



# NEWSLETTER - 8.9.23



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Events coloured in green are either those which are funded by our enrichment pot or events that contribute to the pot as fundraising. Thank you for your support.

Day	Date	Event
Fri	15.9.23	Individual photos
Weds	27.9.23	Y3 Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Thur	5.10.23	Parents' Evening
Weds	11.10.23	6.30pm Poetry Festival evening - details to follow
Thurs	12.10.23	Nasal Flu vaccinations - see attached letter
w/c	16.10.23	Y6 Assessments
Thur	19.10.23	8.45am and 2.30pm Y1/2 leading Harvest Festival - Y1/2 Grown-ups welcome
Tue	24.10.23	2.40pm Spain Demonstration of Learning
Wed	25.10.23	2.40pm Belgium Demonstration of Learning
Fri	27.10.23	Last day of term

## BUN SALES – 50p

Date	Class to bring buns
15.9.23	Spain
22.9.23	Nursery
29.9.23	Denmark
6.10.23	Reception
13.10.23	Italy
20.10.23	Greece
27.10.23	Netherlands

## TOAST ROTA – 50p

Monday	Reception
Tuesday	Years 1 & 2
Wednesday	Years 3 & 4
Thursday	Years 5 & 6

Week 1
<b>OUR SCHOOL MENU</b> (Subject to change due to stock shortages)
<b>Monday</b>
Salmon Fishcakes with Mayo Vegetable Nuggets Ham Wrap Cheese Bap Chips, Peas and Sweetcorn  Chocolate Mousse Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>
Oven Baked Sausage & Gravy Vegetarian Sausage & Gravy Chicken Sandwich Tuna Wrap Creamed Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans & Peas  Jam Sponge Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>
Roast Chicken Fillet with Sage & Onion Stuffing Quorn Fillets with Sage & Onion Stuffing Tuna Bap Ham Wrap Oven Baked Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Cauliflower  Vanilla Ice Cream Tub Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>
Creamy Chicken Korma Cheese/Tuna Melt Cheese Sandwich Ham Wrap Rice, Mini Naan, Mixed Vegetables  Chocolate Sponge Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>
Margherita Pizza BBQ Chicken Melts Tuna Sandwich Ham Wrap Herby Diced Potatoes and Baked Beans  Raspberry Ripple Mousse Fruit Yoghurt

## **News from this week**

### Settling in

We have been delighted with the attitudes that our children have returned to school with this week. Children have expressed how pleased they were to get back to school and all teachers have been impressed with the settled way in which they have returned.

As for our new children, they have all made a great start to their Withinfields' journey whether they are in Nursery, Reception or other year groups. I know that the Y5 children particularly enjoyed meeting their new Reception buddies on Tuesday and are very proud of their new roles, looking out for them in the playground. The Nursery children found the first day or two a bit tricky when left by parents and carers but now seem to be skipping into Nursery which is really pleasing.

### Active Challenge

Our new active challenge has been set for September! For those new to school, this is part of our drive to be an Active School. We are one of the trailblazer schools for the Calderdale Active Schools Programme and so pride ourselves on the active breaks that we include in lessons, our Withinfields' daily marathon, our Sports' Leader activities which will start again soon at lunchtime and many more activities. Each month, we set an Active Challenge for families to engage with at home and all we ask is that you send us a photograph of your family taking part. The photos should be sent to Mrs Wilson or Mr Griffiths, our Active School Champions, via ClassDojo.

The challenge for September is to send us a photograph of the most exciting active outing that you had during the Summer holidays. We can't wait to see what fun you've all had!

### Little Wandle - Our New Phonics Scheme

The staff in EYFS and Year 1 and 2 have been working hard over the Summer involving themselves in completing online training and preparing the resources needed for our new Phonics teaching. I just wanted to highlight a few points about the scheme prior to the information evening that we will organise later in the term.

The children in Reception will all be starting at the beginning of the Reception scheme of work. The Year 1 and 2 children were all assessed using a placement assessment at the end of last term and will be starting in groups next week. There will be two groups that are starting at the beginning of the Year 1 scheme and a third group that will be filling gaps in their learning from the Year 1 scheme and building their knowledge of how the graphemes can be used to support their spelling. All three groups will be taught by teaching staff with teaching assistants supporting where necessary. Some children will also have short sessions at another part of the day to help them to keep up with the class.

We will be revisiting lots of sounds and the children will be learning some new graphemes for the same sound. This is because Little Wandle teaches the graphemes in a different order to Read, Write Inc and so we have to ensure that they have met all the common graphemes. For example, children in Year 1 will have learned the grapheme 'ow' (as in snow) for this sound but Little Wandle teaches 'oa' (as in goat) first. This revisiting will help though with the children's spelling in the long run.

Children will also have a reading session in a smaller, ability-organised group. For Reception, these will not start immediately as they need to learn a number of sounds before they can start to blend these sounds together to form words to read. For Year 1 and 2, we are hoping to get these started either next week or the week after depending on when the reading assessments have been completed as this is a slightly different assessment.

When your child brings home a reading book, it is their chance to show off! They will have read it in school and learned how to include lots of expression when they are reading so should be able to read the book fluently when they bring it home to show you how clever they are! Please give them lots of praise and encouragement.

