll be diving into fascinating topics across all subjects and in all year groups. Whether it's exploring the wonders of ancient history, conducting scientific experiments, honing creative writing skills, developing creative and physical skills and a broad knowledge of our world, there's something for everyone to enjoy, learn about and excel in. We value all areas of the curriculum and aim to nurture positive attitudes towards them.

We are proud of our broad and ambitious curriculum, and we look forward to talking with you about this at our parent curriculum evening early in October. In the meantime, please do look at our website for useful information around the curriculum for each year group.

We continue to improve this and make subtle changes so please do keep up to date with your child's learning through regular discussions with them as well as viewing our parental information on the website. We will try to enhance the children's learning through special events, trips and visitors, information on these will be shared with you in advance. Please keep a regular check on emails, texts and website. Or ask your child's teacher at the end of the day if there is anything you wish to know or discuss.

Valuing our Values:



RESPECTFUL



AMBITIOUS



RESILIENT

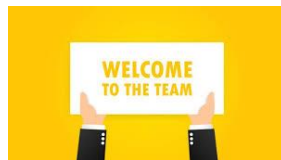
Last year we introduced our school values, **Respectful, Ambitious, Resilient**. I have been amazed and delighted with how quickly the children and staff took these on board and they are very much part of our culture and something we see in action and celebrate daily and within our Golden Book assembly. As we start the new year there will be opportunities for the children to reflect upon what this means to them and how they can apply them in their own life in and out of school. It would be great if you could spend a little time with your child over the next week or so discussing these values and what they mean to you and them.

The school values align well with our work on British Values and Protected Characteristics. These are all important in our Personal Development work, teaching

and encouraging the children how to become the best versions of themselves and to support each other celebrating the similarities and diversity within our community.

It would be helpful if parents could be supportive of school and encourage children to be respectful and kind to everyone. Together we can make school a happy and secure place for all children where they can grow in confidence and become comfortable each with their own unique qualities. We know that as part of growing up children can make mistakes and our relational approach to behaviour is effective in supporting children to become good citizens. Please pop over to the school website where you will find more information on this.

New Staff



We have a few new staff to welcome this year. We have been joined by Mrs. Derbyshire who will be working in Year 1, a big welcome to her; she is familiar with school as she did some work here last year on a temporary basis. Unfortunately, at the end of her first day at school she had a nasty car accident on her journey home. She is “ok” but has been shaken as well as a little bruised and battered, she will hopefully be back at school on Monday but that may be pushed back a day or two once the extent of her injuries is fully known.

Mr. Stringer is joining us as Caretaker. Mr. Stringer will be keeping the site secure at the start and end of the day and will be on duty often around the playground gate area. Myself, Mrs. Pettit, Mr. Bull will also regularly be on gate duty but don't worry if we are not as Mr. Stringer is familiar with the site security procedures.

Reminders

As we settle back into our routines, please take note of the following reminders to ensure a smooth and successful term:

Uniform: Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform every day. As the weather gets cooler, make sure they have a warm coat, and remember that all clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name. It is important that all children wear the required uniform (including shoes). If you require any assistance with school uniform, we will be able to source some good quality pre-loved clothing. Please be aware that we do not allow heavily branded sports items

to be worn and a plain PE it is also our expectation. Please respect these expectations.



Water Bottles: Please send your child with a water bottle each day with clean fresh water so they can stay hydrated and healthy throughout the day.



Attendance and Punctuality:

Regular attendance and arriving on time are key to your child's success. The school day begins promptly at 9:00am. The school gates will be open from 8:50 am, so please make sure your child is here in good time. We acknowledge that Jackson Avenue is often quite busy but it is important that children arrive on time so they can make a good start to their day.

In exceptionally bad weather we understand that safety is a priority and so there will be a more lenient approach around exact timings, but this will be communicated to you when issues arise (thinking snow days in the winter months).

We all share an ambition for the children to be happy and successful in school and it is an expectation that children's attendance is 100% when they are fit and able to attend. We check attendance weekly and you will be notified if we have a concern, we may be able to offer help to secure good attendance. We understand that some children can be a little anxious around school, but it is essential that all children including those with SEND attend school daily. If attendance drops below 90% (this is classed as Persistent Absence- DfE). We will talk with you at the earliest point if your child's attendance falls below 90% to try and improve on this and to avoid issues escalating or becoming embedded.

Absence Reporting:

If your child is ill or off school for any reason, please contact school either by phone or email admin@wrenpark.derby.sch.uk . It is important that the reason for absence is given, and we are kept up to date with intended return date etc: Please observe the 48 hour rule in the class of sickness or diarrhoea to reduce risk to other children and staff.

- **Healthy Snacks:** We encourage all pupils to bring a healthy snack for break time. This could be a piece of fruit, vegetable sticks, or other low sugar, low fat item. Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to allergies, please do try and check ingredients in snacks as nuts can often be “hidden”.

On Friday’s we allow children to bring a “treat” including crisps, chocolate biscuit etc: (we try to discourage packets of sweets). We understand that it is difficult at times to check the “healthiness” of snacks as crackers, crisps, cereal bars can vary between healthy and less healthy (lots of clever marketing amongst food companies makes it difficult to tell). Please do your best to support school with this ambition for the children to be healthy and adopt healthy habits with food.



