

ISSUE

249

DATE

4/9/18

Wistow Ways



**Orton Wistow
Primary School**

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope that you have all had a great summer and that your children have come back to school raring to go for another great year.

We had our professional day yesterday and spent the day reflecting on what a great year we had in 17/18 and thinking about how we can make this year a success. It was a very productive day and we re-established our expectations of staff. It is great to start the year with a clear, shared understanding of what makes OWPS a great school.

Although the first full newsletter won't come out until next Monday, I wanted to write to you on the first day back to let you know about a few things. I also wanted to remind you about some of our expectations.

When you read the next few pages, I hope that you do not feel that it sounds a little negative. I am aware that it does read as a list of what is and isn't allowed, but the start of the school year is an ideal time to reiterate what we expect as a school. None of these are new messages and you would have been made aware of them before in the brochure you were given when you toured the school and in our directory.

Best wishes,

Simon Eardley - Headteacher

This week's Assembly Theme:

In today's assembly we thought about having goals and how to achieve them. We set the tone for the year ahead!

Heating Works

Over the summer the old ground source heat exchange system that is buried beneath the field and heats the KS2 Unit was decommissioned and an entirely new system was installed, at no cost to the school. As you can imagine, it was a tight squeeze to get this completed in six weeks and there is a little bit of work still to finish. Thankfully, there was minimum disruption to the site and we will only have to seed part of the field.

Main Office

The main office was gutted, tidied, redecorated and reorganized over the summer and now looks better than ever. We have also moved staff around. Mrs Connelly, our newest member of staff will now sit at the main desk, Mrs Russell and Mrs Nalton have moved to the back of the office, by the children's hatch and Mrs McLaughlin (our new Office Manager) has her own work area.

FS Outdoor Area

Mr Firth has done an amazing job of revamping the outdoor area!

Carpets

The Lower Key Stage Two corridor and Music Room were re-carpeted this summer and looks lovely.

New Faces

As well as Mrs Connelly in the Office, we have been joined by other new staff:

Miss Ellis – Year 1 Teacher

Mr Cowles – Year 5 Teacher

Joanne Corry- Caterpillars' Class TA

Sarah Gash – TA in the Armadillo's Class

Penny Godfree – TA in the Armadillo's Class

Rebekah Craig - Iguanas' Class TA, covering for Miss Carrington while she is on maternity leave

Trainee Teachers

We are pleased to welcome trainee teachers to Orton Wistow again this year. Miss Locke and Miss Mcfarlane from Teach East will be working in the Giraffes and Iguanas classes and Mr Long from Paragon Teaching School will be working in the Flamingoes.

They are with us for their main placements so will be with us for the majority of the school year. We also welcome Miss Kelly from Bedford University who will be working in the Macaws this half term. We hope they will all enjoy their time at OWPS!

Midday Supervisors

We have had a few changes in staff over the summer and are now looking to appoint 2 new Midday Supervisors to join us as soon as possible. Midday Supervisors do a very important job, making sure that the lunchtime runs smoothly and we hope that some parents would like to apply. Please find a job description at the end of the newsletter and an application is on the website.

Mobile Phones

This is a reminder that children are not allowed mobile phones in school, even if they are in Year 6 and have started walking to school on their own. If we do discover a mobile phone in school. It will be sent to the school office for collection by the parent at the end of the day.

As part of our Safeguarding policies and practice, we have a Mobile Devices Policy. Staff are not allowed to use their phones in public areas and there is also a section about parents. I wanted to make you aware of this as staff have reported that some parents have wanted to take photos of their children in the dining room or on the playground.

The policy states:

Parents & other visitors:

- We request that parents and other visitors do not use Mobile Devices in the school building or grounds.
- Mobile Devices must never be used to take photographs in the school building or grounds without the permission of the SLT (e.g. Whole school assemblies, school performances or other such public events).

Snacks

Last year, I noticed a steady increase in the amount of litter on the playground from food wrappers. I wanted to remind you of the excerpt from our Directory regarding the snacks you send to school:

The school understands that snacks can be an important part of the diet of young people and can contribute positively towards a balanced diet. We encourage children to bring a healthy snack to eat at break time. We discourage the consumption of snacks high in fat and sugar at break-time and would be grateful if parents could avoid sending chocolate and biscuit snacks. We also appreciate it if you could avoid sending snacks with throw away packaging as this creates a litter problem.

As part of a government initiative, Key Stage One children are provided with a healthy snack each day, such as fruit or vegetables. This stops when they enter Year 3.

Uniform

The children looked very smart in assembly this morning and it was great to see so many of the Year 6 children wearing purple polo shirts or jumpers.

