



Wilden VA Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 1: Friday 3rd September 2021

A message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to a brand new academic year. I hope that you had all enjoyed the Summer holidays but I imagine that some of you are mightily relieved to be sending your children back to school next week!

I take great pleasure in writing my first newsletter as the Executive Headteacher of both Wilden VA Church of England Primary and Riseley Church of England Primary Schools.

It feels like a very long time since life was anything close to normal and I'm very hopeful that, as we start a brand new academic year, the national picture remains more positive and we can finally begin to put the past 18 months behind us and stride forwards.

I am excited about the future of the school and the potential I see in every classroom. I look forward to a prosperous relationship with the Wilden community as we work together to ensure that every child and adult flourishes.

The staff and I have spent the past two days discussing and developing our priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year and look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday.

As we look ahead, I have made it a priority to involve parents as much as possible. If you are unable to make either the Parent Forum on 21st September or the Meet the Headteacher evening on Thursday 16th September, please feel free to email the school office directly with your comments or queries.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 6th September: First day of Autumn Term

Monday 13th September: Roald Dahl Day

Thursday 16th September: Meet the Headteacher 7pm

Tuesday 21st September: Parent Forum 9.15am

Monday 20th September: Recycling Week

Friday 1st October: National Poetry Day

Monday 4th October: Mini London Marathon

Friday 8th October: Visit from MP Richard Fuller

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Parent Forum

The first parent forum meeting of this academic year will be held at 9.15am on Tuesday 21st September. I would be delighted to welcome as many of you as possible to this meeting which will take place in the main hall.

The purpose of this first meeting is to gain parental views regarding the school and feedback responses to any questions posed at the Meet the Headteacher evening in early September.

All discussion points will be communicated to staff and parents following the meeting.

Meet the Headteacher Evening

I am pleased to announce that I will be holding a 'Meet the Headteacher' evening on Thursday 16th September at 7pm in the main school hall.

At this meeting I will introduce myself and share my experiences over the past 18 years in Education and outline my priorities for the children, staff and community of Wilden for the next 12 months and beyond.

I feel it is important that you, as parents, have the opportunity to meet me as early into the new academic year as possible.

There will be opportunities for parents to ask questions at the end of my presentation.

I look forward to meeting you then.

Visit from Richard Fuller MP

On Friday 8th October, Richard Fuller MP will be visiting the school to speak to the children about their ideas regarding the fight against climate change. A letter was passed on to me in July about the COP26 Glasgow from 1st –12th November 2021. The UK is hosting the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). This is an important event and the UK is committed to fulfilling the commitments made at the Paris Agreement.

The goal of COP26 is to accelerate progress in five shared Challenges of Climate Change:

- **Adaptation and resilience** - to help communities to prepare for the worst impacts of climate change
- **Nature** - to safeguard and restore natural habitats and ecosystems to preserve the planet's biodiversity
- **Energy transitions** - to accelerate the clean energy transition through cheaper renewables and storage
- **Clean Transport** - to clean our air by speeding up the global transitions to zero emission vehicles
- **Finance** - to encourage our financial systems to be cleaner to unlock growth and create green jobs

As our local Member of Parliament and as a member of the Business and Energy Select Committee which has been scrutinising the government's preparations for COP26, he has a special interest in ensuring that all schools in his constituency have the opportunity to make a contribution and inspire others.

We plan to work on a project alongside the children and staff from Riseley CE Primary School to share their ideas about how the two schools are planning to make a difference to our community and planet. He will visit each school and hear presentations from some of the children and view their work. Parents will also have the opportunity to visit the school to see the work completed.

COVID Arrangements

As we start the new academic year, the guidance from the Department of Education has been updated to reflect the national picture. The latest guidance makes clear that the vast majority of restrictions in schools should now be lifted and that schools should return (where appropriate) to as normal a daily routine as possible.

The arrangements for drop off and collection will be as follows:

- The school day will start at 8:45am for all children. The schools will open at 8:40am and will be locked at 8:55am.
- Children in Key Stage 2 should be dropped off at the field gate as they were last academic year.
- Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 should be dropped off by the main reception gate.
- An adult will meet your children at the gates so parents will not be required to enter the school grounds.
- At the end of the school day (3:20pm), children will be delivered to parents at the same gates as they were dropped off in the morning.

PE arrangements

Additionally, children in Years 1-6 will continue to attend school in their PE kit on days that they are timetabled for PE. Children are expected to wear correct PE kit and 'alternative' clothing will not be acceptable. Children in Reception will need to bring their PE kits into school to get changed.

PE Sessions	
Nursery & Reception (Chipmunks and Hedgehogs)	Tuesday
Years 1 & 2 (Squirrels)	Tuesday and Thursday
Years 3 & 4 (Otters)	Monday and Tuesday
Years 5 & 6 (Muntjacs)	Monday and Thursday