



Wymeswold World

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Welcome back everyone to a brand new school year!

There is a lot to be excited about this term, as all of us - staff, children and parents may be seeing lots of changes around the school. First of all there are major staff changes, and we would like to welcome Mrs Gerry Manns in Class 1, Mrs Jan Scallon in Class 3 and from September 20th, Mrs Andrea Wagg will be taking over Class 2 while Miss Riddell is on maternity leave. I am very lucky to have recruited such skilled and supportive teachers and look forward to working with them. And of course Class 4 will have a new teacher too..... I am very much looking forward to teaching them all again.

We will be running induction evenings for all classes so parents can meet the staff and learn about how the classes will run through this academic year. Please see the 'Dates for your Diary' for when this will be happening.

Another massive change we are looking forward to is the arrival of school meals! Our aim is not only to offer the children a healthy, balanced meal with tasty choices; but to also focus on important issues at mealtimes such as table manners, responsibility and appropriate social behaviour when eating together. Therefore all of our children (school meals and packed lunches) will eat together in the Hall on one sitting. Children will say grace and will sit at tables with children from all the age ranges represented, older children acting as role-models and monitors for the younger ones. We think it is important to have that 'family' feel to lunch time, focussing on reinforcing the mealtime values that are in place in the home. This is an area I know parents have concerns about - and we have taken this on board and acted. Please keep us informed of any comments from the children! As the meal service settles down, we will be offering parents' opportunities to come and sample lunchtime in school, and taste our delicious lunches.

We are very excited about the prospect of having a school football team. Nick Fairey from Barrow Town will be coaching interested KS2 footballers on a Tuesday afternoon from 3.30 until 5.00. This will run parallel to the girls' football club run by Mrs Donna Preston. Nick will be setting up fixtures for us against local school teams and also scouting for talent for Barrow Town teams. Look out for the letter that will be coming out in the next few days to gauge interest. It would be great for the school to be involved in competitive sport once again.

You told us that you wanted more opportunities to see your children's work. Therefore each class teacher will choose an afternoon (3.15 to 3.45) where your child will be able to take you into their classroom and show you what they have been up to! The teacher will be in the classroom to help access books and artwork etc but this will not be the time to discuss concerns or issues. If you need time to talk about these, please feel free to make an appointment with your child's teacher so they can give you the individual time that you need. Class teachers will give you details of their open-afternoon during their class induction.

After the Autumn half term it is my intention to set up a house system in school - to help foster team-work and group responsibility within school. We all value the WOW system for individual recognition and this will remain in order to boost individual self-esteem and motivation.

However, children also need to learn how to work and contribute to the achievement of a team, and collecting 'House Points' encourages children to work together and celebrate achievement of team members, supporting and encouraging younger children in the house and encouraging older children to take responsibility for the development of their younger members. Each house will be organised and managed by House Captains who will be able to set up inter-house activities such as drawing, sporting or singing competitions and act as role-models for their house members. They will be people who can motivate others, encourage participation from their house members and inspire respect and loyalty from younger members. Staff will also be allocated a house, which means they can get involved and develop relationships with children they may not have taught already.

On the whole, the school will retain the values and quality that you have come to expect from us. The good things we do, as outlined by parents in the attitudes survey you completed before the summer holidays will remain as good practice. Those areas we can improve we will work hard to address. I will be outlining my vision for the direction of the school during the 'Meet the New Headteacher' evening which is outlined on your calendar.

Rebecca Jackson



Advent Carol Concert - men invited too!

We're delighted to tell you that the School Choir will again be joining the Wolds Choir at our Village Carol Concert, which will be on Sunday 7th December at 4pm in St. Mary's Church. All those who came last year felt this was a really special musical event. But singing is not just for the children - the Wolds Choir tell us that they would like a few more men, so come on, Dads (or Grandads!) - if you've felt the urge to sing, then come and have a go and impress your kids! Rehearsals for the Wolds Choir start next Wednesday 3rd Sep, 7:45pm at the Methodist Church, or contact Richard Thomas (Tel: 881750, 46 Brook St.) for more information.

Important school information

Following on from our School Questionnaire 2008:

An up-to-date School Prospectus, a range of School Policies and copies of the newsletters are always posted on our website - www.wymeswold.leics.sch.uk - if you have a problem accessing a computer please pop into school with your child I'm sure they will help you find our website.

Although we are happy for KS1 parents to stay in their child's classroom until 9:15am KS2 children start work promptly at 9:00am.

Thank you for your help

Thank you to all of you for keeping a watch-full eye on our school grounds in the summer holiday. We only had a few minor incidents and these were dealt with quickly.

Please remember to leave cars in Brook Street when dropping off or collecting children. This is to ensure the safety of the children and also to keep the access clear for emergency vehicles.



International School Award

We have just had notification that our school has been successful in gaining the British Council's International School Award and is accredited for three years from September 2008 to September 2011.

We are all immensely proud of this achievement, and feel that adding an international dimension to our children's learning through all areas of the curriculum has really enriched their learning.

I would particularly like to thank Miss Jo Riddell who co-ordinated our portfolio and keeping the International dimension as high priority in our planning and delivery. She has put an incredible amount of time and energy into this project and we as a school have certainly reaped the benefits. Well done Jo, and well done children!

Clubs

We are very fortunate to be able to provide a wide range of extra curricular activities for our children. In fact school will be as busy after hours this term as it is during school time!

We will be sending out a timetable of clubs to all families with dates and times for this term so that people can organise collection and avoid confusion.

Bikes and Scooters

Could we please remind families that bikes and scooters are not permitted to be 'ridden' beyond the gates during pick-up and drop-off times. This is purely for the safety of children particularly younger siblings who may be injured by careless riders.

This includes youngsters who are collecting their brothers and sisters up from school - we would hate to have an accident or injury as we already have had quite a few near misses.



Dates for your Diary

AUTUMN TERM 2008

Month:	Date:	Event:
September	Mon 1 st	Launch of school meals.
	Fri 5 th	Swimming begins for years 4, 5 & 6 (all term)
	Weds 10 th	Cycling Proficiency begins for Y6 Class Induction meetings 'Meet the Head' Times to follow in a letter.
October	Fri 10 th	Last swim of half term
	Tues 14 th	Photographer - individual photographs. Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30
	Weds 15 th	Parents' Evening 3.30 - 7.30
	Thur 16 th	School closes for Half-term
	Mon 27 th	School opens
November	Fri 7 th	Swimming begins again for years 4,5 & 6
	Fri 28 th	Last Swim
December	Mon 8 th	Young Voices Concert - Sheffield arena
	Weds 10 th	Induction for January Reception class intake and parents.
	Friday 12 th	Blue Note Bistro
	Weds 17 th	Key Stage 1 Nativity 2.00pm
	Friday 19 th	Carol Concert and service - St Mary's Church, 2.00pm.
		School closes