



Wymeswold World

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Happy New Year to you all!

It is back to Earth after a very busy and successful Autumn Term. Thank you to all of you who came to our school events over the Christmas period, the feedback I have received has been very positive which makes everybody's hard work very worthwhile.

In the stress and pressure of the Christmas Carol Concert, I neglected to thank some very important people, and I would like to take this opportunity to rectify this. Janet Thomas and Nicky Procter have done a fantastic job with our recorder players and give up a lot of their own time to come in to school and teach the children. The recorder group that played in Church at Christmas were a credit to them and to the school and they would not have had the opportunity to learn without the support and dedication of these two people. Thank you both - and we look forward to the next performance!

We would like to extend a warm Wymeswold welcome to our new Premises Officer - Mr Stuart Walker who joined us at the beginning of this term. He has big shoes to fill, but has taken on the role wholeheartedly. We offer him our full support as a community and hope he enjoys being part of the school.

Rebecca Jackson



Building

The building project we have been waiting so long for looks like it is finally happening this term. We are extending both KS2 classrooms to allow our children to have more working and learning space. The work is due to begin on Class 3 the week after half term and will last approximately six weeks. During this time Class 3 will be using the mobile as a temporary classroom.

When this is complete, the sides will swap over and Class 4 will be extended. Again, the children will move up into the mobile for about six weeks and we will have to adjust the access to the school and which way the children come in.

It will be messy and muddy while the work is happening and there will be disruption. However, we will reap the benefits in the long run.

I will keep you informed of progress towards completion and I do ask everyone to be patient with us for a while until we get back to normal.

School Attendance

The Government has announced that in future it will be changing the focus of how schools are assessed on attendance from Unauthorised absence to the new push to tackle **Persistent Absence (PA)**.

This is a national change and requires us to change our approach to absence within school and we will be checked regularly to make sure we are complying with Government requirements. So from now on, children will have their attendance monitored and we will have to identify our PA children and be seen to be taking action. A PA child is defined as an individual who has had 64+ sessions absent from school over the period of a school year. (1 session is half a day as the register is taken twice daily). This has been identified based on national figures and is set regardless of the age of students, or the context or size of the school.

The process of focussing on these children does not wait until they have accrued 64+ sessions as children will be monitored every half term and letters will be sent out to parents making them aware that their child may be on track to Persistent Absence.

Some of you will therefore be receiving letters from us if this is the situation for your child. We are very aware that in our setting this is a rare occurrence and we also know that some children are prone to illness more than others. However, we have no choice but to comply with these regulations.

In addition there are new guidelines regarding holidays in school time. The school is able to authorise 10 days absence over the academic year (September to July). If there are any more days that a child is on holiday this will be marked down as unauthorised absence.

Electronic Communication

Tired of letters festering in book bags?

Have you found a stash of letters in your child's drawer that should have come home months ago?

I would like to communicate with as many of you as possible in a 'paper-free' way. If you would rather receive newsletters electronically, please hand in your email address to the office and we can set up a database to send newsletters by email. If you wish to join the database you will not get a paper copy of the newsletter, but other specific letters for example with reply slips will still come via book bags for now.



Visits By Ex-pupils

It is very sad, but we have to say that we can no longer welcome ex pupils back as 'helpers' in school. We have always loved having them here in the past as we retain a huge affection for all our children and enjoy seeing how they grow and progress.

However, we are only insured to have our own pupils on the premises and could not afford the liability if any accident were to befall them.

Work placement could still be organised if through a secondary school and visits with parents for events and shows will not be affected.

U R G E N T

Lunchtime Supervisor

There is a vacancy at the moment for a lunchtime supervisor - days to be negotiated. It's only an hour in the day (12.15 - 1.15). If you are interested, please see Sue or Becky in the office.



School meals Update

Having spoken to the children as we are eating our lunches together, I am getting the feedback that the children enjoy the opportunity to choose their meal at the point of service. Waste is very low and children have settled well into routines and go through much more quickly.

We have maintained numbers for lunch provision and we are very happy at how the whole service is progressing.

Remember! There will be a new menu in February - so keep a look-out for it for when you are ordering next half-term's meals.

Good News

The Governors and I are thrilled to announce that Mrs Jan Scallon will be with us on a permanent basis. After a rigorous interview process Mrs Scallon has been appointed as Class 3 teacher. As part of her role she will be taking responsibility for the management of KS2 and will be the senior teacher in the absence of the Headteacher.

Dates for your Diary

SPRING TERM 2008

Month:	Date:	Event:
Feb.	2nd-6th	Jewellery Recycling Week
	16th-23rd	Half-term
	28th	PTA Pancake Race
Mar	9th-13th	Exhibition Week
	9th	Parents' Evening 3:30pm-5:30pm
	10th	KS2 visit to see The Tempest, Stratford-on-Avon
	11th	Open Morning
		Parents' Evening 3:30pm-7:30pm
April	2nd	'Wymeswold's Got Talent'
	3rd	End of Term

More information about the above out later.

CLUBS SPRING TERM

We are continuing our commitment to providing high quality extra-curricular activities for our children, please see the attached sheet for a timetable of clubs happening this term.

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>KS2</u>	<u>Cross Country</u> with Linda Taylor 3.30-4.00	<u>Football coaching</u> with Nick Fairey from Barrow Town 3.30 - 4.30	<u>Street Dance</u> with Robyn 3.30 - 4.30	<u>Drama Club</u> (after Feb half term) Becky Jackson	
<u>KS1</u>				<u>Football Games and Skills</u> with Steve. 3.30 - 4.15. (4.30 when the evenings get lighter) This club is for all children who want to play football games with a non-competitive focus.	