



# Wantage CE Primary School

Newbury Street, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 8DJ

Tel: 01235 762396



Learning for Life

'Life in abundance'

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great start to the new academic year. Last week, Year 6 enjoyed a visit from the Royal Navy; they had a brilliant time completing a range of engineering and STEM challenges with the instructors. The Royal Navy team commented on Year 6's excellent behaviour, concentration and effort during every task.

This week, we enjoyed our annual cross country run around Wantage Park. The weather was most kind to us (despite it being quite windy) and I was so impressed with how hard everyone ran from Year 1 all the way up to Year 6. I would like to thank Mrs Brew for her super organisation and all our parent helpers who joined us on the day. Also, on Wednesday, KS2 enjoyed their first church service at Ss Peter and Paul to celebrate the start of the new school year; our singing of 'Give me oil in my lamp' was particularly exuberant.

## Attendance and punctuality

Some families will have noticed that we had visitors from the Oxfordshire County Council Attendance Team at the school gate this week.

Attendance is an absolute priority for this school year, and this includes arriving to school on time.

The school gates open for everyone at 8:30am. Pupils go into class at 8:40am and the register is taken at 8:50am.

Any pupils who arrive later than 8:50am will need to come in to school via the school office, and they will be recorded as late.

Any time missed from school is learning that is lost. The starts of the school day are vital for children to come in to school in a calm and settled way, ready to learn. Late children not only miss this important start to the day, but their arrival is disruptive to children who are on time. Please do make every effort to ensure that you arrive well in time for the start of the school day.

## KS1/Reception Harvest Service at School

Parents of children in KS1 (Years 1&2) and Reception are invited to our Harvest Festival on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 9:30am. The service will be held in the School Hall.

## Open mornings for next year's Reception families

We will be holding open mornings on the 18<sup>th</sup> October and the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

These mornings are very important events for us and crucial for welcoming new families to our wonderful school and for showing everyone how very good we are.

Please share the dates with everyone you know who has children who will be starting school next year.

Well above national outcomes in all areas for our Year 6 2023

Wantage CE Primary School  
Open Mornings

Wednesday 18th October 9am-10:30  
Tuesday 14th November 9am-10:30

Come and watch our inspirational curriculum in action and see how we develop children's love of learning.

For more information and to book a tour please contact:  
[officewa@wantagece.vale-academy.org](mailto:officewa@wantagece.vale-academy.org)  
01235 762 396



Email: [officewa@wantagece.vale-academy.org](mailto:officewa@wantagece.vale-academy.org)

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## Nursery Open Evening: 17<sup>th</sup> October 5-6pm

Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, our nursery will be holding their Open Evening.

We have a thriving nursery at Wantage CE staffed by an amazing team who make sure that every child flourishes and is so well prepared for starting school. Please share this date far and wide too!

## Our Friends Committee

Thank you to everyone who visited our Friends 'drop-in' at the start of term. We are very grateful to the Friends Committee for running the second hand uniform sale at the front of the school throughout September, and they have also been busy planning some excellent fund raising events for this year.

As always, the Friends are very keen to hear from you if you would like to join them, or volunteer to help out at a one-off occasion. Please do get in touch if you would like to help.

## Friends 'Autumn Colours' non-school uniform day

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding a non-school uniform day to raise funds for the Friends Committee. The theme is 'Autumn Colours'. There will be more information about it coming out nearer the time.

## Healthy snacks at break time

Please can I remind parents and carers that the only snacks we allow at break time are fruit or vegetables. Crisps and biscuits are not healthy snacks for morning play-times.



## Missing Wantage Library Books

Last year, our pupils took out many library books from Wantage Library. In some ways this is a good news story, because it is brilliant how many books are being borrowed and read by Wantage CE pupils. However, the library have contacted us to say that there are quite a significant number of library books that have not been returned.

Please have a look on book shelves or under beds at home, and if you discover any Wantage Library books, please bring them in and we can return them!

## Car parking

Finally, please can I ask parents and carers not to use the school car park unless you have a permit to do so.

The exception to this rule is for parents and carers who use the breakfast club in the morning. **However, the latest we allow breakfast club parents and carers to use the car park is 7:30am.** This is to allow staff to drive easily into school and find a parking space at the start of the day.

## Outdoor Play Equipment

Please do not allow your children on the outdoor play equipment or the banks around the playground before and after school.



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## Harvest Celebrations at Ss Peter and Paul and Holy Trinity Charlton

There will be a Harvest Festival service followed by a free brunch at **Holy Trinity Charlton** on Sunday 1 October. The service starts at 9.15 and there is **brunch from 10.30**. People who aren't coming to the service are still welcome to drop in for brunch any time 10.30 to 12.

The **10.30am** service at the Parish Church will also be a Harvest celebration. There will be a collection of donations of **non-perishable food for the food bank** at all services that weekend.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend. I am enjoying the rugby at the moment, and I will also be packing excitedly for Kilvrough next week.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Browne

## Calendar

Monday 25—Friday 29 September		Y6 at Kilvrough
Monday 25—Friday 29 September		4DG swim every morning
Wednesday 27 September		Cross Country at Wantage Park
Wednesday 27 September		Y5 to Author visit at the Beacon
Monday 2—Friday 6 November		5KH swim every morning
Tuesday 3 October		3LC trip to museum
Wednesday 4 October	9.15 am	Harvest Festival for F1, Y1 and Y2
Wednesday 4 October		3JS trip to museum
Wednesday 4 October	3.30—5.30 pm	Y5/6 Tag Rugby at Stockham
Thursday 5 October	5.45—6.15 pm	F1 Bears at Bedtime
Friday 6 October	3.15 pm	Y6 Cake stall
Monday 9 – Friday 13 October		4PS swim every morning
Tuesday 10 October		Y5 trip to Harwell Campus
Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 October		Parents Evenings
Wednesday 11 October	3.30—5.30 pm	Ultimate Frisbee at Millbrook
Thursday 12 October		Friends' "Autumn Colours" non-uniform day



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