

Wentworth Primary School
Newsletter No 1 – 11th September 2018

Welcome back to the start of the 2018-19 academic year and I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer. May I extend a particularly warm welcome to the parents of our new Foundation children and those whose children have joined us at the start of this new year from other schools. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Staff News

Welcome back to Mr Murray (Year 6), Miss Wheatley (Year 2) and Miss Morris (Foundation Stage) as teachers at Wentworth following the successful completion of their training. In addition we welcome Miss Kerridge as a trainee teacher supporting Year 6 and to Mrs Taylor and Mr Fitzgerald as new teaching assistants.

School Uniform

The children have all returned to school looking extremely smart. This we wish to maintain so when replacing uniform, please refer to the list sent to you in the summer or to the uniform page on the website. If children attend school without the correct uniform, staff will send home a pre-populated sheet referring you to the item of uniform that needs to be amended. Our uniform is smart and practical and creates a genuine sense of belonging and I know I can rely on your support in maintaining our high standards.

Swimming

Historically Year 3 and 5 have enjoyed swimming lessons, having 6 months each at Fairfield. With the increasing costs of this activity, coupled with the considerable use of curriculum time, I have rationalised the swimming programme. Year 5 will now swim over a 10 week block in Terms 1 and 2 with Year 3 having a 10 week block in Terms 3 and 4. This allows both year groups to develop this key life skill, but also allows them to experience a programme of traditional summer sports in Terms 5 and 6. Once again, we will be asking for voluntary contributions to support our swimming programme.

Foundation Subjects

You will have already received a separate letter explaining the changes we are making in our approach to teaching foundation subjects. We look forward to seeing the impact this has on the children's learning.

Race for Life

As previously reported, we have been completely overwhelmed by the generosity of the Wentworth Family in support of our Race for Life as part of our challenge week back in June. We originally hoped to raise £1000 for Cancer Research, but by the end of term, sponsor money took the total to over £13,000. This is a massive achievement. My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this event; children, parents, extended family and businesses for whom parents work. We have asked Cancer Research to send a representative to the school to accept our cheque.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Teachers will shortly be advertising their club activities for Terms 1 and 2. Activities will start week commencing 17th September and will conclude on week commencing 26th November. Clubs that are run by outside organisations may have different dates which they will communicate to you. I am extremely grateful to the teaching staff who all offer an extra-curricular activity. This is further enhanced by the support of HLTA's and TA's. We are the only school I know where every teacher offers a club with such a varied range of activities provided for the children.

I insist that once children have trialled a club for the first week and decided they wish to continue, they must give their commitment for the duration of the club. It is not fair to have children picking if and when they wish to attend. If they have a genuine reason for being unable to attend the club for a session e.g. a medical appointment, they should see the member of staff who organises the club to give an apology in advance of absence. I am sure you will agree that this is essential in developing good habits of courtesy and responsibility.

Parking

I am frequently contacted by local residents complaining about inconsiderate parking on or across drives, cars dropping off on zig-zag lines, reversing into access gates or emptying litter into the gutters. I have no jurisdiction over the local streets, but I am concerned that such actions bring us into conflict with our neighbours, which goes completely against the ethos of the school and is damaging of our reputation. This is particularly the case when neighbours are met with abuse or threats when they confront inconsiderate parking. This is not the behaviour we want our children to witness. Moreover, we do not want our children's lives being put in danger by the dangerous habits of the few.

May I therefore ask you at the start of the school year to show due consideration to our neighbours and even better, if you do not need to make a car journey to school, please walk.

Lost Property

We have, again, amassed an enormous pile of lost property. All items will be on display along the corridor by the KS1 hall from tomorrow, Wednesday 12th to Monday 17th September. After this date, anything left will be disposed of. Please come along and either identify lost items, or if there is anything (with no name in it) which may be of use to you, then you are more than welcome to take it. **We would ask parents to ensure that all school clothing is named**, as it becomes an impossible task to repatriate jumpers and cardigans etc to children when clothing is not named.

Children's Nasal Flu Programme 2018 by Kent NHS Foundation Trust - Reception to Year 5

We will shortly be sending out leaflets and consent forms regarding this year's nasal flu programme which will take place at school on **Monday 15th October** by nurses from Kent Health NHS Trust. This year the programme will include children from Reception to Year 5. If you would like your child to be included, **please fully complete the consent form, remembering to sign it** and return to the school office no later than Friday 12th October.

Key dates for terms 1 & 2

W/C 17 th Sept	School clubs start
Wed 19 th Sept	Year 1 & 2 football tournament
Wed 19 th Sept	Meet the Teacher evening - details to follow
Wed 19 th Sept	Year 5 swimming starts
Thurs 20 th Sept	Year 3 & 4 football tournament
Wed 26 th Sept	Year 6 - Victorian experience workshop
Wed 26 th Sept	Year 5 & 6 boys district football competition
Thurs 27 th Sept	Girls' district football competition
Fri 28 th Sept	MacMillan Coffee Morning - details to follow
Thurs 4 th Oct	Year 5 - Perseus and Medusa play and drama workshop
Fri 5 th -10 th Oct	Book Fair KS1 Hall 3.30-4.00pm
Tues 9 th Oct	Whole school individual and sibling photos
Mon 15 th Oct	Year R - Year 5 flu immunisation
Fri 19 th Oct	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN - DEVELOPMENT DAY

Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th October - HALF TERM

Mon 29 th Oct	Start of Term 2
Mon 5 th Nov	Year 4 - The Romans - Living History Workshop
Fri 9 th Nov	Remembrance service in school
Wed 14 th Nov	9.15am new parent tour
Thurs 15 th Nov	9.15am new parent tour
Fri 16 th Nov	9.15am new parent tour
Thurs 22 nd Nov	1.30pm new parent tour
W/C 26 th Nov	last week of clubs
Wed 28 th Nov	Year 5 swimming ends
Fri 30 th Nov	PTA Christmas Fair
Wed 5 th Dec	KS1 Christmas performance PM
Thurs 6 th Dec	KS1 Christmas performance PM
Weds 12 th Dec	Foundation Stage Christmas Performance 10am
Thurs 13 th Dec	KS2 Christmas Carol service at Christchurch
Weds 19 th Dec	Last day of term