

Newsletter 2, Term 3 – Spring Term 2020

Dear Parent

The Real Schools Guide - Top Ten Primary Schools

Fantastic news! WASPS has been named as the number one state funded primary school in Bath and North East Somerset based on 45 different criteria – including not just KS2 results but factors like progress, pupil-teacher ratios and absence rates. We naturally are absolutely delighted about this. It is a testament to how hard all of our staff work, and a fabulous reflection on all of our children.

Chinese Teachers' Visit

On Wednesday 8th January, WASPS received some very special guests from Guangdong Province in China. Four teachers from the Humen Foreign Language School (which Miss Gray visited on an exchange in October) came to tell WASPS pupils all about Chinese New Year, their school and to share Chinese culture with them. Years 3-6 took part in an interesting assembly about Chinese culture, then Year 4 classes were treated to workshops with the Chinese teachers. These included: Chinese calligraphy (with traditional writing instruments), Chinese singing, Mandarin language study and Chinese papercraft. A huge thank you to the teachers for teaching us so many things and a big well done to the children for taking part so enthusiastically.

Here are some quotes from the children:

- "I really enjoyed the Chinese calligraphy, it was really different and fun. I thought that the brushes and the ink were really cool and I enjoyed trying to hold it the proper way." Tess, 4G
- "I most enjoyed the calligraphy. I loved learning about all the Chinese words. It was amazing. It was really nice having the Chinese teachers at our school." Emily, 4G

Monk Day

Year 4 had a real treat on Monday 13th January on Monk Day, when they all got to experience what life was like for Medieval Monks. This took place in the very appropriate setting of Weston All Saints Church. The day started with a talk from a medieval historian, and then the children took part in activities such as beeswax candle making, medicinal herb bag creating, and they even learned the Lord's prayer in Latin. Their time at church finished with a talk from our rector, Mark, who spoke about "Monk life" and led the children into a quiet time of reflection and music. The children even managed 20 minutes of meditative silence as part of the day.

New Year Special Lunch – Thursday, 16th January 2020

Next Thursday, 16th January, we will be having a special New Year lunch. The children will enjoy free range or vegetarian sausage in a soft roll served with crispy french fries, baked beans, sweetcorn, fresh salad bar, ketchup, mayonnaise and mustard. There will also be a choice of jacket potato with tuna, mushroom soup or tuna mayonnaise salad (KS1) or tuna mayonnaise roll (KS2). Dessert will be decorated chocolate sponge, fresh fruit platter or organic yoghurt.

Year 0 Coffee Afternoon – Thursday, 16th January 2020

The Year 0 Team will be holding a Coffee Afternoon on Thursday, 16th January from 2.45pm to 3.15pm in the Little WASPS Hall. All welcome – in the interests of being eco-friendly, please bring your own coffee mug if possible. Thank you.

WASPS After School Clubs

The WASPS After School Clubs List for Spring Terms 3 and 4 was sent home yesterday. Please return your reply slip **to your child's class teacher** as soon as possible. If for some reason you did not receive a copy, please pick one up from the School Office. Please note that Clubs for Reception children will commence in the Summer Term.

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.

PST (Parents and Staff Together) Meeting – Thursday, 23rd January 2020

The next WASPS PST Meeting will be held here at WASPS on Thursday 23rd January at 2.45pm in the Café Hall. All welcome.

WASPS PST (Parents and Staff Together)

As we move into a new year, WASPS PST will be registering themselves as a charity. To enable this to happen a number of formal processes have to be worked through. The first process is the adoption of a constitution and we will be voting on the adoption of a 'Parentkind Constitution' at our EGM on Tuesday 11th February from 6.00 – 7.00pm. If you would like to view a copy of the constitution, it will be available on request from the school office for the **next 21 days**.

At our EGM we will be 'voting-in' our parent and staff together committee. If you are interested in putting yourself forward for a position on the committee, please speak to Mr Snook in the first instance and also ask to see the brief role descriptions we will have in the office **from next week**.

Required Immediately for WASPS

WASPS have the following vacancy to start as soon as possible (after the necessary background checks):

- **Cleaner** – WASPS requires a full time cleaner, Monday to Friday term time only, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. The position will be paid between £9.36 - £9.55 per hour.

Please register your interest by contacting the WASPS School Office on 01225 421786.

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, stating the reason and nature of the illness, or the symptoms. Unfortunately, we can no longer accept "ill" or "poorly" without further detail.
- **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

Mrs S Halls & Mrs S Badger
Acting Co-Headteachers

Community Links

B&NES Carers' Centre – 3Ways Parent Carer Café. Come and join other parent carers and chat in relaxed surroundings on the first Tuesday of each month from 9.30 to 11.00am at 3Ways Café, Bath, BA2 5RF. Stay for as little or long as you like in a safe space just for you.

Moovit Fitness outdoor boot camp for ALL levels of fitness each Monday morning at 9.05 – 9.35am at the Orchard on Broadmoor Lane. £5 for 30 minutes catering from beginner to advanced. Friendly and welcoming group of WASPS school parents. Please come along and join in. Ring Anna on 07879 436 332 for further info.

RSPB Bird Watching Tutorial – Love Weston Café at the Moravian Church on Friday 17th January at 3.30pm. The tutorial focuses on identifying the top 12 birds one might see during the RSPB Annual Big Garden Bird Watch and will last for approximately 30 minutes. All children to be accompanied by an adult.

Bath Drama's Snow White - the Rondo Theatre, St Saviours Road, Larkhall. Full of laughs, songs and spectacle, with all the expected characters and a few more, terrific set and costumes - in fact, everything you want from a pantomime! Performances are at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th January. There are two weekend matinees as well which are almost sold out. All the details and how to book at www.bathdrama.com.

Table Tennis Kidz for 7-11 years. Eight weeks of fun. Wednesdays from 4.15 to 5.15pm starting February 2020 at St John's Catholic Primary School. For information please visit www.ttkidz.co.uk