



## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

### Two Wistow Ways in one week!

From now on, the school newsletter will be published on Friday each week. As you know, in the next month or so, we will move to a digital newsletter that will be linked to and generated by our website ([www.owps.org.uk](http://www.owps.org.uk)). As Mrs Schneider, our Digital Lead, works on a Thursday and Friday it makes sense to move the newsletter to Fridays.

I think that most teachers would admit that the first week back after the summer holidays is exhausting and I am sure that many of the children feel the same way. This week has been particularly tiring as no two days have been the same and there are so many new routines to get used to. I want to say thank you to all of you for following these new rules. I know that it is a lot take on and for those of you with more than one child at the school, you now have double (or triple the challenge). It has also been lovely to have parents thank us for what we are doing. We even had some parents cheering after their children came back to school!

I am writing this newsletter after school on Thursday and, by the time that it is published, we will have Years 2-6 in school. The new timings are working well and we are able to clear the playground before the next group of parents arrive. At the moment, the ten-minute window is starting to feel quite long as people are being efficient and leaving as soon as they can. We will continue to monitor this for the next week and will consider whether we can reduce the ten-minute slots to five minutes. We will make sure that you are informed in plenty of time if we make any changes.

It has been great to see the children settle in quickly and I have been especially pleased that we are already seeing parents let their children walk onto the playground on their own. This makes the playground far less busy. We are happy for children in Years 5 and 6 to come onto the site on their own. Year 4 children can also do this as long as you have let their class teacher know.

However, we cannot have older children bringing their younger sibling/s to school because they would then have to wait for ten minutes on their own before we let them in. Again, this might be something that we can review after next week. If you have to wait on the playground with your children, they should stand with you and are **not allowed** on the field, mound or tyre play area.

We are looking forward to the FS children joining us next week and to having 420 children back in school. We are all working very hard to give the children a smooth and settled start. Our priority is to re-establish school routines and expectations. This is always our focus each September but this year it is even more important as the children have had an unsettled year. On the whole, I think the children have welcomed the return to the structure and routine of school.

We are also starting to reintroduce some of the reward systems that we use in school and the first reading diary check will be next Thursday. As always, we expect the children to read with or to an adult at least five times a week. The more they read, the more Dojo points they get for their class. As you know, we are also introducing the parent app for the Dojo system we use in class. Mr Marks will write to you next week with details of how this will work.

Again, thank you for being supportive and understanding. I have heard that some heads have had complaints from parents within the first few days of school reopening. It has never crossed my mind that this would happen at OWPS as I think that we all know that working together will be the key to a successful return to school.

Simon Eardley  
Headteacher



## Messages from the School Office

### Lunch Accounts - KS2 only

Just a note to let you know that going forward we are now requesting that children's lunch accounts are topped up prior to them having a hot dinner. If there aren't sufficient funds on your child's account to cover their lunch then we will not be able to provide a hot dinner on that day and you will need to provide a packed lunch.

Many thanks.

### COVID Testing – Evidence of Result Required

If your child has been absent from school and has had a COVID Test, we are unable to accept them back into school until you provide evidence of the test result. If your child has been absent because another family member in the household has had a COVID Test, we will also require evidence of the family member's test results before the child can return to school.

Please send evidence via email to the School Office: [office@owps.org.uk](mailto:office@owps.org.uk)

### Reminders

Please ensure that you remember to send your child to school with everything they require for the school day, e.g. water bottles, book bag etc.

We want to avoid parents having to come to the school office to drop off items that we then have to deliver to classrooms.

Thank-you.

## Jeans for Genes

Jeans For Genes Day is a great way to bring the whole school together and raise money for children with genetic disorders. There are between 4,000 and 6,000 diagnosed genetic disorders. It is estimated that one in 25 children is affected by a genetic disorder and therefore 30,000 babies and children are newly diagnosed in the UK each year. Some genetic disorders are apparent at birth while others are diagnosed at different stages throughout childhood, and sometimes into adulthood.

We have supported Jeans for Genes for the last 14 years and are pleased to support this year's event, which is on **Friday 18th September**.

All children will be able to wear jeans for a donation of **£1** per child, which will go towards saving lives. **Your child will still need to wear their normal school uniform, jumper or cardigan on their top halves.**

We will also be selling homemade biscuits in the shape of a pair of jeans! These will be 50p. We will write to you again next week to let you know how you can order one of these for your child so that we know how many to bake. We look forward to all children taking part in this worthwhile event.



## Staffing News

By Mr Eardley

It is always sad to announce that a member of Team Wistow will be leaving us, even when they are going on to do something exciting.

Mrs Attwood will be leaving us at Christmas as she has been appointed as a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) at a federation of two schools in Lincolnshire. Mrs Attwood has been thinking about becoming a SENCO for some time. This is a great job for her and the schools are very fortunate that she is joining their team. Mrs Attwood's association with OWPS first involved her being a parent at the school, then she became a governor and, most recently, a much-valued member of staff. Her work as PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) Lead has raised the profile of the subject and her leadership helped us to secure the Silver Anti-Bullying Quality Mark.

Thankfully, the systems that she has established are so well embedded in the school that someone new will be able to pick up this responsibility. We will now start the process of recruiting a new teacher to join us in January to work with the Armadillos class. If you know of a teacher who is looking to join a fantastic school – please let them know that we will be advertising our vacancy soon.

I know that Mrs Attwood will be sad to leave us, but I also know that we will continue to stay in touch and to share ideas and resources. I wish her every success in her new role and look forward to hearing how she is getting on.

## Trainee Teachers

By Mrs Granville, Trainee Teacher Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome two trainee teachers from Teach East for their main placements with us this year. At OWPS, we believe it is important to help train and guide the teachers of the future, and we welcome trainees to join us from a number of local training providers. With such a range of skills and expertise amongst our staff, we can offer them a high level of support and plenty of opportunities to develop their practice.

We're delighted to be able to support our trainees again this year! Miss Banister will be based in the Wombats class and Miss Atkinson in the Elephants. We hope that they enjoy their time with us.

## Outdoor PE Timetable

By Mr Cowles, PE Lead

The PE days for each class until October half-term are as follows:

Monday	Iguanas	Armadillos	Elephants	Wombats
Tuesday	Nightingales	Cobras	Macaws	Flamingoes
Wednesday	Sharks		Toucans	
Thursday		Cobras		Flamingoes
Friday	Giraffes		Squirrels	

Please note that due to space, we will only be using the outdoor areas for PE. This means that each class (except Year 4) will have one PE lesson each week.

Children will also take part in the Golden Mile weekly as well as other activities in class.

Your child will need to arrive at school in the correct PE kit on their PE day.

## Coming Up!

**Next Week: WB: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Monday**

New Foundation Stage children start school

**Thursday**

Mindful Minis Workshops – Years 1-6. Please remember that the children need to come dressed in their school PE kits.

**Friday**

Jeans for Genes Day

**In Two Weeks: WB 21st September 2020**

No confirmed events as yet.

**In Three Weeks: WB 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Thursday**

School Census