

WASPS Newsletter 1 – Term 3 – Spring Term 2019
9th January 2019

Dear Parent

On behalf of all of us at WASPS I would like to wish all our families a very Happy New Year, and to thank you for your kind seasonal messages and Christmas cards.

WASPS After School Clubs

The Clubs List was sent home on Monday this week and deadline day for returning the Club Request Form is tomorrow, Thursday 10th January 2019.

In order to make the allocation of places at WASPS Clubs fair, we aim to allocate one club per pupil out of their selection of 2. If there is space we will offer a second allocation of places. To clarify further:

- Children will be guaranteed a place at one club.
- Each child can put down two choices – first and second – on their Club Request Form and should return their form to their class teacher by the deadline of Thursday 10th January 2019.
- Children in Y3 – Y6 are welcome to join the morning choir and/or the Orchestra **in addition** to a club of their choice.
- Slips can be returned any time up until the deadline Thursday 10th January 2019 but teachers will only allocate places at the club they are running once the deadline has passed. We will ensure that as many pupils as possible are given a place at their first or second choice of club.
- Unfortunately, as some clubs will be very popular we cannot guarantee that everyone will get a place in the first club of their choice.

We would like to remind everyone that Clubs are voluntary on the part of the teachers and pupils but if your child signs up for a Club, it is expected that he/she will attend that Club every week if allocated a place. If for any reason your child really cannot attend for one session, the teacher must be informed in writing. A register will be taken at each session, and we want to avoid the teacher spending valuable time tracking down a missing pupil and causing unnecessary concern. We would also ask that firm arrangements are made to collect your child promptly at the end of the Club so that he/she is accompanied home safely.

Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Attendance percentages can be misleading. For some parents 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks:

100% Attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 days of absence (1 week & 4 days of missed learning)	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 days of absence (3 weeks & 4 days of missed learning)	Poor
85% Attendance	28 days of absence (5 weeks & 3 days of missed learning)	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 days of absence (7 weeks & 3 days of missed learning)	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 days of absence (9 weeks & 1 day of missed learning)	Unacceptable

If your child does have low attendance, for example less than 90%, you will receive a letter to outline our concerns. If you wish to discuss this further please contact Mrs Badger, co-Head of School, by ringing the School Office and leaving a message or via the school email.

Walking Train to Little WASPS

As you may be aware, there have been one or two difficulties with the Walking Train of pupils from Middle WASPS to Little WASPS at the end of the school day. This started out as a well-intentioned offer to a few parents who have siblings in both buildings, but it rapidly grew to a much larger number than is workable. For this reason, we unfortunately have to withdraw this offer, with effect from next Monday, 14th January. If you have children to collect in more than one building, you may wish to 'double-up' with another parent and arrange something between you, or speak to your children's class teachers about the order in which you will collect them from their respective teachers.

Parents whose children are collected from WASPS by another agency providing after-school child care, will need to contact that agency and make sure they are aware that WASPS children will no longer be escorted to LW, so they will need to be clear about the location from which they need to collect your children.

WASPS PTA – Next Steps...

We are keen to formalise the way we organise the PTA at WASPS since, with a growing school, our fundraising has become so successful that the time has now come to register with the Charity Commission. Our plan is to form a "Parents and Staff Together" Committee which is open to any parent or staff member, with specified officers of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (which will be shared between a staff member and a parent) and representatives of each year group. This committee will replace the two mini PTAs and will be responsible for all fundraising across the school.

We will hold a meeting to discuss the details on Thursday, 24th January at 2.40pm in the Café Hall and we would love you to attend. This will not replace the Year Group Council meetings which we feel add a different dimension to parent, staff and pupil engagement.

WASPS Spring Calendar

The WASPS Spring Calendar will be coming home shortly but with a 'health warning' that sometimes dates, events and timings need to change so please do keep an eye on our website, outdoor noticeboards and weekly newsletters.

