



Walton-le-Dale

Wednesday Newsletter

"Through working together, the best is yet to come"

www.wldps.com

Issue 28 – 7th July 2021

Dear Parents,

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

As you will likely have heard from the Government, there will be changes to school procedures from 19th of July. The main one being a lessening of who isolates if a positive case is confirmed. Other than that, school will continue to run as it has until September. That includes masks being worn on site, social distancing and avoiding mixing bubbles.

In September, school life will hold far more in common with pre-Covid times. Details of this new normal will be circulated towards the end of the summer break. As you will have seen from last week's Wednesday Weekly, the year group related staggered start and end times will disappear along with bubbles. We will return to a split infants/juniors stagger, primarily to assist parents with our large site and parking on Severn Drive. In line with Government requirements, school will develop an 'Outbreak Plan', which would see the return of more stringent COVID measures, only to be put in place if deemed necessary when in consultation with the appropriate authorities.

We are really looking forward to returning to full school life from September, including a return to extra-curricular clubs, educational visits, singing and more.

SPORTS DAYS

Please can you ensure your child comes to school on the day of their sports day in their sports kit and house team coloured PE shirt. Your child's water bottle will also be required. If you do not have a team school T-shirt, please find another, matching your child's house team if possible please (see page 3 diary for Sports Day dates).

Children are more than welcome to wear their school cardigan or jumper if they feel they need to be warm, depending on the weather. We are hoping this will be kinder next week than we have experienced this week!

The decision to limit these events to having no parents spectating was obviously a disappointing one for you all, but we still have to follow strict guidelines of only allowing groups of up to 30 persons. Following parental suggestions of admitting one parent for each child, we would not only struggle to enforce this, but would also far-exceed the legal limit of thirty, at a time when the local rate is still rising fast.

Our main focus, however, is to get to the finish line of the end of term without having to send any further year groups home after being informed of positive results within our classes.

SUMMER SWIM CLUB – INTENSE SESSIONS

Over the summer, from the week beginning Monday 16th August, we would like to offer our children intensive daily swimming sessions for any interested beginner or developing swimmer with Justin Daubney our swimming teacher. Sessions for each different ability will take place every morning for 5 consecutive days to help any young children develop their fitness and make faster progress in learning to swim. The cost is £25 for the week (5 sessions). If there is high demand, further sessions will also run during the following week! Please contact the office to book your child's sessions with Miss Hodgson on 01772 335065.

SUMMER WATER POLO CLUB

Over the summer, we would like to offer our confident Junior swimmers (aged 8-11) the opportunity to learn and play water polo. These sessions will be from Monday 16th August to Friday 20th August at 11.30am and children would be expected to attend every day to build up their skills and develop their fitness. The cost is £25 for the week (5 sessions). If there is high demand, further sessions will also run during the following week! Please contact the office to book your child's sessions with Miss Hodgson on 01772 335065.

UNIFORM FROM SEPTEMBER

Following a very unsettled year for all of us, we are planning to return in September on a very normal footing.

Over the past few months, the school has adopted a very relaxed approach to footwear, fully appreciating that parents will have struggled to buy new shoes over the various lockdowns and because many parents understandably may not have thought it wise to replace shoes later in the school year during the summer term.

From September, however, we will expect all children to follow the school uniform code closely with all children requiring white or grey socks and black shoes.

School PE kits will also return to school as normal.

Year 6 will all be asked to wear ties and collared white shirts as part of their normal uniform from the start of the autumn term. Ties are available to purchase from Bamber Bridge Sports shop.

TEMPEST PHOTO ORDER FORMS

Please can Tempest photo order forms be posted in the secure boxes/given in to the school office no later than tomorrow as the forms are to be collected by Royal Mail on Friday.

PTFA GROW THE TALLEST SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

We hope your sunflowers have grown nice & tall! Please send in your photos to be in with a chance of winning! We have three prizes for the three tallest sunflowers. Please send a photo of your sunflower next to a tape measure to show how tall it is to your class teacher, on Class Dojo, by Wednesday 14th July to be in with a chance of winning!

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR SEPTEMBER - CONSULTATION

We are currently planning for next September and reviewing our timetable in order to bring back a level of normality following the changes that have been required since last summer. To alter the length of the school day, we are required to share the following proposed changes with you before presenting any comments to the governing body of the school on the 19th July.

This year, we have slightly shortened the school day. This has been primarily to help a staggered start and end time as well as trying to consider the drain of this most unusual year on all staff. We now have to work our way back to a new normal, as guided by forthcoming government guidance changes for schools.

The proposal:

Reception Classes – Start 8.50am Finish 3.00pm

Year 1 & 2 Classes – Start 8.50am Finish 3.10pm

Years 3-6 Classes – Start 8.40am Finish 3.20pm

The main changes are the infant classes (Y1 & 2) finishing five minutes later than our original timetable and our junior (Y3-6) classes finishing ten minutes later. We don't really feel that longer than this would be beneficial for the age of the children, as they would not learn as well with a much later finish and we strongly believe they need time outside of school each day to be children, see their friends and play. We believe this to be the right balance.

Reasons for these changes also include:

- The staggering of times will undoubtedly help reduce levels of congestion and traffic at the end of each school day and prevent potential accidents.
- Balance the shorter days this year in our children's overall primary education
- Help support children who are increasingly missing large chunks of learning
- Allowing for our staff to feel less squeezed for time and more able to fit everything in. This extra time will help with keeping our curriculum breadth wide across all subjects, as significant portions of the day are taken up with reading, writing, spelling, grammar and vocabulary development.

If you wish to offer feedback regarding these changes, please email head@wld.lancs.sch.uk and it will be shared and considered by the governing body.

BREAKFAST/AFTER SCHOOL CLUB 2021/22

We are now taking bookings for Breakfast and After School Club for the 2021-22 academic year. If your child needs a place, please complete the booking form, which can be collected from the School Office. If your child is already attending the Breakfast or After School Club this year, you do still need to complete a booking form for next year. Places are offered on a first come first serve basis.

CURRENT TRIPS & PAYMENTS AVAILABLE TO PAY ON PARENTPAY

The following may be paid for using Parentpay –

Nursery Fees

Lunch Payments

Breakfast Club Payments

After School Club Payments

Year 1 Educational Visit to 'Bring Yer Wellies'

Year 6 Leavers' trip

Yours sincerely,

C J Shields

Wednesday 14 th July	Year 5 and 6 Sports Day 10.30am Year 1 and 2 Sports Day 1.30pm
Thursday 15 th July	Year 3 and 4 Sports Day 10.30am Reception and Nursery Sports Day 1.30pm
Friday 16 th July	Sports Day Finals 1.30pm
Monday 19 th July	Full Governors' Meeting 5.30pm
Wednesday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers trip
Friday 23 rd July	End of Term – 1.15pm
Friday 3 rd September	Start of Autumn Term



SUPER PUPILS

Congratulations to our "Super Pupils" from last week:

Bison Class- Jayden

Manatee Class- Kieran

Falcon Class-

Eagle Class-

Jaguar Class-

Leopard Class-

Loris Class- Sophie

Kakapo Class- Alfie

Gorilla Class- Joey

Orangutan Class- Ernesto

Elephant Class- Oliver

Rhinoceros Class- Finley