



Wantage CE Primary School

Newbury Street, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 8DJ

Tel: 01235 762396



Learning for Life

'Life in abundance'

Friday 6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term is flying past and I can't believe it is October already!

Parents' Evenings

Next week, we have parents' evenings. Please make sure that you book an appointment to see your child's teacher. Parents' evening meetings are always incredibly helpful, we enjoy talking to you about your child's learning and how well they are doing at school, and they are a valuable opportunity to discuss how we can best work together this year to make sure that every one flourishes at Wantage CE.

Book Fair

With Christmas in mind, we are expecting a Book Fair to arrive next week so please do come and browse the selection when you come for Parents Evening.

Open Mornings and Nursery Open Evening

On Wednesday 18th October we have our first Open Morning of the year, and Nursery have their Open Evening on Tuesday 17th October from 5 – 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to visit and to see what a wonderful school Wantage CE is.

We would like to send our warmest invitation to parents or carers of children who will be starting school in September 2024 – so please encourage anyone you know with young children to visit us!

For us to continue to be able to provide the amazing opportunities and excellent education that we do, it is vital that we are full in every year group, and especially in our reception classes. So please spread the word about us far and wide.

Learn • Inspire • Flourish • Enjoy

Well above national outcomes achieved by our 2023 Year 6 Leavers

Open Mornings

Wednesday 18th October 9:00 - 10:30am &
Tuesday 14th November 9:00 - 10:30am



Come and see our inspirational curriculum in action and get a feel for how we develop children's love of learning.



Wantage CE Primary School

Book Your Tour - www.wantagece.org
01235 762396





Email: officewa@wantagece.vale-academy.org

Web: www.wantagece.org



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Our Behaviour Blueprint

Last academic year, staff and governors spent a long time thinking about behaviour at Wantage CE and how we promote the very best behaviour and attitudes throughout the school. We believe that behaviour is very good at Wantage CE and visitors frequently comment on how polite children are and how calm and purposeful the learning is in classrooms.

Equally, there will always be times when children make mistakes. This is part of growing up and everyone needs to learn to manage their emotions as well to learn how to be kind, thoughtful and responsible.

We have written our behaviour expectations and how we help children to behave well at Wantage CE into a document that we have called our Behaviour Blueprint. I have included a copy of the Blueprint with this letter.

Our three behaviour expectations remain the same, and we always expect all children to be: Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Our approach to behaviour also remains the same. We take a positive approach to helping children to behave well which is best summarised as 'calm and consistent' adults. This is the approach that we have used for many years. Through clear routines and praising children for showing the behaviour we want to see, everyone learns to behave well.

The main difference is that we have taken away the old language of 'stages'. Having 'stages' was helpful when they were first introduced, however over time they had become less helpful, and we have replaced them with what we believe is a much better approach.

When you read the Blueprint, you will see that consequences are still there because it is important for children to learn that if they make a wrong choice, there is a consequence to those choices. Equally, we have included time for children to manage their emotions (what we call 'regulate') if they are struggling to manage their behaviour. We are also placing a greater emphasis on using restorative conversations to help children to talk about occasions when things might have gone wrong and to learn from those situations in a constructive way.

If you would like to discuss the Blueprint with us, please do get in touch.

A couple of reminders

Please could I bring to your attention to these reminders which are important to help keep everyone safe and happy at Wantage CE:

1. Children should not bring in footballs from home. Please remind your son or daughter that the only balls we allow are ones provided by school. This is because the footballs we use at play times are softer than match-ready balls to avoid non-football players being injured by flying heavy footballs.

2. Bicycles and Scooters should not be ridden in the playground or on the paths leading into/out of school. We have had a number of near-misses where children have been enthusiastically cycling/scooting and have nearly collided with families – particularly on the path from the playground past the cemetery.

3. Parents must not use the school carpark after 7:30am. It is dangerous for staff arriving in the morning as well as for children and families walking to breakfast club if parents are driving out of the gates after 7:30am. Thank you for your cooperation with this important rule.



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Introducing Ana Crockford

Ana Crockford is our locality community support service link worker. She has asked us to share a letter from her to introduce who she is and how she can help families. Please do take a moment to read her letter. We have known Ana for many years and she is brilliant at finding support for families who might need it. As always, if you would like to talk to us about how Ana might be able to help you, please let us know.

Harvest Festival

It was lovely to see so many F1 and KS1 parents filling the hall to celebrate Harvest with us. Thank you all for your generous gifts of both produce and donations for the NSPCC.

Bears at Bedtime

Yesterday, the Foundation children were invited back into school in their pyjamas and with teddy bears for a bedtime story. The children loved getting cosy with their friends and even enjoyed some warm cocoa whilst sharing books with Mrs Godfrey. Meanwhile, the parents learnt some strategies to support their children with reading at home. Thank you to all who attended and who made the event a memorable one for the children.



Kilvrough

And finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention what a fabulous time Year 6 had at Kilvrough last week. The weather was very kind to us, and we were so impressed with how every Year 6 challenged themselves and participated in all the activities... including abseiling down a cliff above surging waves and crawling through semi-flooded tunnels deep underground. I would like to give enormous thanks to all the staff who came on the residential (and who sacrificed many hours of sleep in the process) and also to everyone back at Wantage CE who did a great job while we were away.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Browne
Headteacher



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Calendar

Tuesday 10 October		Y5 trip to Harwell Campus
Tuesday 10 October	3.20—6.30 pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 10—Thursday 12 October		Book Fair in School
Wednesday 11 October	3.20—5.30 pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11 October	3.30—5.30 pm	Ultimate Frisbee at Millbrook
Thursday 12 October		Friends' "Autumn Colours" non-uniform day
Tuesday 17 October		Photographer in school
Tuesday 17 October	5.00—6.00 pm	Nursery Open Evening
Wednesday 18 October	9.00—10.30 am	School Open Morning
Thursday 19 October		Flu Vaccinations in school for F1—Year 6
Thursday 19 October	3.15 pm	End of Term 1
Tuesday 31 October		School reopens for Term 2



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