As you know, our Lost Property bin fills up regurlay each year. Please ensure that you label all of your child's clothing as we do our best to reunite clothing with their owners. The Lost Property Bin will be emptied each fortnight.

Despite my message in one of the July newsletters, I have noticed some children wearing fabric shoes on the first day. These are not allowed and should not be worn to school. I have included the uniform guidance on footwear below:

Plain dark leather or imitation leather shoes or sandals. **(NOT TRAINERS/ NOT FABRIC SHOES)**

As part of their school uniform children should wear plain dark shoes or sandals. In the last year or two we have noticed a growing trend for some children to wear fabric shoes to school.

Fabric shoes are not allowed for a number of reasons; they are not waterproof, they are not as hard wearing as leather shoes and as they cannot be polished, they tend to look untidier. Although we are happy for children to wear shoes with velcro fastening, we do not allow children to wear trainers to school.

In the **winter only** girls may wear plain, dark boots. Girls should not wear shoes or boots with a high heel as these are not practical for school activities or playtimes. We also discourage girls from wearing open toed sandals as these do not offer enough protection.

Reading

Two years ago we had our 'Love of Reading' year where we raised the profile of reading across the school and as a result, we noticed that the children were more enthusiastic about reading at home and at school, they read more books and tried new authors. Having noticed a decline in how often many children are reading at home, this year will be the year of 'Love of Reading 2.0'!

I wrote to you last term to explain that we expect all children to read to an adult 5 times a week at home and that this should be recorded in their reading diary. This was then stressed at the Transition Meetings to

such a degree that I heard one parent joke, 'So am I right, we should read five times a week at home?' I had to smile!

So, if you weren't sure – you should read with your child five times a week. 😊

We are going to monitor this more closely and keep track of who is reading at home. Each week I will include in the newsletter the details for each class. Each term, the class who have read five times a week at home the most times, will be rewarded with a reading based prize.

Homework

Last year we made some significant changes to the amount of homework we set and the style of the homework. This led to a 7% increase in the number of parents who said that their child received an appropriate level of homework for their age (Parent Questionnaire 2017).

However, despite setting less homework, we began to notice that some children were regularly failing to hand in completed homework. We are going to monitor this in each class and speak to parents earlier if we notice that their child is not completing homework. Please remember that Spelling and Maths homework is set each **Friday** and due back each **Wednesday**.

In the last questionnaire of the year, some parents told us that they would like great variety in the homework we set and that they missed the project type work we set in previous years. We will update the home learning section of our website so that it includes web links to useful sites you could look at with your child and also projects that you could choose to complete.

Bikes

The racks on the main playground are for scooters only and not bikes.

Bikes should be stored in the bike racks by the Pirate Ship.

This Week's Menu by Mrs Cooper

	Roast	Comfort Food	Feel Good Thursday	Basket Meal
	W/C Tuesday 4 th Sept	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course 1	Mini Sausage & Bacon & Yorkshire Pudding	Southern Fried Chicken	Jumbo Fish Finger	Chicken Fillet in a Bun
Main Course 2 (V)	Quorn Sausage & Yorkshire Pudding	Macaroni Cheese ✓	Cheese & Potato Slice ✓	Quorn Ball Sub ✓
Main Course 3				
Starchy Food	Roast Potatoes New Potatoes	New Potatoes Jacket Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes Potato Wedges	Oven Chips
Dessert 1	Seasonal Fruit Muffin ✓	Iced Bun	Ice Cream Roll	Cappuccino Cup Cake ✓
Dessert 2	Fruit Salad & Shortbread ✓	Jam Vol au Vent & Custard	Carrot Cake ✓	Ice Cream Tub

Vacancies

Post	Midday Supervisor
Start Date	For an immediate start
Hours	5 hours and 50 minutes per week (from 12.10 to 1.20 Monday to Friday) 38 weeks of the year
Salary	Grade 2 scale 7 to 9
Hourly Rate	£8.55 p/h (£16,495 FTE)

'The school takes pride in being a single community where every individual matters.' Ofsted

We are looking to appoint a friendly, approachable team player with a can-do attitude who can be an active member of the school Midday Supervisors team. Our midday supervisors ensure the security and care of the pupils of the school and promote their social development during the lunchtime period.

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. Orton Wistow Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Please note that CV applications will not be accepted.

For a job description and an application form please visit the Vacancies section of our website, which can be found under School Info (www.owps.org.uk) or email Jackie Orchard our School Business Manager - office@owps.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 14th September 2018

Interviews to be held on w/b: 19th September 2018