



Wilden VA Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 6: Friday 22nd October 2021

A message from the Headteacher

Somehow we have already arrived at half term. It has been an incredibly busy and, at times, challenging half term and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff, children and parents for their patience, resilience and understanding over the past 7 weeks.

You will no doubt be aware that COVID cases are, once again, climbing nationally. Whilst there have been no specific changes to guidance for schools, we need to be prepared for them just in case. We will keep you as well informed as possible if this happens.

Unfortunately, we did have to reintroduce restrictions in school this week due to a number of positive COVID cases. Thankfully, the situation has not worsened which means that we should be able to return to normal after half term. However, we will continue to monitor the situation in school in case further action is required.

I would like to say a massive thank you to those parents who gave up time from their weekend to help decorate the entrance hall and start the main hall. Your help was very much appreciated and the children love the new colours. We will continue to decorate over the course of the term.

Finally, I just want to wish you all and my staff a restful half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Dates for your diaries

- Monday 1st November: Staff INSET
- Saturday 6th November: Open Morning 9.30-11
- Thursday 11th November: Remembrance Assembly
- Monday 15th November: Parents Evening
- Friday 3rd December: Pyjama movie night
- Thursday 9th December: Pantomime Trip
- Tuesday 14th December: Nativity
- Thursday 16th December: Parent Forum 9am
- Thursday 16th December: Carol Concert 6pm
- Friday 17th December: Last day of term

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Mini Marathon

The mini marathon that was due to take place on Tuesday 5th October was able to be held on Tuesday this week.

I was incredibly impressed by the fitness and determination of all the children, even in some rather less than favourable (windy) weather conditions. They also had to adapt to some last minute changes due to our restrictions. The children had to wait their turn but this gave the children the opportunity to cheer each other on.

The aim of the event was to trial the use of physical activity events as a means for adding competition into the school.

The children responded very well to this and I'm pleased to announce that we intend to hold regular physical activity challenges throughout the remainder of the school year.

The children had to run as many laps of the field course in their allotted times. All laps were counted and then converted into a total distance.

The results of the competition were as follows:

- 1st place: Yellow House (135 laps)
- 2nd place: Red House (105 laps)
- 3rd place: Blue House (98 laps)
- 4th place: Green House (77 miles)
- Total distance covered: 41.5 miles

A huge well done to everyone who ran. I am looking forward to the next challenge!

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