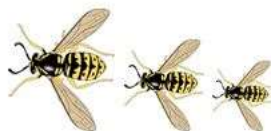


# W. A. S. P. S



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**Mrs Sarah Halls**  
Headteacher

**Mrs Sharon Badger**  
Deputy Headteacher

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to be delighted with how well our pupils are settling back into good learning patterns. As of this week we have re-established our Headteacher Award for good work or excellent effort and our Certificate of Excellence for exceptional manners or behaviour. We have been reading many positive comments from teachers about how positively our pupils are re-engaging with school life. The glorious sunny weather has helped – it is such a pleasure to see so many happy, smiling faces as they go about their activities in the sunshine.

### **Drop-off and Pick-up**

We are making an alteration to the Drop-Off and Pick-Up arrangements for Years 5 and 6 next week, as the first stage of a preparation for the inevitable autumnal weather. Reception and Year 1 to Year 4 classes will stay the same as this week.

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, instead of lining up on the field, will continue to enter by the same gate, but will walk the length of the bark path, say goodbye to their adult at the top of the main school drive (who can then leave by the main gate) then turn left down the drive, cross the main playground and walk around the back of the building to join their teacher who will be waiting to greet them in their classroom. There will be plenty of teachers and other colleagues there on Monday to ensure that everyone finds their way straight to their classroom.

We shall monitor how this goes during the week and then potentially make some further changes, including for Years 3 and 4 the following week.

### **Parking and Safety**

You may have noticed the temporary parking restriction that has been introduced on Lansdown Lane. This will be in force until a more permanent measure has been implemented.

We are very grateful to those families who have heeded our request to come to school on foot or by cycle, or to park a little further away and walk the last part of the journey. We strongly encourage as many of you as possible to do this. Thank you for reviewing your arrangements and ensuring that you are not adding to the risks to our families.

If you haven't already, do take a look at StaySafeGetActive (link on our website), a recent local initiative to encourage everyone to create a 5-minute protective Walking Bubble around our school so that everyone can travel safely and actively to school.

## Parent-Teacher Interviews

We are currently making arrangements for parents to be able to have the usual 10-minute slot to discuss your child's progress in school, with your child's teacher shortly after the half-term break. This year we plan to do this online via Zoom. For any parents who don't have access to the technology, the teacher will make a phone call instead. Details of how this will work will be shared with you soon.

## Additional items in school

Please remind your child(ren) not to bring anything into school but the essentials, so no 'trading cards', no conkers, nothing other than basic stationery, piece of fruit, water bottle, PE kit.

## Build-a-Burger Harvest-Themed Lunch – Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Advance warning: we shall be having a special Harvest-themed lunch on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. We hope as many pupils as possible will join us, including any who normally bring a packed lunch. Menu available soon!

## Bike to School Week: 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Please see the poster for Bike to School Week on our website. Further details will be available next week, along with some exciting activities for your child to get involved in.

## Book Amnesty

As many of our pupils will have been reading a lot at home over the summer, and lockdown before that, we thought that you may be looking for an opportunity to clear out the books they no longer wish to read. We would love it if you would consider sending your second hand books in to school to top up our book corners and group reading sets. We would particularly like books in good condition, suitable for school age children. Picture books and longer chapter books would both be welcome. We would prefer not to receive annuals and books based on computer games and television programmes. Books can be handed to the class teacher at morning or afternoon drop off. Many thanks.

## Reception classes from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Our Reception children have settled very well over the last few weeks and have enjoyed spending time making new friends, exploring various learning environments and looking for worms!

Class teachers have had conversations with you to discuss whether your child is ready for full time education or whether we are going to gradually introduce some full days. **Every child will now attend each morning session** so that class teachers can teach phonics and early reading skills; we shall then gradually increase the number of afternoon sessions



the children attend. We want to make sure that our children are happy and settled before rushing them in to school full-time.

### **Reception Pick-up and Drop-off times from Monday 21st September 2020**

- If your child is attending morning sessions only, you can drop your child off at 8.45am and pick up at the end of the morning session at 11.45am.
- If your child is staying all day, as agreed by their class teacher, then you can drop them off at 8.45am and collect them between 3.10 and 3.25pm.

As mentioned earlier in this letter, on **Thursday 1st October** we are having a **special themed lunch** and we would love all of our Reception children to join us. If you would like your child to stay for lunch on that day but they are only attending school on a part-time basis, let your class teacher know in advance and we can arrange for them to join us; you can collect your child at 1.00pm on that day.

Please remember to check the Reception website for updates on your child's learning <https://www.wasp-school.org.uk/year-groups/reception>

### **Requests for work for pupils who are isolating**

If your child is at home self-isolating because another household member has Covid-19 symptoms, do remember to email the School Office and request some work for your child to do at home. Please put your child's name, class and year group in the Subject Line of the email.

### **Snacks and drinks in school**

Please remember that as part of our Healthy School guidelines, pupils are invited to bring a piece of fresh fruit for snack and a refillable water bottle; please no fruit drinks and no fruity biscuits or fruit bars.

### **Year 6 parents – secondary schools**

Secondary schools are beginning to send us their flyers for Year 6 parents with an eye on Year 7. We have put links to these flyers on our website and will add others as we receive them.

### **Reminders:**

#### **Important Reminder**

Please be sure to follow the government guidance for you and your child(ren) to **stay away from the school site if anyone in your household is showing signs of Covid-19 symptoms**, and for the person with symptoms to be tested.



Once the test result has been received, please notify the school office immediately. If the test is negative, we shall be delighted to see your child(ren) back in school straightaway, even if that is part-way through the day.

I am aware that some families have experienced difficulty in getting a test.

These pieces of information, which I have not been able to substantiate, may help, though parents' experiences have differed:

- Appointments for testing for the following day open at 8:00 pm each evening. Phoning at or shortly after 8:00 pm will likely improve the chance of getting a next day appointment.
- A number of home test kits are released at 8:00 am each morning and other batch is released at 12:00 noon. Once these are gone that's it for the day!
- Another message said that new slots become available during the day when all other slots are filled

I understand the immense frustration associated with needing a test and finding it difficult to source one. Do please be persistent and supportive of our measures to do all we can to maximise the safety of the whole school community. Thank you for your support.

### **ParentPay**

If you are a new parent to WASPS, you should by now have received a notification inviting you to activate "ParentPay", our system for accepting payments for school items, which also allows us to message you easily. Do please be sure to respond to the notification and activate it, so that you receive the regular letters and updates that we send out.

### **Food On Our Doorstep**

Please see the link on our website for information about this valuable local initiative.

### **Rainbow Resource Scheme**

On our website you will also find a link to the Rainbow Resource Scheme which affords concessions to Rainbow Resource card holders. An application form was attached to last week's Headteacher's letter to parents and carers.

**With our very best wishes for a peaceful and happy weekend,**

**Mrs Sarah Halls**  
Headteacher

**Mrs Sharon Badger**  
Deputy Headteacher

