

Wicklea Academy

Newsletter No.1

Date: 8th September 2023



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PE Days

The PE days have changed this year. They are:

Year 3 – Monday & Thursday

Year 4 – Monday & Tuesday

Year 5 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 6 – Tuesday & Wednesday

Rather than the children change in school they are to wear their PE kits on these days.

Health Care Plans

If your child has a medical condition and/or needs regular medication during the school day please contact the office so that we can send you the Health Care Plan form. If your child already has a Health Care Plan, we will need to review it annually to check for any changes. It is important that we have all of the relevant medical information we need. If your child has medication in school, we will be checking that it is in date and the dosage hasn't changed.

Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children wearing their uniform proudly this week. We already have some lost property that is un-named. Please can you make sure all jumpers and coats are labelled so that we can easily return them to the children when needed.

We have a small supply of uniform which we are able to give out. We are also hoping to organise a Swap Shop later this term. This is where you can bring in any uniform and swap it for a bigger size – if any is available.

2023/24 Term Dates

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

INSET DAYS

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 9th February 2024

Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Values & Behaviour

As you know, we have changed our values to:



These values underpin our new behaviour curriculum and policy. Our new behaviour policy is very much reward based and teaches children the behaviours we want to see, although consequences are put into place when these values and expectations are not seen. For more information please see the school website.

RAAC – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

As I am sure you have seen all over the news some schools across the country have been had to close all or part of their building due to them containing RAAC.

I would like to reassure you that our school building does not contain any RAAC as it was built in 2013.



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.

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.

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.

Friends of Wicklea

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

29th Sept – Quiz

3rd Nov – Disco

1st Dec – Christmas Fair

11th Dec – Winter Shop

25th Mar – Easter Egg Competition

19th Apr – Disco

7th 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.

Website

We are currently in the process of updating our school website. Please bear with us if you are looking for something and it is not there or out of date. It will be fully up to date in the next few weeks.

Contact Details

If you have changed any of your contact details over the summer, please can you let the office know so that we can update our records. Please could you also make sure we have a current email address.

School Day Timings

The school gates open at 8.40am for the children to come into the courtyard and be with their friends. There is always at least 2 staff on the gate to supervise the children. This is not a time for them to play and run around but to wait calmly before coming into school at 8.50am.

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.

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>

It has been lovely to have the children back in school this week and to welcome the Year 3 children to our school. We are looking forward to a busy term and seeing just how much the children grow as learners and young people.

Mrs Morris and the Wicklea Team

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>

Children with phones in school

We understand that older children may need to bring their phones into school for when they walk home. Please make sure you have completed the form giving permission for them to have it in school.

They will need to turn their phone off as soon as they come on the school premises and put it in the class phone box which is kept safe in the office during the day.

They must not turn their phone back on until they leave the school premises.

Outside School Achievements

We will be continuing to celebrate children's achievements outside school in our Friday Celebration Assembly. If your child would like to bring a certificate, trophy or medal they have received from a club or organisation outside school, we can share it in assembly.