

Wymeswold C. of E. Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 8th September 2011



Welcome Back

Welcome back to a brand new Autumn Term. The children look smart, well rested and keen to tackle all the new learning challenges.

I should like to officially welcome all our new pupils, both in Class 1 and in other classes throughout the school. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your time at Wymeswold and make loads of new friends.



PE Kit

We have a continual problem of children forgetting PE kit and turning up with inadequate equipment. We are cracking down on this as it is hampering both the safety of the children and the ability for them to participate in the full PE curriculum.

I am very aware that parents have just bought new kit for children to start back at school, however we are finding that kit is not named, and from experience we know it will get lost quite quickly unless we can return it to its rightful owner. Please name all kit including plimsolls and trainers.

PE kit should consist of:

- Tee shirt
- Shorts
- A tracksuit for outside games
- Socks
- Plimsolls
- Trainers

We are going to be introducing a specific PE uniform which will come in to place from January 2012. This is because we have noticed our teams do not look smart and unified when we play sports against other schools. This has been remarked upon when we have been competing.

Last year Wymeswold Running Club bought us shirts with the school name on them to ensure we looked smart when we travelled to other schools. Unfortunately children took them home to wash and despite repeated appeals in newsletters the shirts never came back to school. We still believe that if the children had a PE uniform they would look as smart while playing sports as they do representing the school in other activities.

The uniform for PE will consist of:

- White tee shirt or polo shirt
- Black or navy blue shorts
- Navy blue track suit

We would ask that as you replace your child's PE kit through growth or loss, that you replace them with the new uniform. Nobody is being asked to go out and immediately buy new kit at this time as we are aware that they will all have new kit ready for the start of term.

Transfer Deadlines—Year 6 Parents

The closing date for applications is

31st October 2011

Late applicants may not be offered a place at any of their preferred schools or even their catchment area school.

An application pack will be sent to you by the LA and applications can be made online at:

www.leics.gov.uk/admissions

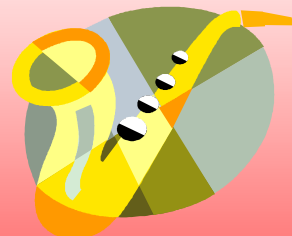
Earrings

- Earrings are not part of the school uniform. All children should remove earrings for PE for health and safety reasons.
- If they cannot be removed yet due to them being recently pierced, then plasters need to be brought in to cover them.



Music lessons

Mrs Evans has let us know that there has been spaces left by our departing Y6 for music lessons - keyboard, flute, clarinet and saxophone. We also have a small stock of cellos and violins in school if children wish to learn stringed instruments. Please speak to Mrs Evans if your child has an interest in learning an instrument in school - places are filling fast, so sooner rather than later!



Procedure for persistent absence

It has been made very clear to all schools that the government feels very strongly that poor attendance can disrupt pupils own learning and that of other pupils around them. Children can very quickly begin to fall behind their peers and often never fully catch up with gaps in their skills or knowledge and over time these pupils can become bored or disillusioned with education and by years 10 and 11 can be lost to the system.

They would like to catch persistent absentees earlier in their school careers to avoid this happening.

Currently children who miss 20% of their education are deemed to be persistently absent (PA) and this is where we as a school intervene and speak to parents, maybe send letters out to make parents aware of the situation and what could happen if PA continues. The goalposts have now been moved to 15% (for example 15% of this term between now and Christmas is approximately 18 days), and if your child looks as if they are missing school close to this percentage in any term, this is the procedure that will happen:

- A short meeting with the Head to let you know that your child could be considered as persistently absent;
- If the situation continues you will receive a series of 3 letters explaining the consequences of persistent absence on your child's learning and what will happen as the next steps if PA continues;

Cases that go beyond 3 PA letters will be referred to the regional Attendance Officer for further action.

Of course even the government recognises that there are pupils who are off school for long periods of time for medical reasons and neither parents nor schools will be penalised for the absence of genuinely sick children.



Term dates

You should have received a folded calendar printed on orange card which gave you a range of term dates, important dates for your calendars through the year (those we know at the current moment) and the dates/destinations of the school residential trips this academic year. If you haven't seen it yet - have a look in your child's book bag every family has been sent a copy. We will of course give you plenty of notice about additional events as they are added to the school diary.

**Green team were
thinking of planting
some bulbs, we would like you to help
by giving us some bulbs. We are
doing this because we would like to make
the school play ground more colourful.**



**We would be delighted
if you would offer some to us. We
are also turning lights off and doing
litter picking, green day and lots more.**

Written by Sadie Yates, Hannah Kemp and Francesca Wood.

Breakfast/After school club

Having spoken to a range of parents before the summer holidays, It has become increasingly clear that there is a real need at the moment for childcare provision. I am currently investigating the possibility of bringing in an organisation to provide a 'kidsclub' on the school premises. I have been booked on to an induction session organised by the local authority where I can ascertain which would be the best route for our school to go to solve this problem, but before I go to the meeting I do need to know if this will be viable.



If you feel you would use either a breakfast club or an after school club on a regular basis please complete the attached slip and return it to the office.

We will only be able to secure this provision if there are enough people interested and once set up, can be sustainable.

Breakfast/After School Club

Name of Child Class.....

I would be interested in:

- Breakfast club
- After school club
- Both

Signed.....

Date.....