

Wilby CE VA Primary School



*Together we are inspired to learn within the family of God's love
We encourage one another to reach our full potential within a Christian atmosphere.*

John 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you."

July 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I never thought that I would be writing the final newsletter of the year, not having seen some of you in person for nearly 4 months. In September, when we looked ahead, we never would have thought we would be finishing the year this way. It has been a challenging few months for us all and I pray that we are all moving forward with our friends and family healthy.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff for their hard work this year, particularly during the lockdown period. Whether they have been supporting with online learning, or have been in school with children, they have been working incredibly hard and I know you will want to join me in thanking them.

I'd also like to say a huge well done to the children who have produced some amazing work at home during the lockdown period. We have thoroughly enjoying seeing their work on SeeSaw and they should be very proud of themselves. Of course, also well done and thank you to you, the parents too. We know that it hasn't been easy trying to home school as well as work from home so we really appreciate your efforts.

Thank you to the Governing Body who work behind the scenes and support the staff and children. I would like to say a very special thank you to our Chair of Governors, Mrs Dudley. She has been so incredibly supportive this year and has been in constant contact, sometimes more than once a day, to check on everyone's well-being. Her support, kind words and care has been very much appreciated by all.

On Friday in a zoom leavers service, we will be saying goodbye and good luck to all our Year 6 pupils: Aidan, Alex, Curtis, Demi, Duke, Eva, Jack, Leo, Mia, Millie, Mutsa, Regan and Ryan. We are sad that we haven't been able to do our usual end of year events but we will meet up with them in the Autumn term when it is safe to do so!

Over the next few pages, we will share our plans for a return to school in September. Please be aware that these are provisional and could change if guidance from the government changes before 1st September.

During the summer holidays, we will add some fun activities to SeeSaw if your child would like to have a go but there is no expectation for children to complete them and staff will not be checking SeeSaw. Classdojo will be checked periodically by myself so if you do message, please do not expect an immediate answer. If you have a safeguarding issue, where someone is at risk of immediate harm, and you cannot get through to MASH on 0300 126 1000, then you can ring the school mobile. Please do only contact this number in an emergency.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very lovely, safe and relaxing holiday and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

Kind Regards

A blue rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Lisa Pearce'.

Miss Lisa Pearce

Head Teacher

September 2020 Return to School

You will have heard the government announcement that schools will be open for all pupils' full-time education from September 2020. We have had some pupils in school since June. We approached this with great caution, reviewing all the scientific advice to ensure that we could be as safe as possible. This has gone extremely well.

The Government has stated: *'Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)'. Attendance at school will be compulsory for the vast majority of children. The government has relaxed the rules on attendance during lockdown. However, this will change in September. The government guidance says: 'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.'*

We're working hard to consider how we group pupils together, ensure that we reduce contact between different groups of pupils, and keep the stringent cleaning and disinfecting processes we already have in place to ensure that our school is as safe as can be for your child. Given the size of our school building, this is going to be difficult but we have made plans to do this as much as possible.

Information

The government has said that you must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately.

It is also important that staff and pupils engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a test and you MUST inform us of the results of that test.

Please be aware, in line with current public health guidance, we have to manage confirmed cases of coronavirus, this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by us (based on advice from their local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

School Arrivals and Collections

In order to try and minimise the number of people on the playground at the beginning and end of the school day, we will be splitting the school into two. We will ask one group of children to be dropped off at 8.45am and collected at 3.15pm, and the second group of children to be dropped off at 9am and collected at 3.30pm. We will be splitting the children by families (surnames) not key stages. If you have a preference for a time slot, please let me know by Friday 24th July or you will be allocated a slot. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. We would ask parents who use a childminder to liaise with them so you have the same drop off and collection time. Current guidance says that only one parent should drop off or collect children from school.

We would ask at all times, you apply social distancing rules in and around school. Where possible, we would ask you to drop your child off at the school gate in the morning, rather than enter the playground (we do know that some children will need you to come in with them and we understand this). In the evening, we would ask that you leave the playground as soon as you have your child and not hang around talking to other parents. Separate information will be sent to Reception parents regarding dropping your children off.

Please note, parents will be unable to come into the school building without prior appointment so you cannot just pop into the office at the end of the school day. Any letters or money must be dropped off by children in the black postbox in the playground near the gate and by adults in the white post box in the school porch. If you need to drop off medication, please contact the school before so we can send a form to you and arrange an appointment for you to come into school to drop it off. This does mean that we are unable to allow people into school to use the toilets during or after school hours.

Initially, teachers will not be available to speak to parents in the playground. Parents can contact teachers by Classdojo if they have queries about the day or they can call to talk or make an appointment.

Bubbles

Classes 1 and 2 will form 1 bubble and Classes 3 and 4 will form a 2nd bubble and we will be trying to limit contact between the two bubbles as much as possible. However, due to the limited space in school, we cannot guarantee that they will not come into contact with someone from the other bubble. There will be no whole school events such as collective worship.

Due to limited space within the classrooms, there is not enough space for us to distance the children or to have the children in rows as suggested by the government. Where possible, staff will keep a 2 metre distance between themselves and the children.

Wide Awake Club

Wide Awake Club will take place from 8am but we will have children from Classes 1 and 2 separated from children in Classes 3 and 4.

Hotshots Lunchtime Club / Pacesetters Clubs After School

Hotshots and Pacesetters will share details of the clubs they will be offering in September. Again, where possible, they will keep children from Classes 1 and 2 separated from children in Classes 3 and 4.

