



NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL: MR S WEBSTER

TEL: (01283) 247535

Email: office@richardwakefield.staffs.sch.uk

Web site: www.richardwakefieldschool.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Thank you to all who attended parental consultations last week. We had almost 100% turn out which is great. Thank you for your help and support.

As we always say there will be issues that arise in school. Therefore, if you have any queries or concerns, however minor, please speak to the staff, Mrs Lowe or myself.

PARKING AND CROSSING PATROL

As you are no doubt aware nothing has changed in terms of a crossing patrol being reinstated. However just to update you that the school and governing body have both written to the relevant authorities receiving replies reiterating cost savings and recruitment freezes. As a school we will continue to ask why our school has been left with nothing. The Parish Council have also written and challenged the decision making. We thank them for their support.

REMEMBRANCE PARADE Sunday 11th November

Anyone who wishes to attend this annual Remembrance Parade will need to assemble at the Village Hall in Monk Street at 9:45am ready to set off at 10:00am. The Parade will then walk from Monk Street towards High Street and then up to the Church where wreaths will be laid at the Memorial at approximately 10:20am. This will be followed by the Remembrance Service in the Church at 10:45am.



We are hopeful that once again this year members of our Pupil Leadership Team will be joining the Parade and will be laying our own school wreath.

As it is 100 years after Armistice, this year is an even more special occasion in the village.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

We are once again supporting this very worthwhile cause and your child will bring home a leaflet this week. If you wish to participate please read the information 'How to Pack Your Shoebox' and section 4 which indicates a suggested donation of £5 for each shoebox to cover project costs, including shipping. Please return your packed shoebox to school by Friday 16th November and we will ensure that these join those collected at St Mary's Church. Thank you.



NEW PARENTS EVENING

Thursday 8th November 6:00pm – 7:00pm

This is a chance for any prospective parents for our Reception class in September 2019 to visit the school. Other prospective parents are welcome too. The meeting will start in the hall/or classroom for a very brief presentation and then staff will be available to show anyone around the school. Please mention this to anyone you know who may be interested.

Useful information: How can I apply for a Reception place?

The quickest and easiest way is to apply online. This can be done from 1st November 2018. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.

If you are unable to apply online, a paper form will be available once applications open. Please contact the school office after 1st November 2018 if this is the case and we will be happy to send out a paper copy to you.

Note: you must make an application by 15th January 2019. There is no automatic entry into Reception.

Further information is available on the Staffordshire County Council admissions website at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/admissions/primary

ANTI-BULLYING WORK

As in previous years, over the next month the children will be discussing and working around issues linked to National 'Anti-Bullying Week' which this year nationally runs from 12th November. Every year, as a school we spend time with all the children defining what bullying is and how we can deal with it should it arise? Once again we have gone back to the definition established by the children:

'Bullying is where someone continuously has hurt someone or some people by being mean and unkind to them – either by hurting with actions or words'

Also, we will be reiterating the ways the children came up with for dealing with bullying:

- Walk away and ignore.
- Try to stick up for yourself but don't shout or hit back.
- Talk to your friends to get help.
- Talk to an adult – your parents or an adult in school you trust.

This year's theme is 'Choose Respect' and alongside our monthly worship value of 'Empathy' the children will be working on these aspects during the weeks in November. In an age-appropriate way the children will look at bullying. They will consider how it can be prevented but dealt with if it should arise.

PARENT'S FORUM

For a variety of reasons this never really got going last year. This is a chance for parents to come along and discuss a variety of issues around everyday life at Richard Wakefield C.E. Primary Academy. Previous meetings have looked at:

- Annual report format
- Parking
- Family learning sessions

But the agenda is set by parents, carers and the school. Clearly, it is not a platform for individual issues.

A meeting has been set for Thursday November 22nd at 6pm. If you are coming along please let the office know prior to that date. Thank you.

UNIFORM



As stated last year, we would like to just clarify a point around uniform to ensure consistency and fairness. A full list of uniform requirements is available on the website for your reference.

Winter boots – with the weather changing children require suitable footwear to keep dry and warm walking to and from school so boots, including wellingtons, are clearly a suitable option. Our uniform list asks for **black boots** to be worn but we understand with the costs involved and pupils growing out of boots so quickly this could be an issue so dark brown or dark blue will be tolerated. **However, we cannot accept any form of fashion boot wear that is unsuitable and unsafe for wearing around school and at playtimes.** What we also suggest is that school shoes are brought in as well to change into rather than a child wearing winter boots all day. Our uniform list on the website has been updated accordingly. Thank you.

An exciting new project from Central Co-operative Learning Trust (CCLT)

You may remember that in the Spring Term last year we were very fortunate that our children were invited to join a very successful arts project for all the children in the CCLT and other local schools, culminating in performances and an exhibition at the Brewhouse.

Once again we have been given an invitation to work with them on another project celebrating the artistic talents of our staff and pupils.

Please read below the details of the next project. We will keep you updated as to how this develops.

*Message from Bernadette Hunter
CEO CCLT MAT*

What are we doing next?

We are beginning to plan another major project for Spring term 2019 based on the theme of 'Journeys'. All the children will have chance to take part in an arts activity such as dance, music, drama, film making, art, cooking, poetry etc and we are hoping to be able to share these projects across the schools and with parents.

Why are we doing it?

We believe it is really important for children to have access to a broad range of learning that is interesting and fun and to collaborate with each other.

How can you help?

We need people with an interest and enthusiasm for arts from a variety of different cultures who might be able to help the children in school. Do you have a talent or passion you can share or do you know someone else who has?

We need help with resources – fabric, paper, food, paint, etc. Do you know anyone who can help with this?

Do you know anyone locally who might be able to give us a small amount of sponsorship to help fund the project?

Please contact your school if you can help and look out for more updates on the 'Journeys' project.

Thank you for your help.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

As we have received one nomination for this vacancy, a vote will therefore not be appropriate. We are pleased to announce the election of Mr Dan Williams, parent of Faith in Reception Class, and would like to welcome him as a new Parent Governor on our Local Governing Body.

DIARY DATES REMINDER!

Thursday 25 th October	PTA School Disco
Monday 29 th October – Friday 2 nd November HALF TERM	
Thursday 8 th November	Open Evening for new parents
Sunday 11 th November	Remembrance Parade School Choir and Pupil Leadership Team will be taking part
Tuesday 20 th November	Early Years – Family Learning session for parents and carers 9:00am – 10:00am – Main Hall

VACANCY

CLERK TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

The de Ferrers Trust would like to recruit a Clerk to support our Local Governing Body (LGB). This is a vital role, requiring attendance at all the half termly LGB meetings. Training will be provided and support will be available. Please see our website for full details about the role, along with an application form.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Once again this year we will be selling poppies and other items: Friendship Bracelet £1, Slap Rulers £1, Wristbands 50p and Reflectors 50p, to raise funds for this very worthwhile appeal.



They will be available for parents of Key Stage 1 and Early Years to purchase with their children every morning from Monday 5th November to Friday 9th November between 8:40am – 8:55am from by the Y3/4 door (which fronts on to the Early Years play area). During morning break some of our Key Stage 2 children will be selling them from a stall on the playground so that Key Stage 2 children can make their own purchases then. The correct money will be very much appreciated.

Please note items **will not** be available to purchase from the school office.
Thank you.

DEADLINE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Please note the deadline for applications to secondary school is 31st October. We have been notified by Admissions in Stafford that some parents have not yet submitted their application. Please ensure you do not miss this deadline.