



Executive Headteacher Newsletter

Proud to
Belong

July 2021

Dear All

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience and support throughout the school year. It has certainly been an eventful year in so many ways and we couldn't have got to the end without your kind words, encouragement and support.

There are a number of really important updates in this newsletter so please take the time to read it carefully and contact Mr Barrington-Wilding (Infants) or Mrs Tkocz (Juniors) if you have any questions.

Andrew Wilson
Executive Headteacher



STAFFING UPDATE - GOODBYES

We have a number of staff moving on at the end of term:

At the Infants, we want to say a huge thank you to Miss Mullis and Mrs Briggs-Mould. They have both done a tremendous job teaching the children and planning exciting opportunities to hook the children into a love of learning.

At the Juniors, we want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Garraway, Mrs Webber, Miss Collins and Miss Longmore. They have all worked tirelessly to make sure the children are well taught, supported and looked after.

For Mrs Garraway we need to say a special **THANK YOU** to celebrate more than 20 years of service to the school. Many children and families have been supported by Mrs Garraway in a whole variety of ways. She has dedicated many years to the school and has been instrumental in developing the school's pastoral work.

We wish everyone the very best with their new adventures and very much hope that they will stay in touch.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We also need to say welcome to a number of new staff. At the Infants we want to welcome Mrs Matthews and Miss Briggs who will be joining our team of teachers in Year 1 and Early Years.

At the Juniors, we will want to welcome Miss Taylor and Miss Park to our team of teachers and Mrs Gerretsen to our team of support staff.

Mrs Pileggi and Mrs Preene have also returned from maternity leave this week. It's great to have them back 😊

YEAR 2 AND YEAR 6



We want to take this opportunity to wish the children in year 2 and year 6 the very best as they transition to their new schools. We can't express how proud we are of each and every one of them. They have shown enormous resilience and perseverance over the last year or so.

We look forward to hearing about their adventures and very much hope that year 6 children will pop back in the Autumn to let us know how they're getting on. We have a few children joining year 3 in September who haven't come from the Infants so we also want to welcome them to the Wroughton family. We hope everyone settles into their new schools quickly.



ACADEMY CONVERSION UPDATE

As you know we recently held a consultation regarding the proposed conversion for both Wroughton Infants and Juniors to become academies and to join Grove Learning Trust. Consultation closed on Friday 18th June and the responses to consultation can be found on our website with a frequently asked questions document:

<https://www.wroughtonfederation.co.uk/pages/key-documents/academy-consultation-2021>

The Governing Body considered these views as part of the application submitted to the Regional Schools' Commissioner. The South West Head Teacher Board that advises the Regional Schools' Commissioner, met to consider our application on 6th July.

I wanted to write before the end of term with an update regarding this proposed conversion. It gives me great pleasure to let you all know that Hannah Woodhouse, the Regional Schools' Commissioner for the South West, has granted the Academy Orders for both schools to join Grove Learning Trust.

The next stages of the conversion process are expected to take until December / January and we will keep you updated as we pass through each milestone. As part of this, there will be further opportunities in the autumn to discuss the conversion and to ask any questions you might have. We will review our risk assessment in line with Covid restrictions at the time, however we hope this will be a face to face opportunity to discuss the planned conversion.

Outside the formal conversion there has been lots of excellent collaboration taking place between our Wroughton schools and the two existing Grove Learning Trust schools. This has been through:

- Senior Leader networking and school improvement forums
- Key Stage 1 (Infant) moderation of teacher assessments (inc a visit to Eastrop Infant School)
- Early Years networking linked to the statutory changes to Early Years education coming in from September
- Humanities subject leader coaching and school improvement projects

This collaboration will continue to develop in September, ahead of the proposed formal conversion to join the Multi Academy Trust towards in January 2022. The Heads of the four schools and I will be looking for school improvement projects that align with the other schools as a starting point for further collaboration. We will also continue to look for opportunities for all staff to network and learn together in ways that will enhance the educational provision across our schools.

