

# Wicklea Academy

## Newsletter No.2

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023



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### School Photos

The photographer will be in school on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** to take the children's individual photographs. They will have the photos taken in the morning. Please ensure your child comes to school in full school uniform. If they do not have a school jumper on, we will give them one to wear.

### Sickness and Diarrhoea

It is that time of year when there are lots of bugs around. When a child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they must not return to school for 48 hours after the last time they were ill. This is also the case with Munchkins (after school club).

### Uniform & Jewellery

All children are expected to wear school uniform or PE uniform on a PE day. We have spare uniform that you are welcome to take if you need it. We do not expect the children to have branded uniform but jumpers must be dark green.

The children should not be wearing jewellery in school. They can wear a watch and stud earrings only. If they come to school wearing rings or necklaces they will be asked to take them off and be kept in a safe place until the end of the day.

### Breakfast Club Drop Off

Please can we remind parents that breakfast club opens at 8am. If children arrive before this they must be supervised by an adult until the doors open. School staff are not able to supervise children before breakfast club opens.

### 2023/24 Term Dates

- **Term 1** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September (INSET DAY) to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - **Inset days 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sept**
- **Term 2** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- **Term 3** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - **Inset days 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan & 9<sup>th</sup> Feb**
- **Term 4** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – **Inset day 28<sup>th</sup> March**
- **Term 5** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- **Term 6** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 – **Inset days 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

### INSET DAYS

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**

### Absence Phone Calls

Please can we remind you to ring the office if your child is going to be absent from school. You can leave a message on the answer machine and the office staff will pick it up first thing.

## School Ambassadors

Last week we announced our House Captains and School Councillors. These children will form our school ambassadors this year. They will play an important part in what we do here at Wicklea and will also be running the rewards shop later in the term.

Congratulations to:

### House Captains

Cabot - Alvey  
More - Olivia  
Fry - Huxley  
Brunel - Becky

### Vice House Captains

Cabot - Elsie-May  
More - Maia-Grace  
Fry - Arty  
Brunel - Oskar

### School Councillors 2023/24

Ash – Finley & Mia  
Willow – Lyla & Iggy  
Elm – Beau & Amoy  
Oak – Belle & Lola  
Maple – Buddy & Hollie-May  
Pine – Mason & Bethan

## Friends of Wicklea

The Friends (PTA) have set provisional dates of events for this year. They are:

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Disco  
1<sup>st</sup> Dec – Christmas Fair  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Winter Shop  
25<sup>th</sup> Mar – Easter Egg Competition  
19<sup>th</sup> Apr – Disco  
7<sup>th</sup> June – Summer Fair

If you are able to help out at any events, please let the office know and they will give your details to the Friends.

## Snacks at Breaktime

Children are able to bring in snacks to eat at breaktime. These should be healthy snacks and not chocolate or crisps.

## Parent Governors

We are still looking for a parent governor to join our Local Academy Council. This is an opportunity for parents to get more involved in school, find out how and why we do things and how we can continue to improve our school.

There is a time commitment of attending 6 meetings a year and reading the paperwork related to these meetings in advance. If you are able to give more time it would be lovely to have governors in school during the day, looking at how the school is run.

If this is something you are interested in, please let me know and I can talk you through the role further.

## Coffee Morning

We would like to start running parent coffee mornings where parents can meet up and talk. Eventually, we would like a parent or group of parents to take on the running of these. If you are interested in this please speak to Mrs Morley on the gate.

## Holiday in Term Time

For holidays in term time to be authorised the circumstances need to be very exceptional. However, it is still important that holiday forms are completed and handed in so that we know where the children are.

Unauthorised holidays are likely to be fined if over 4 days (8 sessions). The fines start at £60 per child, per parents/carer. Fines rise if they are not paid on time. Please note, fines are issued by Bristol Local Authority not the school.

## School Day Arrangements and Timings

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October we are changing how the children enter and leave at the beginning and end of the school day. We ask that parents waiting to collect children wait behind the bollards towards the carpark so that the courtyard is clear for the children to be dismissed from. An email with further details has been sent out.

The registers are taken and closed at 9am. Any child who arrives after 9am is marked as late. If they arrive after 9.10am then they receive an unauthorised absence mark. If a child receives 8 unauthorised sessions in a 10-week period they may receive a penalty notice fine. The fines start at £60 per child, per parents/carer. Fines rise if they are not paid on time. Please note, fines are issued by Bristol Local Authority not the school.

From January 2024 the school day will be extended to 3.30pm in line with government expectations of hours in the school day. The children's lunch will then become 12-1pm.

## Secondary School Applications

For those children who will be starting secondary school next year you will need to apply for a place in the next few months. You apply online using the Council website. Applications open on 12 September 2023 and close on 31st October 2023.

Lots of schools are holding their open days and evening this term. We will pass these dates on to you as soon as we have them. They are also advertised on the individual school websites.

More information can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/school-admissions/secondary-admissions/secondary-apply>

## Free School Meals

If you feel you may be entitled to free school meals you need to complete the form on the council website to check. If you are entitled to them the council will let us know. Sometimes there is a delay in us receiving this information so please email in the confirmation email you get so that we can make sure you are not charged for any meals taken.

The link to the application form is below:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>

## Reducing the Number of Pupil Admissions

Waycroft Multi Academy Trust and the Leadership Team of Wicklea Academy propose to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Year 3 from 90 to 60, to take effect from September 2025.

The proposed change falls in line with the Infant feeder school which reduced their PAN 3 years ago and takes account of the decline in primary numbers seen across the city. The Trust and staff are working hard to improve the outcomes of all our pupils and feel strongly that the proposed reduction will benefit future outcomes for our children, whilst still enabling us to meet the demand of places.

There will be no other changes to the admission arrangements. The proposed change will not affect the current pupils or those who choose to accept an offer for a school place in September 2024. All current and future parents and any other interested stakeholders can make comments on this proposal, by either writing to the address below or email the school Office.

The consultation will run from Monday 2nd October – Friday 17th November 2023. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments about the proposal to:

PAN Consultation Wicklea Academy Wick Road Brislington Bristol

BS4 4HR Or email to: [info@wickleaacademy.com](mailto:info@wickleaacademy.com) (Subject heading: PAN Consultation)

Our new school ambassadors are eager to get to work with their ideas for the school. I look forward to working with them. Look out for updates on what they have been putting in place.

**Mrs Morris and the Wicklea Team**