



School Newsletter

**FRIDAY 13TH
OCTOBER 2023**

Headteacher:
Mr N Lamorte

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A MESSAGE FROM MR LAMORTE - HEADTEACHER

It's been a very busy few weeks, as always at Wychall Primary School. It was World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10th October, and we held a special assembly for this on Wednesday with children. We emphasised that as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, we recognise Article 24 (health and health services): Every child has a right to the best possible health. We discussed the importance of talking to someone when you need help and support, and what things you can do to help yourself, such as exercise and doing things you enjoy. We also spoke about showing kindness to yourself and others. For more information please search for [World Mental Health Day 2023](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/world-mental-health-day-2023) | [Mental Health Foundation](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk).

We have also relaunched our Wychall Behaviour Expectations, with a real focus for another month on 'Engaging with Learning'. I held a special assembly and shared a video, starring some of our own children, who talked about the impact that the children who do not engage with learn, have on them. It was very insightful. We have given the children the key vocabulary to know exactly what they need to do to 'Engage with Learning' and reflect on their own behaviour choices. A BIG THANK YOU to Mrs Jones for working so hard in developing the new behaviour curriculum.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - We are currently enjoying learning about a range of prominent and successful black people from the midlands during Black History Month. We made the decision, with the support of Mrs Wales (Y6 teacher), to educate the children on people who come from a close geographical area to school who have gone on to be incredibly successful in their lives. Each class is learning about one or two people and creating a page to put into a book, to be displayed in school. Children are learning about a range of people including: poet Benjamin Zephaniah and athlete and presenter Denise Lewis. See the piece of work to the right completed about footballer Jude Bellingham.

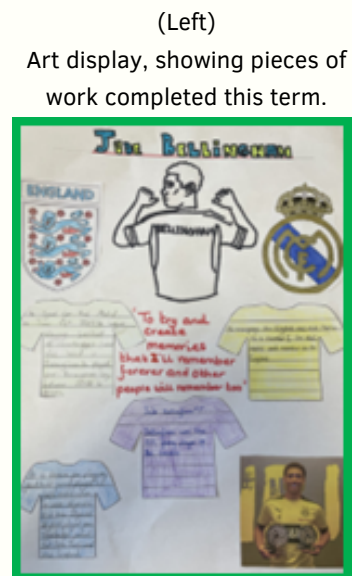


BOOK SWAP - One of our priorities this year is to focus on reading for pleasure and this starts in the home. Some of you may have noticed that in the foyer area of school, we now have now set up a 'Book Swap' area. There are a selection of books for both adults and pre-school children to read at home, and all that is needed is to swap one in its place. One important note, if you or your preschoolers, look through the books, please leave them in a neat and tidy order. A couple of my favourite books include the Dan Brown series and the Beach by Alex Garland. Mrs Jones has really enjoyed *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Most of the books for pre-schoolers were donated by my daughter who has enjoyed them all, particularly the fairytales. Bring a book, take a look and then do a swap!

As I previously informed you, on Monday 2nd October, we were visited by one of His Majesty's Inspectors, to engage with us in a research project. We were one of 50 schools to participate across both primary and secondary phases, and it was a very thorough day. Whilst I reiterate this was not an inspection, some feedback was provided for the quality and design of the curriculum, the wide range of opportunities children were presented with, and the strength in support provided for children with SEND within Art. Both children and staff were spoken to and all did us proud.



(Right) Work completed by Year 6 about talented footballer Jude Bellingham.



(Left)
Art display, showing pieces of work completed this term.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open during Parents Evenings and Children will be given access during the school week.

 **SCHOLASTIC**  **TRAVELLING BOOKS**

FREE BOOKS
FOR YOUR
SCHOOL WHEN
YOU BUY AT
THE BOOK FAIR!

COME **TO** 
the BOOK FAIR!