Reading books will come home on a Thursday and should be returned on Monday. We will be keeping a log of which child has which book as we have spent over £5500 on these new reading books. We will therefore charge parents and carers for lost books. We are looking into the provision of similar ebooks and it may be that when we get this set up, parents may prefer to read their child's book online rather than having the book sent home.

There are lots more resources available to support parents on <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

As with all new systems, there will be teething problems along the way so do let us know if we're not quite getting something right as we will work with you to improve things for everyone.

## **Information for next week**

### Individual Photos

The photographer will be in school next Friday. Your child's photograph will be taken so that we can include it as part of their formal record. We will also send a proof of your child's photograph home for you to look at in case you want to purchase any copies.

Photographs of siblings who attend school will have their photograph taken together. If you have younger siblings and wish to have a photograph taken of them with their school-aged sibling, you are welcome to come to school anytime from 8.15am to have this taken. Any commission from the photographs goes into our enrichment pot.

### School Gateway issues this week

There have been a number of issues with School Gateway this week especially for our new parents. Hopefully these are all now solved and all parents should be able to access School Gateway to make online payments. Information about how to set up your account are attached with this newsletter.

Every parent, when logged on, should be able to see the following payment options:

**School Dinners:** Children in Nursery, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6, who are not eligible for benefits related Free School Meals, will need to pay £2.50 for each meal that they have. We ask that this is paid in advance of meals being taken please.

**Water Bottles:** These are not compulsory but we do sell Withinfields' water bottles. If you would like to purchase one, pay on the School Gateway and then alert a member of staff in school that you have paid for one and we will arrange for one to be sent home.

**Buns and Toast:** We have reopened these requests given the difficulties this week. If you would rather pay for buns and/or toast for the whole term up until Christmas, you can do this using this option. The payment includes next week, so please ensure that you do this prior to your child's toast day next week (see the top of this newsletter for the days). After Friday next week, the online payments for toast and buns will close and your child would need to bring 50p each week for toast and the same for buns.

**Ordering School Hoodies:** Due to the popularity of our school hoodies, we have decided to do another order. The hoodies are £14 for sizes aged 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/11 and 12/13. There are adult sizes available for our older children at £19.50. We have been told that they fit small. If you are unsure which size to order, we do have a sample of each in school which you can try on your child. They are ordered through School Gateway. Please pay the appropriate amount and indicate the size in the comment box when ordering.. Anyone who hasn't received their hoodie but ordered prior to summer hols will be added with this order. Deadline for orders is Thursday 14th September and they will be ordered on Friday 15th.

If you are likely to need provision in our Out of School Club, please let Mrs McCulloch know in the office and she will make these payment options available to you.

If you are still having problems accessing the School Gateway, please let us know and we will support you in addressing the issues.

### **Other Information**

#### Homework

We do not set formal homework at Withinfields as we know that family lives are busy and that many of our children are involved in clubs and activities outside school. We do though send a half-termly sheet of suggested activities for each class. These are things that

your children may like to do if they have any spare time and are sometimes things that the whole family can get involved in. If your child completes any of these tasks, they can be shared with the classteacher either through ClassDojo or by bringing in the work that they have completed. Dojo points are usually given for the children that make this extra effort.

Children in Years 1-6 should have brought home a paper copy of their homework sheet. Just in case, it hasn't come home, we have attached them to this newsletter.

### Holidays during Term Time

The Department for education has published new guidance that has come into effect from this September. New legislation states that head teachers can now only grant a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. This means that a leave of absence will not be granted for family holidays. If you take your child out of school for a holiday this absence will be marked as unauthorised. If a child has 5 or more days of holiday absence within a school year, we are obliged to refer them to the Education Welfare Officer who will issue a fixed penalty notice. Each parent can be issued with a penalty notice per child. This would mean that two parents with two children can potentially be issued with four Fixed Penalty Notices.

We hope that you will support us by booking any holidays during the school holidays so that we do not have to refer to EWO in this way.

### Car Park and Turning Circle

We will be closing the road as much as possible, where staffing allows, from next week. Only parents and carers with blue badges and residents who live on Withinfields will be allowed through the cones before school and at the end of the day.

If you do have a blue badge, please do not park on the turning circle at the top of the road as our the children from Highbury arrive in minibuses and we do not want them to be prevented from accessing our car park.

Please also be aware that the school car park is not accessible to parents between 8.25am and 9am and from 2.50pm - 3.20pm. If you are coming to school to drop off or pick up at Out of School Club, please be aware that there may be children in the car park with their parents and therefore speed should be kept to a minimum and care should be taken when reversing. Similarly, during the school day, there are often children crossing the car park from Highbury Hive and for children to visit the Wildlife Area and therefore vehicles should approach slowly.

### COVID rules

Covid cases seem to be on the rise again. Although there are no strict guidelines for isolation at the moment, we would ask you to try to keep your child at home, if they are confirmed as having Coronavirus for three days. If

they have no symptoms after this and are well enough to attend, then they should be back in school. Obviously if they are too unwell to attend school, then we would expect them to be absent anyway.

#### Sickness and Diarrhoea

Just a reminder that we have a 48 hour rule after bouts of sickness and diarrhoea. Children should be kept away from school for 48 hours following the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

If you feel that your child has a medical condition which results in them being sick or having diarrhoea, please talk to us about this.