



Wivelsfield Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs H Smith BA Hons NPQH

6th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to another busy term at Wivelsfield School.

Despite the seemingly relentless rain, I hope you all had a lot of festive fun and found at least some time to relax in the Christmas break.

The last few weeks of term seemed to fly by in a whirl of snow, the Christmas Fayre, performances, parties and general fun, with as much learning as possible squeezed in between. Rabbits Class will not forget the spectacular Great Fire of London in the snow!

Thank you for all your support at the different events and your generosity in helping to raise money for both the school and St Peter and St James Hospice.

The totals raised were a fantastic:

PTA Christmas Fair and other Christmas events: around £4000

Elf Run, Christmas Post and performance donations in aid of St Peter And St James Hospice: £1832

Nursery Update

I am delighted to let you know that East Sussex Council has officially agreed to the lowering of the age range for the school to 2 - 11 years with effect from 1st September 2023, with the provision of 24 places. The nursery will be accommodated in a carefully designed temporary classroom at the southern end of the school building and governors will be working with the local authority to ensure the nursery is ready to open in September.

Information on how to register your child for a place will follow soon.

Smart Watches

Several children have been proudly wearing new Smart watches to school. These can present a safeguarding risk (as well as a distraction), so I am asking that you do not allow your child to wear these if they have a 4g or 5g connection or function to:

- Send or receive messages
- Send or receive phone calls



- Take photos
- Connect to the internet in any way
- Connect to any apps

A basic fitness tracker without these functions is fine.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Forest School

It is wonderful to have Forest School Sessions in school again. Ms Vince has been planning some lovely activities with the children and they have also thoroughly enjoyed splashing around in the rain scrape now it is full of water after months of drought.

Ms Vince has prepared letters with the Forest school timetable for your child's class this term. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help at any sessions. Ms Vince would welcome any extra support.

Attendance and sickness

Since Covid, higher than normal rates of absence are still evident in many schools and it is a focus of the DfE and Local Authority to ensure children's attendance is as high as it can be. Each year Wivelsfield School sets a target of 97% and this year we are struggling to get near this. Most classes have attendance just above 95%; some are below this but Rabbits currently has 97.88%. Well done Rabbits.

The expectation set by the DfE and local authority is that all children should have attendance of 95% or above. Where attendance is below 90%, it is a significant concern. Next week we will be analysing attendance to the end of Term 2 and some of you may receive letters about this.

However, I am acutely aware that whilst we will let you know if your child's attendance is below 95% and ask you to try to improve it, we then ask you to keep them at home for 48 hours following diarrhoea or vomiting, even if they appear well. At the moment, we are also trying to contain any spread of Scarlet Fever and Strep A, along with Covid and the Flu by asking you to keep your child at home if they are displaying any symptoms of these illnesses. The message is that if your child is ill, they should be at home, but as soon as they are well enough (except diarrhoea or vomiting guidance), please send them back to school. We are happy for your child to come in late if they have seemed poorly first thing but then appear better by mid - morning.

I am also receiving an exceptional number of requests for approved absences. Nearly all of these will not be approved and in some circumstances, the local authority will issue a fixed penalty notice.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or queries.

Class Newsletters

There is lots of exciting learning planned for this term and class newsletters and 'topic webs' with key vocabulary will be sent out next week.

Kind Regards,

Helen M. Smith

Helen Smith
Headteacher

