



## Headteacher's Message

I am delighted to say that our new children are settling into school really well.

Therefore, as from Monday 30th September, all children will now come into school via the entrance to Early Years, as they had done previously.

Our Early Years staff will be encouraging children to come in by themselves and rewarding them with stickers for their good work. We hope this will help the children become more confident and independent.

A few parents have mentioned that it is taking some time for their children to be released into their care at the end of the school day. Our priority is to ensure that children are released safely and to the correct person, so if you need to speak to your child's teacher, please could you hold back until all of the children have been released. That way, we can ensure that all of the children are released safely and promptly and that we listen and support you with your concerns.

Please could you also ensure that children do not collect their scooters from the scooter park until all children have been released to their parents. This will help to avoid any injuries. Thank you for your cooperation.

If your child is being collected by someone who is not on their collection list, please ensure that you have informed a member of staff on the door or that you have notified the school office by telephone.

Finally, please read the very important section of this newsletter, entitled Word Aware. It will give you a very useful insight into one of the focus areas on our School Development Plan. We hope that parents will work together with us on this initiative, which will help their child to develop a rich and varied vocabulary. There is a small task in there that we hope parents will undertake to get this exciting project underway.

*Have a lovely weekend!*

**Mrs Cawson, Headteacher**

## School Lunches

Week commencing 30th September we will be on [Week 3](#) of the dinner menu.



## Little Stars!

This fortnight we are celebrating the achievements of the following children who have received a Headteacher's Award for exceptional work and wonderful behaviour or attitude to learning.

- Marysol
- Max
- Toby
- Matthew B
- Harrison
- Sonnie-James
- Nelson
- Tegan
- James C
- Oscar P
- Liam
- Alysia
- Freya T
- Tomasz
- Isabelle M
- Hassaan

A very well done to these children!

## English Open Morning

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October we will be running an English based Open Morning in school for parents from 9am to 10am. This is an opportunity for parents to come along and see an English lesson being taught in their child's classroom. If you would like to come along, please wait in the school hall after drop off until you are called into your child's classroom. As this will be a working lesson we are unable to admit pre-schoolers as it causes too much of a distraction for the children.

Parents of new children to our school are then invited to join the children for a Collective Worship, led by Father Keith, in the school hall from 10.25am-10.45am. The Collective Worship will be attended by Year One and Two, but not by Year R as they will still be settling into school. We do hope that you will join us.

As there will be a short gap between the end of the Workshop and the start of the Collective Worship, new families are invited to stay for coffee with our PTA. So please do pop along to the staff room whilst you wait.

Please remember that there is no parental parking on-site and please park with consideration for our neighbours if you need to park in the local area.

# Useful Information

## *Arrangements for the Teddy Bear Gathering Today*

This afternoon is our Teddy Bear's Gathering from 3.10pm to 4.30pm. However, as the weather is looking a little unsettled so we have decided to run the event indoors so unfortunately this means we are unable to hold a picnic.

As we have changed the format slightly, there will be a cake stall, some crafts and an Adopt a Teddy stand. Our PTA will also be selling second hand uniform.

Once you have collected your child/ren from the playground, please make your way to the staff entrance which is at the front of the building, to the right of the reception area, and a member of the PTA team will let you in at 3.10pm. .

We hope you will enjoy making new friends and that you will get to meet some of your child's new classmates.

Please note that children must remain in your care at all times and must not leave the hall, unless they are going to the toilet. Koosa Kids will be using the ICT on this occasion, so there will be other children in the building.

Please note that alcohol is not permitted on school grounds at any time. This is also a no smoking or vaping site.

Please remember there is no parental parking on-site and please park considerately in the local area if you need to drive to school.

## *Harvest Festival Assembly*

All parents are invited to our Harvest Festival Assembly on Friday 18th October at 9.10am.

This year we are supporting Unicef at our Harvest Festival Assembly. Unicef believe, as do we, that every child, in every country, in every neighbourhood, in every household, has the right not only to a seat in a classroom, but to a quality education – starting in the early years of life, the single most important stage of brain development.

To support this campaign, we are asking parents to donate any old or unwanted shoes to the ShoeShare Campaign. For every tonne of shoes collected, a donation is made by Clarks to Unicef which goes towards education programmes around the world. If you have any unwanted paired shoes, please bring them into school from Wednesday 16th October and leave them in the box by the staff entrance.

We will also be doing a monetary collection for Unicef. If you would like to make a donation, please pop it in an envelope, clearly marked 'Unicef', or our school councillors will have a collection bucket after the assembly. Please note this is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to make a donation.

All parents are welcome to come along and watch our assembly. Year R will be making a very short appearance at the end of the Collective Worship.

Pre-school children are welcome but please take them to the library if they are noisy as some of our children only have little voices and we would like everyone to enjoy the experience.

Please note that we do not allow buggies or pushchairs in the building, under any circumstances. This is due to health and safety reasons. Wheel Chairs are the obvious exception.

## *School Menu*

Our school menu for the Autumn / Winter term will be sent home shortly for parents to choose their child's meals. The new menu will start after the October half term.

In the meantime, we have been gathering information on the children's likes and dislikes. At lunchtime each day, we have two buckets in the hall and they put their wrist band in either one of the buckets, depending on how they found their meal. From this we will ascertain whether we should tweak or completely change certain meal choices.