School Meals

Universal Free School Meals are available for all children from Reception to the end of Year 2. From Years 3 to 6 parents will need to pay for school dinners, unless your child is eligible for free school meals. Dinners cost £3.10 per meal and can be paid online using School Money at: <https://login.eduspot.co.uk/public/portal/parent/?app=schoolmoney> All parents should already have a School Money account set up (it’s the same place you pay for school trips) but if you have any problems logging in or need a password reset, please let the office know and they can help with this. Alternatively, you can pay in cash at the office. If you think you may qualify for free school meals, please ask for a form at the office. Once you’ve completed and returned the form, we can send it to Derby City Council to check eligibility.

Parking on Site

Please be aware that we do not allow parents parking or dropping off in the school car park. We have assessed the risk and capacity, and our priority is to keep children safe at school drop off and collection times (including early morning Breakfast club). If you are collecting or dropping your child off during the school day for medical appointments, you will be able to use the car park but at all other times the car park should not be used.

If your child travels by bike or scooter please ensure they are being sensible and safe in and around school.



School Clubs

We will continue to offer a broad range of clubs for the children over the year and we hope there is something for everyone (Y1 upwards). Details and letters will be sent out in due course as timings and days are finalised with some of the providers.

Personal Details update- Very Important!

It is vital that we hold up to date contact information including address and phone numbers where we can contact you in an emergency- Please note that we **MUST** be able to contact you during the day, you are responsible for your child's welfare and care even when they are at school. If your child becomes unwell or is injured in school we will need to be able to speak with you. Please let the school office know if you need to update your contact details.



**ARE YOUR
DETAILS UP
TO DATE?**

Help from Home:

We know the pressures on parents in the times we live are massive and many of you are juggling work, supporting other family members, domestic duties, being driver, social secretary and all things needed to your children and there is simply not enough time in the day now we are back in school to do everything. My advice is to you is to “do what you can”- prioritise some short but regular quality time with your child each day to share a book, have a chat, play a game, ask them about school, make something together, have a walk. In short interact with them even if only for 10-15 minutes a day. That time is special and where children can connect with you, have some fun and feel that they have a trusted adult with whom they can talk to and be confident with.

If this all seems a little overwhelming just start with putting some good habits in place over the next few days as we all slip into the new termtime routine. Let the children have some time to “chill” on their own but also some time to read a book or play a game with you. At the Parent curriculum evening we will be able to share with you our expectations in terms of parental support and homework tasks etc:

Parent-Teacher Communication

We believe that strong communication between home and school is essential for your child’s success. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the term, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher in the first instance as they are best able to help in most cases. Parent-teacher meetings will be scheduled later this term, giving you the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress in more detail.



Other Staff

It may be useful at this time to remind you of other people who may be of help to you during the year. If you contact school you will be put in touch with the most appropriate member of staff for your enquiry.

- Mrs. Kaur- Office administrator
- Mrs. Johal- Attendance Manager
- Mrs. Chilvers- Finance and School Trips
- Miss Fox (formerly Rachel Mozley) School Business Manager
- Mr. Bull- Assistant Head
- Mrs. Pettit -Deputy Head and SENDCO
- Mr. Buckley- Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead

How can you support school in other ways?

We are very grateful for the support we have from parents. Did you know there are other ways you can be involved?

- We have various roles which may be of interest including being a parent helper within school either on a regular basis or on school trips.
- You could help with some tasks around school (depending upon your skills and interests).
- Parents Association Fundraiser and helper (as little or as much as you like).
- Midday supervisor or relief Midday supervisor or cleaner.
- Being a school governor- helping with the strategic leadership of school, curriculum, financial responsibility and holding school to account in a supportive manner.

If you are interested in any of the above or have other ideas, you wish to share then please do contact us for an initial chat where we find a role for your talents and interests. We welcome you in supporting the interests of all children at Wren Park.

Important Dates for Your Diary

- **Term Starts:** Thursday 5th, September
- **Flu Immunisation:** Monday 30th September
- **Y2 -Tamworth Castle Visit** Monday 30th September
- **School Photographs (individual children) Tuesday 1st October**
- **Y2 -Wednesday 16th October** Harvest service- 9:30am
- **Parent-Curriculum Evenings:** 9th October / 16th October (same info at both)
- **Reception 2025** -prospective parents information meeting Thursday 17th October
- **INSET 2-** Wednesday 23rd October
- **Half-Term Break:** Monday, 28th October – Friday, 1st November
- **Reception Nativity to parents-** Wednesday 12th December 9:30am
- **Winter Fair for children Tuesday 17th December (in school time)**
- **Christmas Party Afternoon 18th December**
- **End of Term:** Friday, 20th December

Please see the school website for all INSET and holiday dates as well as other school events. Our school calendar is live and gets updated regularly as new and exciting opportunities come our way.

I look forward to sharing more information around particular aspects of school in the future but in the meantime thank-you for your support with getting the children off to a great start to the year.

Do head on over to our school website www.wrenpark.derby.sch.uk where there is lots of useful information.

We're looking forward to another wonderful term filled with learning, growth, and lots of fun. Let's make this Autumn term a fantastic one!

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Alex Buckley