



Wickford Infants' Weekly

A place to learn, have fun and make friends.

Spring Term
2nd February 2018

Dear Parents,

What an amazing week we have had in school! The children have really enjoyed the daily reading challenges and we all thought Al Start's workshop was fantastic - she was really impressed by the children's singing of 'Let's Harvest' and said she had never heard infant children singing it so well!

Next Tuesday 6th February is our Explorer's Day. Each year group will be learning about a different country:

Reception - Australia

Year 1 - Mexico

Year 2 - Russia

The children can come to school dressed as an explorer or a person from another country.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Pauline Francis and the team at The Wickford Infant School

Well done to the following children who all received Head Teacher awards last week:

Isla for being resilient when she found her Maths difficult

Memik for an excellent improvement in his reading at home and at school

Che for always trying his very best with his work

Alfie for inspirational and resilience working so hard to improve his writing

Amelia for being a good friend at Street Dance

Edward for an excellent retelling of a story in the right order

Congratulations to our Readers of the Month for January - Jennifer, Sophia, Luke, Eva, Lily and Owen

Thank you to everyone who has helped their child to enter the 'reading in unusual place' competition. I have been overwhelmed by your support and use of imagination! All entries were excellent, however there could only be one winner per class. The winners are:

Grasshoppers: Zachary reading on the roof.

Bumblebees: Teddy reading on a post box.

Caterpillars: Molly reading in a football goal.

Dragonflies: Libby reading out of a car roof.

Butterflies: Rosie reading on her head.

Ladybirds: Ethan reading in the boiler room.

These children will all receive their prize next week during sharing time when all of the other competition winners will be announced. All photo entries will be on display in the entrance hall by the school office - feel free to drop by and have a look!

Happy reading!

Miss Withers

Our whole school attendance was down last week due to the sickness bug that appeared to affect every class in school. Hopefully we are over the worst.!

Individual class attendance was as follows:

Ladybirds 92.4%

Butterflies 90.7%

Caterpillars 83.3%

Dragonflies 81.7%

Grasshoppers 91%

Bumblebees 93.3%

Well done to the Bumblebees class for the best attendance!

Polite reminders:

- Following and incident this week please can parents and children refrain from waiting in the reception foyer before the gates are open for school.
- Can we remind parents that if you include grapes in your child's lunchbox they need to be cut in half for health and safety reasons - thank you
- Also please ensure that your child does not ride their bicycle or scooter in the playground at 3.00pm to avoid any accidents.
- Can parents please ensure that you are checking your child's book bags on a daily basis, we are noticing a few children's bags still contain letters.

And finally...

- We would like to remind parents that our school and the junior school do not allow any smoking or E-smoking anywhere on the school site, including entrances to the grounds. It is expected that all staff and visitors follow this policy to ensure the safety of the whole community.

We have recently updated our attendance policy in line with guidelines from Essex and there are a number of changes that we need to inform parents about.

If your child is absent from school for any reason you need to contact the school on the first day of absence before 9.20 am. The school has an answer phone available to leave a message if nobody is available to take your call, or call into school personally and speak to the office staff.

You also need to contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.20am.

Also there is no longer any entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday.

It is a rule of this school that a leave of absence shall not be granted in term time unless there are reasons considered to be exceptional by the headteacher, irrespective of the child's overall attendance. Only the headteacher or his/her designate (not the local authority) may authorise such a request and all applications for a leave of absence must be made in writing on the prescribed form provided by the school.

At *The Wickford Infant School* 'exceptional circumstances' will be interpreted as:

... being of unique and significant emotional, educational or spiritual value to the child which outweighs the loss of teaching time. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are events that are "rare, significant, unavoidable and short". By 'unavoidable' we mean an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

We will not agree leave during term time:

- **at any time in September. This is very important as your child needs to settle into their new class as quickly as possible.**
- **during assessment and test periods in the school's calendar affecting your child - for Year 2 this is during the month of May and for Year 1 the week of the Year 1 phonics screening (Monday 11th June 2018)**
- **when a pupil's attendance record already includes any level of unauthorised absence or they have already been granted authorised leave within that academic year.**

3PR – Parking Scheme

You will have seen that your child brought home a pack today to introduce the new park and stride scheme we are starting shortly. We need parent volunteers in the mornings to help give out tokens to children as they enter the park and stride zones in Market Road and Irvon Hill from 8.30 – 8.50 a.m. If you are able to give any time to support this please contact myself or Mr Flitman via the school office and we will explain more. If we could get together a small group to help with this it would be fantastic! Thank you.

Forthcoming dates:

Week 3 of our school dinners

Monday 5th February	E safety parents meeting at Wickford Junior School
Tuesday 6th February	Explorers Day - come to school dressed as an explorer or a person from another country (please note change of date); Valentines Day Lunch
Wednesday 7th February	Year 2 to Wickford Junior School - <i>to be confirmed</i>
Thursday 8th February	Magical Maths morning
Friday 9th February	Break up for half term
Monday 19th February	Children return to school; French lunch menu; Zoo Lab workshop for Year 2
Wednesday 21st February	PSHE Day - Healthy Living
Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd February	Reception health checks
Monday 26th February	Parents Evening - Letters to follow
Tuesday 27th February	Year 1 assembly at 9.15am
Wednesday 28th February	Parents Evening - Letters to follow
Thursday 1st March	World Book Day - come to school dressed as an animal! Dragonflies Parent Lunch at 11.45- Letters to follow
Tuesday 6th March	Year 1 phonics screening meeting for parents Read with Me at 2.15pm - Easter/Spring books
Wednesday 14th March	Sport Relief sponsored event
Friday 16th March	Year 2 skipping festival
Tuesday 20th March	Spring Festival at 9.15am and 2.00pm
Thursday 29th March	Break up for Easter holiday
Tuesday 17th April	Children return to school