



Wren Park Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Alex Buckley
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Gill Pettit



NEWSLETTER 1

8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope you all managed to get a break over the summer and enjoyed some time with family and friends. I know some children had great adventures and others just enjoyed being off timetable for a bit and enjoyed the long days despite the mixed weather. Those six weeks certainly flew by didn't they! It may be that some of you are relieved to be starting the new term and some would prefer an even longer break. We hope that you will all enjoy the return to school (children and their families). It has been lovely to meet many of you again over the past few days.

A very warm welcome back to the start of a new school year everyone and an extra special big welcome to all our new starters in Reception. We hope that this will be a lovely year for the children whether they are a new starter or returning to a new and older year group. We look forward to seeing the children being with their friends, learning lots and developing their talents, skills and confidence this year. We aim to help all children feel safe and happy as we know that only then they can learn and do their best. This year we have mixed all classes into new groupings, we anticipate that this will be beneficial for all children in developing their social skills, resilience as well as creating "balanced classes" which enable the best environment for the children to learn. Some children will adapt very well to change and it might take a little longer for some but I am sure within a few days we will all be back in the swing of things.

Great Start- The children all look very smart in their uniforms and some fresh haircuts around school. Some new shoes caused the odd discomfort but I'm sure after a few days they will be comfy as well as smart!

I have spoken with the teachers and they are all very pleased with how the children have returned and adapted to school these first few days. I have seen the children out and about playing with their friends at playtime and lunchtime, they all seemed pretty relaxed and happy, it has been a joy to see.

I know that after a six week break a week in school can seem very tiring for the children developing their "school stamina" again as they have to concentrate, sit and write for longer and get up earlier - I'm sure they will all be ready for a restful weekend.

Wren Park School Values

Returning parents will be aware that last year we were looking at updating our school values and we did a lot of work consulting and refining our thoughts around this. We are now very excited to be sharing our 3 Core Values with you. These will become part of our wider ethos and hopefully be evident in children's attitudes, aspirations and relationships.



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Wren Park values are:

- Respectful
- Ambitious
- Resilient



RESPECTFUL



AMBITIOUS



RESILIENT

These values will be taught and developed in addition to the British Values. We trust that parents are supportive of our work and reinforce this messaging at home.

To begin with children will have a limited understanding of what these values mean. We will be spending time sharing and developing through activities and personal stories how they can be seen in action and how they have great positive impact within their lives and upon others. We will be sharing this more with parents during the forthcoming curriculum evenings.

Reminders and Requests

At this time I would just like to give a couple of reminders and request for your support on a couple of issues.

Travel to school- We know that Jackson Avenue can get exceptionally busy at the start and end of the school day and that the parking and traffic is difficult to negotiate. Please do keep calm, take your time and drive / park responsibly and carefully. Wherever possible please do try to walk to school. Can parents also remind the children about road safety and sensible behaviour around Jackson Avenue to be safe and respectful of other children, families and residents. Unfortunately, we cannot allow any parent to use the school car park for dropping off / collection at the start and end of the day. Please note that parents accessing Breakfast club will need to park on Jackson Avenue and walk the children into school. Similarly parents cannot drive into school to collect children at the end of an after school club. Our intent is to keep risk to children within the car park area.

Uniforms and Clothing- Label everything in this weeks homework for parents! Please ensure all jumpers, coats, water bottles are labelled with child's name and class so any lost items can be returned to the children quickly. We only keep lost property for a short period of time and any unlabelled items will be removed from school as we have very limited storage space.

Please do bear in mind that weather is changeable and a rain coat at this time of year would be useful as we do try to keep the children out at play and lunch time.



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PE uniform is black shorts and plain white T-Shirt. We do not allow children to wear Football kits or heavily branded clothing within PE lessons, please ensure the children have the correct PE kit. Pumps are best for indoor PE, trainers may be used for outdoor PE.