WASPS School Lunch

This is a reminder that a WASPS school lunch for your child costs £2.20 per day. Children in Year 0, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible to receive universal infants free school meals and, therefore, the £2.20 charge does not apply to them.

Dietary Requirements

If your child has a particular dietary requirement or is allergic to anything it is very important that you come in and fill out a form at the School Office. Alternatively, an email detailing the requirement or allergy will suffice. This information is then logged electronically and made available to our Chef in the kitchen.

Outstanding Arrears – Dinner Money

May I remind you that any dinner money outstanding on your child's Parentpay account **MUST** be paid as soon as possible. Any debts outstanding run the risk of being transferred to B&NES Debt Recovery.

Administrative Matters

Mobile Phones - Please do not forget to let the School Office know if your mobile number changed over the Christmas holidays and a reminder that we do not allow pupils to have mobile phones in school.

Medical Absence Form - If your child has a medical appointment you are required to complete a WASPS Medical Absence Form and return it to the School Office prior to the appointment.

Absence Due to Illness - If you would like to register your child's absence you can now either telephone the School Office on 421786 and leave an answerphone message or send an email to the school on attendance@wasp-school.org.uk. The email link is accessible via the website too. Please make sure you have contacted the school by 9.15am at the latest on the morning of the absence.

End of School Arrangements - Please ensure that your child and class teacher are aware of end of school arrangements prior to dropping them off in the morning.

Yours sincerely

Dr Anne Bull

Headteacher

Virgin Care Services Ltd – January Catch-Up Flu Clinics

Please see the following clinic dates for anyone in the cohort Reception to Year 5 who may have missed the vaccine previously or changed their mind and now would like it:

- Wednesday, 9th January 14.00 – 15.30. **Swindon** (Broadgreen Community Centre)
- Thursday 10th January 14.15 - 15.45. **Salisbury** (Central Health Centre)
- Tuesday 15th January 14.15 – 15.45. **Trowbridge** (Derby Court)
- Friday 18th January – 14.30 – 16.15. **Chippenham** (Hathaway)
- Monday 21st January 14.00 - 15.00. **Bath** (St. Martins)
- Wednesday 23rd January 14.15 – 16.15. **Devizes** (Community Hospital).

It is essential that you call to book in to these clinics and NOT just turn up: To book please contact: Swindon/North Wiltshire – 0333 321 9838, South Wiltshire – 0333 234 1125, B&NES – 01225 838270

Norovirus Season 2018/19

The Public Health Department of Bath & North East Somerset Council have issued the following advice concerning the Norovirus season 2018/19 which is now circulating in the area. Norovirus causes viral gastroenteritis, which is characterised by the sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, it can spread rapidly in closed environments such as schools. However, most people do not require treatment and recover at home within one or two days.

Children and Staff with Symptoms of Norovirus should:

- Stay away from work or childcare setting until they have been free of symptoms for at least 48 hours and avoid contact with others where possible.
- Keep hydrated by drinking fluids as tolerated.
- If symptoms persist (more than 48 hours), phone the GP or the NHS nonemergency number 111 for advice.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water regularly but particularly after toilet visits and before eating and handling food. Alcohol hand gel is **not effective** against norovirus.
- Do not attend other childcare settings or visit hospitals or residential care homes as there is a real risk of introducing the infection to the establishment.
- Do not handle or prepare food for other people until symptom free for at least 48 hours.

COMMUNITY LINKS

B&NES Transforming Maternity Services Together – Open Meeting taking place at Paulton Methodist Church on Saturday 12th January from 2pm – 4pm to discuss changes to maternity services in B&NES. There is a consultation online which will be open until 24th February and you can find out more about this by [following this link](#).

Junior Lawyers' Club - workshops for 8-12 year olds, designed to boost confidence in public speaking, problem solving and creative thinking. Venue - Bath Central Library on 26.01.19, 9.30-10.30am. £12.50 per session. Email to book a free trial place: info@juniorlawyersclub.co.uk