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Dear Mothers, Fathers and Carers

WELCOME BACK!



Welcome back to Waycroft for the 2018-19 academic year. The beginning of term is an exciting time and it is good to report that all classes are well settled and enjoying starting their new topics with their new teachers. One Year 6 group are already enjoying an incredible week away at Simonsbath camp. Group two are looking forward to their visit next week.

I would like to welcome all of our new families to Waycroft. It is lovely to have you and your children in our school. We are looking forward to an interesting and successful first term. If you have any questions please ask.

Secondary School Applications – Y6 parents/carers please keep an eye out for information regarding applying for secondary schools. The deadline is often about 31st October.

Primary School Applications – For those children who will be starting Reception in September 2019, parents and carers need to apply online when the website is live. We have an open day for any prospective parents that would like to view the school on Tuesday 27th November. Please book a place with our office staff if you would like to attend. We will be doing three separate tours of the school at 9am, 11am and 2pm. There will be crèche facilities available in the library as the tour is not appropriate for children. These tours are also for those parents who would like to view our nursery facilities for our September 2019 intake.



Pink Box – The pink box in the office is for you to return any reply slips, letters and notes to teachers/the office when you do not need to speak to someone. Please do not leave any money in the box. The box is to try and reduce the amount of parents queuing at the hatch each morning and will help us to help you sooner.

Key personnel you may need to speak to:

If you come into our **main school office**, you will be greeted by either **Miss Pople** or **Mrs Norfolk** who are happy to help you with any queries, passing on information or to set up a meeting with another member of staff.

We do have a new **Family Link Worker, Mrs Trickey**, who has started with us in September. Mrs Trickey will be leading on our whole school attendance strategy, will support children directly emotionally in school and is available to provide family support such as if you have concerns about children's behaviour at home, managing children's anxiety or even someone to talk to if you are going through a difficult time. There are a number of agencies and support networks available in the Bristol area that may be helpful to our families and Mrs Trickey will help you with referrals as needed.

The **class teachers** are available for meetings/conversations around their teaching commitments. For the early years and KS1, please catch the teacher at drop off/pick up to arrange a mutually agreeable time or via the school office. For key stage 2, you can catch them at the end of the day or via the school office.

If there is an on-going worry that you haven't been able to resolve with the class teacher, the **phase leaders** are also able to meet with you.

Early Years – Mrs Ferguson

Key stage 1 (year 1 and 2) – Mr Jenkins

Lower key stage 2 (year 3 and 4) – Miss Dennis

Upper key stage 2 (year 5 and 6) – Mr Howells

Any finally **Mr Howells (Assistant Head of School)** and myself, **Miss Craig (Head of School)**, are happy to meet with and talk to families as needed.

As a school, we want all families to feel confident to come in and speak to us about anything. I can assure you that between us we have a vast amount of experience supporting children and their families and no conversation is too big or too small.

Learning Heroes – Each week in our Achievement Assemblies we will be celebrating children’s use of BLP (Building Learning Power). A child from each class will be nominated as a ‘learning hero’ (when it is not their focus assembly). For the assembly that took place on 7th September, the following children were nominated as our Learning Heroes

Yr 3; Bree & Jude.F
Yr 4; Macie-Lee & Bethany
Yr 5; Lydia & Danny
Yr 6; Bence



Well done to all our children for showing their use of ‘building learning power’. Please see the attached information leaflet, the school website and future newsletters to find out more about BLP.

Parentmail – A huge thank you to all our new Reception & Nursery parents who have created their parentmail accounts. This makes communicating with our parents a lot easier as well as reducing our paper and photocopying overheads. We will shortly be asking our second group of new nursery parents to create their accounts too. You will be sent a registration email over the coming days (providing you gave us your email address on your child’s application form). Once registered, please download the parentmail pmx app which allows notifications to come straight through to your phone. For any existing parents that are not on parentmail, but would like to join, please do speak to a member of our office team who will be able to update your account.



Free School Meals – If you are on certain benefits, your child may be entitled to free school meals. If you have children in Years 3-6, you need to visit the following website and apply online.

<https://efsm.bristol.gov.uk/pls/educa/f?p=106:101>: If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or 2, you can collect a form from the school office, complete the details and the office staff can complete the check for you online. Although these children are entitled to universal infant free school meals, your child will then be entitled to pupil premium funding. To find out more about pupil premium funding, please visit our school website:

https://www.waycroftacademy.com/web/pupil_premium_1/253602

Changes to the school office – Please be aware there have been some changes in our school office. There are now only two in the main office rather than four. The rest of the administration team are now based in the offices across the car park (previously the caretaker’s bungalow) as their roles cover the whole multi academy trust and are not Waycroft specific. Please can you help our office team by checking newsletters and the website for dates and key information before phoning the office and be aware that we will not be phoning home routinely when children have forgotten something. Children need to make sure they have their homework books, PE kits, instruments and after school club equipment on the appropriate days. We do have a small collection of spare PE kit that children will borrow if they forget their kit.