We hope this will be a useful exercise which will result in further uptake of school dinners.

## *Road Safety*

In order to instil good road safety sense in our children, please could we ask that all parents use the crossing opposite our school when crossing the main road, when coming and going home from school.

Some cars do drive far too fast down this road and we would hate for anyone to be injured as a result of not using the crossing correctly.

The same applies when crossing the road on the school site, within the turning circle.

## **VERY IMPORTANT!**

### *Pupil Premium Forms*

All Year One and Two children have been sent home with a Pupil Premium Form. If you are able to tick any of the eligibility criteria on the back of the form, please could you complete and return this form by 3pm on Monday 30th September if you believe your child may be eligible. Additional forms are available at the office.

This will enable us to claim extra funding and it forms a critical part of our budget. The information you provide will be held in strictest confidence.

### *PTA Annual General Meeting*

All parents are invited to attend the PTA AGM on 10th October at 7.30pm in the school hall. This is an official meeting where the committee members are elected. Every member of staff and parent is automatically enrolled as a member of the PTA but a core group of committed parents are the driving force behind a very friendly and successful fundraising team.

If you would like to be nominated for the position of Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer please write to Mrs Cawson stating your name and a short paragraph describing why you would be good at the position by 9.30am on 4th October.

These statements are then shared with the AGM meeting should a vote be necessary. We hope to see you there!

# Word Aware

Vocabulary levels are strong predictors of later literacy skills. They predict not only how well children will develop reading comprehension, but also their phonological awareness and phonic knowledge. Without a good vocabulary children struggle to understand what they are taught, to express how they feel, to manage social situations and resolve conflicts.

We would like to work together with parents to provide a structured process for teaching vocabulary within a word rich learning environment. This year we will be developing the children's vocabulary as a major part of our School Development Plan and Word Aware will be the focus for the staff training (INSET) on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

By the time children are 5 years old, they typically have an expressive vocabulary of approximately 2200 words. This means, between the ages of 2 and 5 years, the average child will need to learn to use two new words every day. Many disadvantaged children and some with SEN will need to learn far more.

Children need to be immersed in a stimulating language environment and exposed to the wealth of rich children's literature. Children learn new words more easily if they hear them in **full sentences** rather than as single words or in simple phrases and have lots of examples of the same word i.e. child says 'big bird' adult says 'yes it is a big noisy bird called a magpie.'

To help the children develop their vocabulary we select some keywords that your child will be hearing and using in their class and displaying these words on the parent's noticeboard outside each year group. We hope you will continue the learning at home by using and talking about the words in a fun way. The repetition of a word enables children to hear the word again and is a natural way of praising a child's vocabulary i.e. child says 'look it is shimmering!' adult says 'oh yes it does shimmer in the light.'

We will be providing more guidance in our newsletter throughout the year. If you have any good ideas on how you have helped your child develop a wide vocabulary, please come and tell us so we can share with others.

For parents who do not come into the playground, we will send the information to you on Parentmail additionally.

To launch our project, we would like to invite you to take a photograph of what you think a word means to you. This term's word is **community** which is also the value we are talking about in our Collective Worship. An example of this would be a picture of being together, cheering someone up, working well together or being part of a group. We will be displaying the photographs in school at Harvest Festival so please send your photos to the school office by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure that you have the permission of the people in your photo to display it on our wall. If you would like to send the photo to school for us to print please send it to [info@walsh-memorial.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@walsh-memorial.surrey.sch.uk).

We look forward to having a fun year of word challenges.

# Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
	<b>Autumn Term</b>	
27th September	PTA's Teddy Bear Gathering	3.10pm-4.30pm
1st October	English Open Morning, followed by PTA Coffee morning and New Parent Collective Worship	9am-10.45am
10th October	PTA AGM—everyone welcome	7.30pm
18th October	Harvest Festival Assembly	9.10am
21st October	Year One Phonics Workshop	2.30pm
23rd October	Open Evening for Prospective Parents for Early Years 2020	7.00-8.00pm
24th October	Year One Autumn Celebration Day (more information to follow)	
25th October	Break up for Half Term Holiday 28/10/19—1/11/19	3.00pm finish
4th November	Inset Day - school closed to children	
5th November	Individual School Photos (for those who have given consent)	
6th November	Parent Interviews—later slots (more information to follow)	6.00pm-8.20pm
11th November	Parent Interviews—earlier slots (more information to follow)	3.30pm-6.00pm
12th November	Year One Fast Museum Trip (more information to follow)	
19th November	Pied Piper Theatre visiting school— Star in a Jar	
22nd November	Bedtime Story Reading with Silver and Gold Classes (more info to follow)	5.00pm-6.00pm
2nd December	Pause Day—Advent	
2nd December	Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school (more information to follow)	
9th December	Grandparents Christmas Performance—Adults only (more information to follow)	9.15am
10th December	Christmas Performance with pre-school children permitted to attend	9.15am
11th December	Christmas Performance—Adults only	9.15am
12th December	Christmas Performance—Adults only	1.30pm
19th December	Church Visit to St Peter's	1.30pm-3.00pm
20th December	End of Autumn Term—early finish	1.10pm
15th January	Deadline for receipt of Reception and Year 3 applications for September 2020	

**Inset Days 2019/20:** 4th November 2019 and 1st June 2020.

**Please note that the early May Bank Holiday has changed to Friday 8th May in 2020.**