CORONAVIRUS MEASURES IN SCHOOL

We know that many people are excited by the opportunities available now that legal restrictions are being lifted and we will gradually reflect this lifting of restrictions in school from September however, **we ask that everyone makes carefully considered choices about the wearing of face masks and social distancing whilst on the school site.**

Almost half of our staff have not yet had their second vaccination and they will not be fully vaccinated until mid or late September. With this in mind, we will support anyone that wishes to wear a face covering during drop off and pick up and we ask that visitors respect the measures that we intend to keep e.g. hand sanitiser, social distancing where possible, limited numbers in busy spaces around school etc.

Whilst we need to learn to live with the virus, we also want to protect your children, your family and our staff to the best of our abilities. We have plans to gradually reintroduce some school events from September, for example productions and visits to classrooms, however these will be under constant review and we will work with staff and health professionals at the appropriate times before communicating exactly how each event will be run.

We very much hope that we will not be closing classes in the autumn however we need everyone to understand that even though 'bubbles' are not going to be in place from September, in line with Government guidelines, if staff have to isolate because they have a positive covid test, there is a risk that we will be closing classes due to staffing shortages. It will only take a few staff members to contract covid for us to be stretched in terms of covering absence. We will of course update our outbreak management plans in September and share these via our website and in newsletters.

PE KIT

From September we will still be asking children to come to school wearing their PE kit on their allocated PE days. Class teachers will let you know at the start of term when PE days are. We are just finalising the timetables.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We would like to remind you that we have a training day on 1st September so staff can receive their annual safeguarding training. This means that **term starts for children on Thursday 2nd September.**

DROP OFF & PICK UP TIMES

We want to avoid crowding on the playgrounds in September so the following arrangements will be in place from the start of the new school year:

INFANTS

Year 1 & 2 classroom doors open at 8:40am and close at 8:55am. You can drop off at any point during this window. Early Years classroom doors will open at 8:50am. The end of day pick up is at 3pm. Please collect children from the classroom doors.

JUNIORS

Classroom doors will open at 8:30am and close at 8:40am. You can drop off at any point during this window. The end of day pick up is at 2:45pm. Please collect children from the playground.

TERM DATES 2021 - 2022

We have recently received an update from the Department for Education informing us that there has been an amendment to the Education School Day and Year regulations 2021, which has amended the total number of school days in the academic year 2021-2022 to allow for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. In accordance to this, Swindon Borough Council have amended the School Term dates for 2021-22 so that the last day of term will be Friday 22nd July, NOT Monday 25th July. We had a training day planned for Monday 25th July so we have had to move this to earlier in the term. So that everyone is clear, the term dates for next year are below.

TERM 1: Thursday 2nd September – Wednesday 20th October

TERM 2: Tuesday 2nd November – Friday 17th December (1:15pm finish for Infants & 1:30pm finish for Juniors)

TERM 3: Wednesday 5th January – Friday 18th February

TERM 4: Monday 28th February – Friday 8th April (1:15pm finish for Infants & 1:30pm finish for Juniors)

TERM 5: Monday 25th April – Friday 27th May

TERM 6: Wednesday 8th June – Friday 22nd July (1:15pm finish for Infants & 1:30pm finish for Juniors)

TRAINING DAYS:

Wednesday 1st September
Monday 1st November
Tuesday 4th January

Monday 6th June
Tuesday 7th June

FRIENDS OF WROUGHTON PRIMARY FEDERATION

We want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the team of Friends that have continued to organise events despite the many restrictions that have made event planning so much more complicated. Thanks to their continued hard work and dedication, the children have benefitted from activities and events being subsidised. The Friends are also now in a really good place to be able to fund further events next year.

Thank you to everyone who has given up their own time to plan, organise and lead events like the scarecrow trail. These really do make a huge difference to the community but also the children in both schools.