Uniform – It has been lovely to see the children returning to school this term in full, smart uniform. Just a reminder that all children should be wearing **plain** black shoes to school. Separate footwear **must** be provided for PE lessons. For a full list of uniform requirements, please visit our website.



Just a reminder that we are a cashless school. Therefore for those parents that do not have access to online facilities and are unable to use their



Parentpay account, we can issue you with a paypoint card and/or barcoded letter that will allow you to pay for items at a local paypoint store. If you need your password reset for your Parentpay account, please speak to the office who will be able to reset it for you.

School lunches – Parents/carers will be invited in to enjoy a school dinner alongside their child on the following dates.

Y1 - Thursday 27th September 2018

Y2 - Thursday 25th October 2018

Reception - Thursday 22nd November 2018

Nursery - Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th January 2019

Y3 - Thursday 14th February 2019

Y4 - Thursday 21st March 2019

Y5 - Thursday 23rd May 2019

Y6 - Special Post SATs Lunch on Friday 7th June 2019
These dates are replacing the Mother’s and Father’s lunches as they were too popular last year!



A little thank you to all of the parents/carers for their patience and support this morning during the school drop off time. It was great to see parents, carers and children being supportive of each other whilst the fire alarm sounded.

Attendance & Lateness - Our whole school target this year is **97%**. Attendance will continue to be a focus for our school this year. Our attendance is below what is expected of us by the government and poor attendance also has a detrimental effect on your child's learning. Please make sure your child is in school and on time. Any child arriving in class after 9am is given a late mark and after 9.20am is given an unauthorised absence. The school gates open at 8.45am for the children to enter school.

If you need to request time off school you must fill in a Leave of Absence Request form. These are available from the office. As per last year, we will continue to be tough on holidays in line with our attendance policy and it is unlikely any holidays will be authorised, even if it includes visiting unwell family or family weddings, as children do get 13 weeks school holidays spread over the year. Leave of absence must be exceptional to be authorised.

Term Dates & INSET Day 2018/19

- Term 1 Monday 3 September to Friday 26 October 2018
- Term 2 Monday 5 November to Friday 21 December 2018
- Term 3 Monday 7 January to Friday 15 February 2019
- Term 4 Monday 25 February to Friday 5 April 2019
- Term 5 Tuesday 23 April to Friday 24 May 2019 closed on 6 May 2019 for the Early May Bank Holiday
- Term 6 Monday 3 June to Tuesday 23 July 2019

INSET DAYS

Friday 26th October 2018

Friday 15th February 2019

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Theme Lunch - On Wednesday 12th September we will have our first themed lunch of the year. This time it has a Roald Dahl theme.

The Twits Wormy Spaghetti Bolognese with Garlic Bread

George's Marvellous Cheesy Pizza With Potato Wedges

Willy Wonka's Scrumdiddlyumptious Chocolate

Brownie With Mint Custard

Salad Bar will also be available



School Improvement Priorities - Each year we look at areas we need to improve in the school to support the learning and development of children and to provide the best possible education we can. This is called our Academy Improvement Plan.

This year we have 8 areas we are working on. Below is an outline of these areas. A more detailed description of each area is attached to the newsletter.



- Pupil outcomes
- Staff and pupil wellbeing
- Curriculum development
- Parental engagement with the school as a whole and in their children's learning
- Outstanding teaching and learning
- Systems and processes
- Early Years
- Disadvantaged learners

Tulip Photography - The individual and sibling photographs will be taken on Wednesday 10th October. Please ensure clean uniforms and smiles are at the ready!

Dates for the diary for term 1:

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|----------|----------------------------------|
| 27.09.18 | Y1 child and parent lunch |
| 03.10.18 | How are we doing? Meeting 2:30pm |
| 04.10.18 | School Census day |
| 10.10.18 | Photographs |
| 23.10.18 | Parents' evening |
| 24.10.18 | Parent's evening |
| 25.10.18 | Y2 child and parent lunch |
| 25.10.18 | Last day of Term 1 |
| 26.10.18 | INSET Day |
- More dates will be published in the next newsletter.



Roads around the school - The roads around school can get very congested during drop off and pick up times. Please make sure you are parking safely and not obstructing resident's driveways. We will be talking to the children about road safety but we also ask that you talk to them about how to cross the road safely and about stranger danger.



Yours sincerely,

Lisa Craig, Head of School