A POP-UP
BOOK-STORE WITH
HUNDREDS OF BOOKS
FROM JUST
£2.99

**LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE
OVER £5.3M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE**

KEY DATES

WYCHALL OPEN DAYS

WED 8TH NOV 2023 - 9:30AM

WED 15TH NOV 2023 - 9:30AM & 6PM

WED 22ND NOV 2023 - 9:30AM & 6PM

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOS

THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2023

PHONICS / READING WORKSHOPS

MON 16TH OCT 2PM - RECEPTION

FRI 20TH OCT 2PM - YEAR 1

PARENTS EVENINGS

TUES 7TH NOV - 4PM-6:30PM

THURS 9TH NOV - 3:30PM-5PM

MULTIPLICATION WORKSHOP

FRI 24TH NOV 2PM - YEAR 4

FRI 1ST DEC 2PM - YEAR 3

SATS MEETINGS - YEAR 6

DATE TO FOLLOW

SATS MEETINGS - YEAR 6

DATE TO FOLLOW

CHRISTMAS

WED 13TH DEC - CHRISTMAS MEAL &
JUMPER DAY

THURS 14TH DEC - CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas

After the great success of the Summer Fete, we are starting to plan for the Christmas Fair which will take place on Thursday 14th December.

We will be asking for donations leading up to the event.

Friday 27th October - the children can come into school in non-uniform with a donation of toiletries (shampoo, bubble bath, face mask etc) or bottles (pop, squash, jars, alcohol etc)

Weeks beginning:

Monday 6th November - bottles, toiletries and wrapping paper

Monday 13th November - toys

Monday 20th November - chocolate (bars, boxes, hot chocolate etc)

Monday 27th November - bric-a-brac, wrapping paper

Monday 4th December - chocolate

Monday 11th December - food donations



School Lunches



If any children who have a packed lunch from home would like the menu below, please let the main office know. Thank you

Attendance

We understand and appreciate that children can become ill at any time and it's not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or to keep them at home. If your child is ill then please let school know as early as possible giving full details of your child's illness / symptoms. If your child's absence falls below 90% (persistent absentee) then medical evidence will be required to authorise the absence.

Please see below some general information regarding if your child is ill and you are unsure what to do.

RED - Stay at home - Sickness & Diarrhoea. 48 hours must have passed from the last episode before returning to school.

Amber - Seek Advice - Sore throat, feeling sick, stomach ache - contact the school for advice.

Green - Come to school - Mild cough, runny nose, feeling tired, headache - If you let a member of staff know and we will monitor your child throughout the day and if they are unwell then we will always contact you.

*If you suspect symptoms of covid then please always take a test to rule this out

Thank you to all parents/ carers for helping to raise our school attendance.

Internet Safety - WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows users to send messages, voice messages, images, and videos and to make calls.

Did you know that you are meant to be 16 to use WhatsApp? According to Ofcom (2020), 33% Of 5–7-year-olds and 64% of 8–11-year-olds use messaging apps/sites. It is therefore highly likely your child or their friends are using WhatsApp.

How can I help keep my child safe?

- You need to decide what is right for your child depending on their age and maturity. High numbers of children use these apps and it can be hard not to be included. If they are going to use WhatsApp, the best way you can keep them safe is to have lots of conversations about how they and others are using WhatsApp, what they have seen, anything that has surprised or worried them, and what the risks might be.
- Encourage them to be kind to others, and to think carefully about what they share. Talk about how it might make them feel if they are removed from a group, or they see something that scares or upsets them. With children, we would recommend regularly looking through their messages. You might be surprised or shocked by what children share, but it's important to keep your eyes and ears open.
- We would also recommend keeping phones and devices out of bedrooms. You don't want your child messaging their friends until midnight on a school night (and that's a high probability if phone use is unsupervised at night). You also want to have a good understanding of who they are messaging.
- If you consistently show an interest from a young age, it will feel less intrusive as they grow older.
- Please click on this link for more useful tips and information: [How can I keep my child safe on WhatsApp? \(kidscape.org.uk\)](https://www.kidscape.org.uk/whatsapp/)

Looking after a child or young person's wellbeing = Mental Health Awareness Week.

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.



Messages from Miss Stanley

Household Support Fund

The Household support fund has suspended for the time being for new applications due to a backlog. Anybody that has applied, please be patient and your application will be processed once the service resumes.

Food Aid

If you are in a position whereby you are struggling to provide meals for yourself or children, please come and see us. We are a food bank referral agency. The B30 foodbank operates from Friends Meeting House in Cotteridge on Tuesdays and Fridays weekly.

