

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – 07/09/2018

Dates for September:

Monday 10th - Reception class staying for lunch this week until 1.00pm
Wednesday 12th - Meet the teacher reception class at 1.00pm
Meet the teacher year 1 & 2 at 3.20pm
Thursday 13th - Individual school photographs (siblings 8.30am-9.00am)
Friday 14th - Parent tour for 2019 at 9.30am
Meet the teacher year 3 & 4 at 3.20pm
Monday 17th - Welcome service, All Saint's church at 9.15am (everyone welcome)
Parent tour for 2019 at 11.00am
Meet the teacher year 5 & 6 at 3.20pm
Wednesday 19th - Year 5 & 6 curriculum PE at Gemini gym at 1.30pm
Thursday 20th - Parent tour for 2019 at 9.30am
Backwell school open evening at 6.30pm
Monday 24th - Parent tour for 2019 at 11.00am
Wednesday 26th - Year 5 & 6 curriculum PE at Gemini gym at 1.30pm
Thursday 27th - Nailsea school open evening at 6.00pm

Car Park

The start of the academic year is a good time to remind everyone of the most sensible way to use the car park:

1. Please try to move round the car park in a clock wise direction.
 2. If you should meet a car at the entrance to the car park as you are trying to exit please (wherever possible) reverse to allow the car entry. This means that cars will not have to reverse on Wraxall hill. Not only is it dangerous but it only takes about 4 or 5 cars to be in a queue on Wraxall hill before the traffic on Bristol road is impacted. We appreciate that there are times when cars on Wraxall hill deliberately hang back and give exiting cars right of way, it is when the entering car is parallel with the gate and starting to turn that the problem occurs.
- We understand how tricky this can be and we really appreciate your help in this matter.

We would also respectfully ask that families keep to the path when walking through the churchyard.
Thank you.

Tennis

Last call for tennis club, it looks like this will not be going ahead in the Autumn term unless there are a few more children who would like to join.

FWSA:

A date for your diary : The AGM will take place on Thursday, 4th October at the Battle-axes 7:30pm.

Church News

Saturday 15th September 19:00 - Skittles Fundraising Evening, Grove Sport Club
Food provided, bar available, raffle and much fun to be had. Why not put a team of six together?
£2 per player. Contact Fran franmbinding@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

Sunday 23rd September 16:30 - Food@4:30, Cross Tree Centre
We will be "Getting Ready for Harvest", hot food will be served suitable for all diets. Please contact Jules Harris jules.curate@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Friday 5th October 19:00 to 22:00 - Parish Harvest Barn Dance, Failand Village Hall
Come and celebrate the Harvest!
Tickets include a ploughman's supper
Adults £6
Children £3
Family (2 Adults + Children) £15
Please contact the Parish Office info@wraxallwithfailand.org.uk for tickets.

Message from Mr Tucker

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just before I launch into the, 'Come on, own up, who shrank my suit over the holidays because it certainly wasn't this tight in July' bit, I must just say how delighted I was to see everyone on Tuesday. It is not something I have felt before and certainly do not expect it to last, but there we are. Welcome back!

Beth looked at me and I looked at her. It was quiet in Reception. Too quiet. Dispatched to check on how the new inmates members of our community were settling in, I snuck down and nervously poked my head around the corner. I was surprised and not a little agog at the scene that greeted me: no tears, beautiful playing and new friendships quickly being established. That is not what we had pencilled in for 9:15 on the first day of term. Mrs H was practically beside herself with joy and neither she, nor Mrs Davey, could stop beaming. They have had a smashing first week; fitting into Wraxall life so smoothly - they should be very proud of themselves.

Upon consulting with Mrs Brierley and Mrs Harris, it appears that Year 1/2 have been setting the world on fire too. In their class, marbles are earned for good behaviour. So far they are red lining at an impressive (at the time of publishing) 44 marbles. Normally, once they have been awarded a set amount, a small reward is bestowed upon them; say, den making for an afternoon. If they carry on with this upward trajectory, we are going to have to book them on a two week cruise around the Med, all expenses paid. If they can keep up the standard of writing I saw on Thursday, this is going to be one fantastic year for them.

Over in Year 3/4, they have been exposed to a whole plethora of activities, from writing about their summer holidays; to measuring with a ruler accurately; to painting their portraits (Picasso style, no less) and even a bit of (I shudder to type this) drama. Wombling into the hall this morning, I came across them acting out a scene from 'Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells which is their new class book. They had to contrast the summer season when the villagers are happy and carefree, with their time in the winter when Starjik comes on his sleigh pulled by wolves and a child always disappears! I cannot wait to see the writing this role play stimulates.

As one would expect, Mr Khanna has wasted no time whatsoever and Year 5/6 have hit the ground running this year. Already they have been learning about how to use a text to support their answers in comprehension [top tip: if you ask your children at home about why something has happened in their book or what they think has happened to X, try to insist that they prove their answer and start their sentence with, 'I know this because...' - it is a great way of them having to justify their opinions] and even been 'playing' with maths. For example, can you use 4, 4, 4 & 4, +, -, x & :- to make all the numbers from 1 to 20? So, $4+4=8$, the other $4+4=8$, then calculate $8 \div 8 = 1$. They also looked at the work from Jo Boaler who is a professor at Stanford University. In a nut shell, her research proves that there is no such thing as a 'maths person' or 'not a maths person'. Everyone can learn and get better at maths. I could not agree more.

For the first time this year, our Stars of the Week are Christopher & Felix in Year 1/2, Maisie & Max in Year 3/4 and Mathew & Marlowe in Year 5/6. What a a super way to kick September off. The house with the most conduct marks was Dragons who also had the highest number of work marks.

Well done everyone who took part in the summer reading challenge. All in all, more than half the school entered the initiative and, as a result, managed to keep their reading skills sharp over the holidays. In the upcoming weeks, there will be book recommendations on stories we believe to be quality literature which you may wish to read with your children. It is so important that they read to you at least four times a week but it is equally important that they are still read to. All the best writers are good readers who steal vocabulary, sentence structures and ideas from the books they encounter.

As is tradition at Wraxall, our new Reception children are having a church service dedicated to them. It will take place on the 17th September, with the whole school taking part. All parents are invited to help us welcome the youngest members of our school into our community.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. Oh and thank you so much to everyone who deemed it necessary to mention Bristol's resounding victory over Bath. It is very unbecoming to gloat and it shall not be forgotten.

Mr Tucker