Water Bottles- It is essential that the children keep healthy and hydrate well. Please ensure your child brings a clean freshly filled water bottle each day. We would like to avoid providing children with disposable cups for logistical, expense and environmental reasons. Please remind the children to bring their water bottle, I am sure this is something they can also take responsibility for.

Absences- Please ensure you notify the school office on each day of any absence before 9:10am by either calling the school number or emailing admin@wrenpark.derby.sch.uk

School Dinners- You will be aware that children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are eligible for a free school meal each day. For children who are in Y3-6 who require a school meal the cost is £2.80 per day (£14 per week). We encourage any family who is eligible for a Free School Meal to take this option. If you are unsure please contact the school office and we can help by running an eligibility checker. We continue to operate a flexible meal arrangement so children can alternate between a packed lunch and school dinner which we I know parents find helpful.

Playtime snacks- We encourage children to adopt a healthy lifestyle through a combination of our messaging and teaching across the curriculum (Science, PE, PHSE). We encourage a balanced perspective towards snacks and would like the children to bring a “healthy snack” preferably fruit Monday- Thursday. On Friday we allow children to have free choice including crisps, chocolate, biscuits (not sweets of any kind). We are very aware that this is not an exact science and that some foods may appear healthy and nutritious but are not and some may be perceived as unhealthy and are actually nutritious and low in fat, salt and refined sugars. An example of how this is complicated is cereal bars. Broadly speaking we encourage unprocessed foods fruit and vegetables Monday- Thursday and more free choice on Friday. Please do support us to help keep children healthy.

Please also help us to keep all children safe. We have a number of children in school who have severe allergies and we request parents to support our nut free policy.

Diary Dates- Please see the attached diary. I thought it would be useful to you at this point to notify you of key diary dates. Many more dates and year group specific dates including visits, assemblies etc: will be given throughout the year. We will be keeping the website diary up to date (from next week) so please do refer to this regularly so you are up to date with school events. If there are any changes to these dates we will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible.

Extra- Curricular Clubs

As part of children’s wider interests and personal development we aim to provide a range of extra-curricular activities for children. We will be adding some further activities during the academic year. The activities tend to be banded in to year groups or key stage rather than being open to all children so that the quality of the sessions is high and remains suitable for the children’s age and stage of development. Please return any replies quickly as places will be limited.



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Y6 Open Evening Landau Forte

Although we have only just begun the school year it is time when the Y6 parents are looking ahead and making decisions around a secondary school placement. Over the next few weeks the local secondary schools will be running Open events for parents. We will keep you informed of any that we are made aware of. Landau Forte have notified us that they will be running their open evening on Wednesday 13th September between 4:30 and 7:30pm. If you wish to book on to a timeslot (4:30, 5:30, 6:30pm) please email openevening@landau-forte.org.uk or telephone Samantha Davis on 01332 204040.

Best wishes and thank-you,

Alex Buckley and Wren Park Staff.

School Diary Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023	
4 th September	INSET 1
5 th September	INSET 2
6 th September	Children Start Autumn Term
4 th and 5 th October 5:00pm	Year Group -Curriculum Evenings for Parents (both nights will be the same content so you only need to attend one of them)
24 th and 25 th October	Parents Evenings
27 th October	Break up for half term
6 th November	Children return
1 st December	INSET 3
7 th December	Flu Vaccinations- details to follow
8 th December	Christmas Fair Day
21 st December	Children's Christmas Party in Classrooms
22 nd December	Break up
SPRING TERM 2024	
8 th January 2024	Back to School Spring Term
16 th February	INSET 4
26 th February	Children return
26 th and 27 th March	Parents Evenings
28 th March	Break Up for Easter
SUMMER TERM 2024	
15 th April	Back to School Summer Term
6 th May	Bank Holiday
13 th May	Y6 SATS week
24 th May	Break up for half term
3 rd June	INSET 5
4 th June	Children return
11 th July	Sports Day * We will aim to do this on the afternoon but will change to the morning depending upon weather – Working parents may wish to book all day off as we will make the final decision much nearer the date.
23 rd July	Break Up for Summer