Lunchtimes

Initially, Kingswood Catering will only provide packed lunches in the Autumn term.

Hygiene and Handwashing

We will continue with the regular handwashing during the school day, particularly, when the children arrive at school, at break times, lunch times and after sneezing or coughing.

Cleaning

Regular cleaning will take place during the school day.

School Uniform

Children will be expected to wear school uniform to school again in September and PE kits on their PE Ready days. If your child has toileting accidents, we would ask you to send spare clothes in, in a carrier bag which we will then keep in school on their pegs.

Belongings

It is going to be extremely important, for children to limit the amount of things which they bring into school each day. They should only bring to school their reading books / library books **in a book bag**, a water bottle and a lunchbox. **Please do not send in any toys, stationary or rucksacks.**

Reading Books and Library Books

We will be able to send reading books and library books home in September. However, we will only be able to change these on a Friday, so we are able to quarantine any books which are returned over the weekend period with no-one else in school.

PPE

The government have advised that it is not necessary for staff or pupils to wear PPE in school. However, if we have to undertake close contact first aid / toileting issues or if someone is showing COVID 19 symptoms, then staff will don PPE.

Addendum to Behaviour Policy

Context

This addendum is for use as children return to school and the threat of Covid-19 is still with us. It is to ensure that we keep pupils and staff as safe as possible, physically and emotionally. It is impossible for us to deal with behaviour in the same way as children need to remain contained in their own bubble.

New rules that we must impose for safety are as follows:

Safety area	Expectations
Arrival and departure	Children arrive at an allocated time. They bring nothing except a reading books / library books in a book bag, a water bottle and lunchboxes.
Handwashing and hygiene.	Children will wash their hands on entry to school, before break time, after break, before lunch, after lunch, and anytime that they visit the toilet or cough/sneeze into their hands. Hand sanitisers are available in every classroom. School equipment must not be placed in the mouth.
Socialising in school	Pupils must not leave their bubble and will not be able to socialise with children in other bubbles.
Moving around the school	Children must stay in their allocated areas and move around the school as instructed by the adults.
Sneezing and coughing	Children must catch it, bin it and kill it in a tissue. Hands must then be washed. If a tissue cannot be reached in time they must sneeze into their elbow.
Illness	If a child is unwell they must tell an adult immediately.
Water bottles	Children must use their own water bottle only and must not put their mouth near the tap in the bathrooms.
Equipment	Pupils must use their own equipment allocated to them.
Toilets	Pupils must use the allocated toilet. They must flush the toilets after use and wash hands thoroughly.
Coughing and spitting	Pupils absolutely must not cough in anyone's face. They must cough into their elbow. Spitting is forbidden.
Behaviour at home doing distance learning	Pupils must demonstrate the same respect for the teachers remotely as we expect in school. There should be no over familiarity.
Racism	Children will not make racist slurs around the origins of Covid-19.

Rewards for good behaviour and effort

Children will continue to receive house points and merit points.

What happens if a child breaks these rules?

Some consequences have had to be removed from the hierarchy as it is not possible for an internal exclusion to take place. If a child reached this stage, we would have to call the parents and ask them to collect their child from school immediately as the safety of all will be the priority.

Allowances will be made for the age of the children and any underlying issues but deliberate flouting of the rules which do not keep people safe (e.g. deliberate coughing / sneezing / spitting at other people's faces) will lead to school phoning parents and asking for an immediate collection. A risk assessment would then need to be written for them to return to school.

Local Lockdowns

We have had to establish plans as to what we would do if Northamptonshire were to go into a local lockdown. We would revert to what we have been doing since March via SeeSaw.

Home Schooling

We have had a few enquiries from parents about possibly home schooling their children from September. Please be aware that if you want to do this, then your child will be taken off the school roll and their place will become available and we cannot hold this place open. This also means, that we are not in a position to provide parents with any school work or support.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning in September, after some months out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our schools as safe as can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for all pupils, and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required.

Wilby Wide Awake Club

We have had to increase the cost of our Wide Awake club to £3 per session from September. If you have any spaces to carry forward from during lockdown, please liaise with Mrs Mecklenburgh (we do not require any additional money for these sessions to match the price increase).

If you would like to book a place for your child, please complete and return the form indicating which dates, with a cheque for the total amount. (number of sessions x £3)

All sessions for Wide Awake Club need to be booked the evening before so that we can ensure we keep within our ratios. You will not be able to drop children off in the mornings anymore unless a space has been pre-booked.

		Wednesday 2nd September	Thursday 3rd September	Friday 4th September	
Monday 7th September	Tuesday 8th September	Wednesday 9th September	Thursday 10th September	Friday 11th September	
Monday 14th September	Tuesday 15th September	Wednesday 16th September	Thursday 17th September	Friday 18th September	
Monday 21st September	Tuesday 22nd September	Wednesday 23rd September	Thursday 24th September	Friday 25th September	
Monday 28th September	Tuesday 29th September	Wednesday 30th September	Thursday 1st October	Friday 2nd October	
Monday 5th October	Tuesday 6th October	Wednesday 7th October	Thursday 8th October	Friday 9th October	
Monday 12th October	Tuesday 13th October	Wednesday 14th October	Thursday 15th October	Friday 16th October	
Monday 19th October	Tuesday 20th October	Wednesday 21st October	Thursday 22nd October	Friday 23rd October	

Nut Free School



A reminder that we have children in school with a nut allergy, so we are a “nut free” school. We ask parents to be mindful of the products which they send into school in their children’s lunchboxes.

Please do not send in:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter / Nutella sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

Thank you for supporting us with this.