



January 2018 Newsletter

Helping your child develop a love for life and learning

A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful break, enjoying good family time and your children are feeling refreshed, ready for the term ahead; I know I am! This term we have much to look forward to including a variety of exciting school trips, workshops and World Book Day.

Whilst I am sure it has been challenging to get back in to the school routine, I would like to thank you for ensuring the children have arrived promptly and looking so smart in their school uniform – it does make a difference. It did come to my attention at the end of last term that some of our school rules regarding school uniform were slipping so I thought it would be helpful to remind parents and children of a number of school uniform expectations.

- Hairbands should be **plain** in style without, for example, bows or flowers.
- Make up, nail varnish and tattoos must not be worn in school.
- Boys' hairstyles should not include tramlines.
- Shoulder length hair should be tied back at all times.
- Black shoes to be worn in school.
- Boys should wear grey trousers (long or short), light blue shirt/polo shirt, scarlet v-neck sweater or sweatshirt.
- Girls should wear medium or mid grey pinafore dress or skirt. Mid grey shorts or trousers of approved design. Light blue blouse or polo shirt, scarlet v-neck sweater, cardigan or sweatshirt. Pale blue gingham dress in the summer.
- In cold weather, children may wish to wear boots or alternative shoes for their journey to and from school, but should bring in their usual school shoes to change into once in the classroom. Children are welcome to change into these warmer alternatives for playtimes.

I hope this clarification is useful; please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss our uniform policy further.

As you know from previous communications, I am determined to improve the issues we have been experiencing regarding traffic around the school and I have been delighted with the positive responses I have received from parents and local residents since I sent a letter asking for your help. It has been great that:

- ✓ Some families have already made a promise to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride at least once a week.
- ✓ Many parents are driving further away from the school entrance to ensure they are parking considerately.
- ✓ More parents are resisting the temptation of parking on the zigzag lines at the front of the school.

Please keep trying to make a little change to help us make a big difference!

Last month, in our assemblies and Learning for Life lessons, we focused on the value of 'Care and Compassion'. This month, we are focusing on 'Quality'. In school, we are positively recognising children for living by other school values. If you have any examples of your child(ren) demonstrating the school values at home, I would love to hear about it (via my email: head@worpleston.surrey.sch.uk) so I can give them a 'special head teacher note of thanks'.

Finally, whilst The PTA have only just finished significant funding raising events during the Autumn term which raised approximately £6,650, they are already busy organising and preparing Spring term events which are detailed within this newsletter. The PTA events are always well supported by the school community, which is greatly appreciated. If you have any spare time, no matter how small, I know The PTA would be delighted to hear from you worplestonprimarypta@gmail.com.

I look forward to catching up with families over the next few weeks and I hope 2018 brings you all much happiness.

Kareen O'Brien
Kareen O'Brien

Value of the month – Quality



Updates & Dates

Attendance

It is our task at Worplesdon Primary School to promote and support our children's learning and enable each one of them to achieve their full potential. The school staff, alongside the Local Authority, firmly believes that all pupils benefit from regular school attendance. We know that every day lost to education can have a serious impact on children's attainment and overall progress in school. We expect our children to achieve 100% attendance unless the absence is authorised by Mrs O'Brien. Our attendance for the Autumn term was 96.2%. Please help us to continue to improve our attendance.

Taking children out of school during term time

Here are some frequently asked questions and answers ...

Q: Aren't I entitled to take my child out of school during term?

A: No. All absence is subject to being authorised. Some Guildford schools have stated that they will not allow holiday during term under any circumstances. At Worplesdon, we appreciate that a more flexible policy is practical. We try to ensure that parents/carers are fully aware of the implications of absence and encourage you to only consider applying where there is a compelling need to take your child out of school during term.

Q: Surely it doesn't do any harm...

A: Absence really can put your child's educational attainment behind by weeks and will affect their progress. Absence also has a negative effect on the class routines, work groups and joint projects/activities.

Your child's class is inevitably disrupted by the need for teaching and planning time to be applied to bring the absent child up to speed. You can imagine the problem that this causes and the benefits that could be achieved if the absence was significantly reduced.

Q: Can't they easily catch up?

A: Two weeks absence amounts to your child missing out on:

- 10 hours literacy and 10 hours numeracy teaching.
- Specific project work in history, science etc.
- Time at school with their friends.

Imagine the amount of homework or extra teaching that would be required to make things up. Your child will inevitably be behind their classmates when they come back to school and may also have missed key concepts necessary for the understanding of their current work.

It is not reasonable or practical to expect the class teachers to plan separate work for an absent child to the detriment of the rest of the class.

Important Dates

Date	Content
8th January 6.30pm	Year 6 SATS information evening (hall)
17 th January 8.45am	Prayer Group (PAC)
19 th January 2.45pm	Blackbirds class assembly
19 th January 7.30pm	PTA Clubbercise (hall)
26 th January 2.45pm	Sparrows class assembly
26 th January	PTA Year 3 & 4, Year 5 & 6 discos
2 nd February 2.45pm	Nightingales class assembly
2 nd February	PTA Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 entertainment
9 th February (am)	Year 6 Surrey University science workshop
9 th February 3.15pm	Finish for half term break
19 th February 8.50am	Return to school