



'Make Every Minute Meaningful'

Dear parents and carers,

Wow, the first month of school has flown by and we are already looking at winter weather! The children have settled excellently; their learning attitudes are amazing and they are really understanding the challenges and rewards of their new year groups.

Please ensure that your children are completing their homework. As a school, we provide a small amount of truly focused homework and it's important that children do this to help them achieve their full potential.

Best wishes, Mrs Mark-Richards and Mrs Webb



Staying Safe

We have been informed that there are lots of children playing out after-school and at weekends. As a school, we support this—it is important that children learn to manage a healthy level of risk and that they are active outside.



However, please ensure that you are always aware of your child's location. They need to be supervised to make sure that they are safe, for example from strangers or from road traffic.



Wellington held some Bikeability training last week for year 5 and 6. Remember they recommend children pass their level 2 before cycling on the road.

Whooping Cough, please see the guidance that we have been given:



There has been a continued increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases at the start of this year, with 553 confirmed in England in January, compared with 858 cases for the whole of last year (2023).

The current increase is coming at a time when there has been a steady decline in uptake of the vaccine in pregnant women and in children. In response to increasing case numbers, the UKHSA is reminding mums-to-be to get protected against whooping cough so that their young baby has protection from birth against this serious disease and to ask their midwife if they are unsure. UKHSA is also urging parents to check that their children are vaccinated against whooping cough, which is offered to all infants at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age (as part of the 6-in-1 combination vaccine) with an additional dose included in the pre-school booster vaccine.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

October 2024

It is Walk to School Month this October. You may have seen Basil the Bird out on the streets, bringing some brightness to a dull, grey day!

Walking, scooting or cycling all count as an active mode of transport so please try to do one of these at least once per week this month—more is even better!

Even this small change can make a big difference to children's mental and physical health, setting them up well for a day of learning.

[Click here for a link to some resources](#)

Online Safety is important for every child and family to understand. However, it can prove an additional challenge for those who are neurodivergent.

Please see below for guidance which is designed specifically to support the families of pupils with SEND.

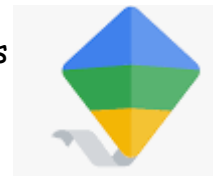
[Click here for the guidance](#)



If you would like further support or a paper copy of the guidance, please make contact with our SENDCo, Mrs Sarah Mark-Richards.

Google Family

We have been recommend Google Family. If you have a Google account, this can allow you to track and limit screen time, ensure children are viewing safe content and generally give you peace of mind.



Take a look and decide if it would work for you as a family.



Hampshire County Council are offering free* courses for parents this autumn term.

To book, visit the website below:

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries>

Course	Location	Date	Time
Raising Resilient Children	Online	Mondays 16 Sept - 14 Oct	7pm - 8:30pm
Introduction to Paediatric First Aid	Online	Tuesdays 24 Sept - 15 Oct, or Tuesdays 12 Nov - 3 Dec	6:45pm - 9:15pm
Time Out for Parents	Alton Library	Saturdays 5 Oct - 19 Oct	10am - 2pm
Emergency Paediatric First Aid	Havant Library	Monday 21 Oct, or Friday 22 Nov or Friday 6 Dec	9:15am - 4:30pm
Makaton Signing with Babies and Families	Gosport Discovery Centre	Thursdays 7 Nov - 12 Dec	10am - 11am
Listen Chatter and Learn	Petersfield Library	Mondays 11 Nov - 2 Dec	10am - 11:30am
Positive Parenting	Online	Mondays 11 Nov - 9 Dec	7pm - 8:30pm
Emergency Paediatric First Aid	Bridgemary Library	Friday 29 Nov	9:15am - 4:30pm

*Tuition is free but some courses may have a certification or materials fee.



Key Dates for your Diary

October:

Wednesday 2nd: School Photos—Individual

Thursday 3rd: Year R parent phonics workshop

Friday 4th: Author visit Year 3 and 4

Friday 4th: Cake sale after school (raising funds for the Duck House)

W/C 7th: Year 6 Mock SATs

Thursday 10th: Year 1 trip to Milestones Museum

Tuesday 15th: Year 3 Butser Hill trip

Wednesday 16th: Year R Nursery Rhyme Day

Friday 25th: Last day of half term

Thursday 24th: Halloween Discos (Timings to follow)

November:

Monday 4th: INSET day—no children in school

Tuesday 5th: First day back at school

Thursday 7th: Year 5 Living Rainforest Trip

Friday 8th: Year 2 Fort Nelson Trip

Monday 11th: Whole school Remembrance Day

Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th: Parent Consultation Evenings

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2024

Nut Free Snacks

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. We have a number of children with serious allergies.

Please help us to keep them safe by ensuring no food with nuts comes into school.

In particular, please carefully check cereal bars.

As a nut free school, we cannot allow foods containing nuts but there are lots of tasty things your child can bring in such as: fruit, vegetables, bread, breadsticks crackers, a piece of dried meat, yoghurt/frubes, cheese.

Please do not send your child in with crisps or chocolate for their breaktime snack.

Thank you for your help!

Wellington PTA AGM

The PTA AGM is on Wednesday 9th October at 8pm on Zoom.

Everyone is welcome please email: PTAwellingtonPTA@gmail.com to request a link to attend.

Collection From School

If you would like someone else to collect your child, please ensure you **email** this to the office.

If this is going to be a regular pick-up, we recommend adding this contact to Arbor to save yourself time.

If you would like support in how to do this, pop into the office.

New attendance rules!

There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

I'm a single parent of one child and I want to go on holiday for 5 days or more.

Let the school know before you book anything and make sure you use the absence request form. A holiday **will not** be authorised. If your child misses at least 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine. This fine is per child, per parent...



1 parent & 1 child = £80 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days

1 parent & 2 children = £160 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £320 if paid between 21 and 28 days

For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



£320 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £640 if paid between 21 and 28 days

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook? Foreign mobile dial tone?
Home visit shows no-one at home? Amazing sun tan?
Children talking about your holiday?



Please don't be offended if we ask these questions or ask for evidence - we're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

NO! If you have a second holiday in a rolling 3-year period you will receive a higher fine of £160 per child per parent. If you have a third holiday in a rolling 3-year period there is an immediate referral for prosecution

2nd TIME

2 parents and...

1 child = £320

2 children = £640

3 children = £960

No discount for early payment!

3rd TIME

A penalty notice fine **will not** be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

*1 parent & 2 children = £5,000
2 parents and 2 children = £10,000*

What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

YES! If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport

Family holidays
Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend, but able to
Poor family organisation
No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW



WELLINGTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Alexandra Road

Aldershot

GU11 1QJ

adminoffice@wellington.hants.sch.uk

01252 326573

Make Every Minute Meaningful

1st October 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Wellington will be collecting Harvest Festival Food on the 9th October for the Community Grub Hub.

CGH is a Community Interest Company (CIC 13739432) based at 2a Windsor Way, Aldershot GU11 1JG (a former St John's Ambulance Station). It is open only on Tuesdays each week but since opening on 7th December 2021 it has served over 1,500 Rushmoor households. On 27 August CGH had 203 household Visitors and gave out 1,100 Kgs of food. Demand over the year has grown and supporting 250 households each week is now normal.

The sort of food that works best are long-life items like rice, pasta, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, canned meat & fish, tinned fruit & vegetables, rice pudding and custard. Soup and cereals are also very popular.

Yours faithfully,

Wellington Community Primary School