If you feel this service would benefit you please come and speak to Miss Stanley or Mrs Jones in confidence.

Secondary School Applications

Applications are now **OPEN** for secondary school applications for entry in **September 2024**. The closing date is **31 October 2023 at 11:59pm**. It is really important that you apply on time. If you apply late you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools.

Applications for secondary school are to be made **ONLINE ONLY** at the following link:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/apply_for_a_secondary_school_year_7_place/3

Physical Education - Messages from Mrs Benson (PE Lead)

Autumn Term 2023: Curriculum Units of Work: Gymnastics and Dance

It has been a fantastic start to the PE curriculum with all pupils from years 1 to 6 accessing the 'BBX Bangra Dance workshop!'.

The children were engaged in music, rhythm, action and props, such as beating their drumsticks in time to the music! This workshop was arranged to compliment the dance unit with the intent to inspire both teachers and children as they begin to plan, create and perform their own theme's of creative dance.

All teachers accessed a gymnastic training session this week with the intent to raise confidence, skills and knowledge of pupils in the gymnastics unit. The children are always very excited to use the large climbing apparatus, vaults and beams!

Wychall Sport Ambassadors (WSA's)

Pupils in years 3, 4, 5 & 6 voted for the new 'Sport Ambassadors' and they are now proudly displayed on the PE board for the rest of the school to see. They are very excited to begin their new role in supporting PESSPA at Wychall.

School Sport (SS)

Intra and inter school competitions will commence from Spring term 2024.

Physical Activity (PA)

The lunchtime additional PA area is proving very popular with the children. This is supported by our external sports coach Mr Bloomer. Children have access to a variety of physically active games such as, Parachute games, Archery and agility and precision activities. These activities are intended to broaden the range of activities on offer outside of PE and after school sport clubs. Children also have access to football in the MUGA, basketball, skipping, trimtrails and the ActiveAll interactive wall.



REMINDERS

Pupils have access to a PE kit if they do not have theirs on their day of PE. Bare foot work is preferable for the current PE units of Gymnastics and Dance.

After school sport clubs:

- New after school sports club start next term and for all year groups again.
- You will receive a text only if your child has a place.
- Children change into their PE kit, DO NOT come in kit.
- Water bottles is a must

We do operate first come first serve basis and a waiting list.

All of the pupils on the waiting list for Year 3 & 4 Archery will now have a place next term and this will be another Archery club.

Pause.

ForwardThinking
Birmingham

Need someone to talk to?
Struggling to cope with feelings?
We're here for you.

Pause can help anyone under 25 with a Birmingham GP. We listen and help you find solutions – no referrals or long waits.

You choose when and how to use our service:

- Drop-in face to face support is available, check our webpage for dates & venues. Booked face to face sessions are available in certain circumstances.

Or

- Request a phone or video call back, using the website or by calling the registration line.

To find out more and register for support, visit:
<https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause>
or call our Registration Line **0207 841 4470**
(please note local call charges do apply).

Our Service Operates:

- Monday to Saturday
- We are Closed Sundays & Bank Holidays.



Free, safe and anonymous mental health support.

Provided by your local NHS for young people.

Kooth.com **kooth**

Kooth

Kooth is an online counselling support service for children aged 11-18.

Qualified counsellors are available 365 days a year- no waiting lists!

Weekdays 12:00-22:00

Weekends 18:00-22:00

Resources for Parents/Carers for Information around Mental Health and Support

<https://bwc.nhs.uk/young-people-ybm>

Northfield

DADS AND MALE CARERS

Are you a Dad or Male Carer living in the Northfield Constituency?
We want to hear from you!

What support would you like to see in the community for local dads/carers?

Have your say by completing our quick questionnaire.



NORTHFIELD
Community Partnership

Local Early Help Drop In Sessions

- Northfield - Monday's 9am-12pm
- New Starts Frankley - Monday's 9am-12pm
- Hawkesley Community Centre - Friday's 10am-12:30pm



NORTHFIELD
Community Partnership

Rodericks Dental Partners

West Heath Dental Partners Roderick's are taking NHS Patients

225 Longbridge Lane, B31 4RE

0121 476 0976