



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents

We are very pleased with the way that the Early Years Foundation Stage children are coming into school without an adult. Now that everyone is settled I thought I would explain why we request that parents say goodbye to their children in the playground.

Firstly, it is for safety reasons. We cannot cope in our narrow corridors with large numbers of adults and should an evacuation become necessary it would be very difficult to manage the children amongst the adults. We also work very hard to ensure that parents who are not DBS checked do not work with the children unless they are closely supervised by a member of staff. By allowing adults into the school corridor they are able to meet children but are not supervised. Our very young children even tell us that it is scary to have so many big people in the school.

Secondly, we are trying very hard to develop the children's independence. All children in our school are very capable of coming into school and hanging up their PE kit and coat on a Monday morning. We know this as they hang up their PE kit twice a week from Early Years onwards. Independence is such an important skills which will help children throughout their life. It helps children to solve problems on their own and face challenges. It has been researched and proved that independence helps self-esteem and confidence. Children who are more independent are better at working with others. If parents keep doing things for their children it does not encourage children to think for themselves. If the children do not come across a challenge e.g. of losing their water bottle between the playground and the classroom they do not develop the skills of asking for help and making their needs known.

Finally, it is our school rule that parents do not come into the school building in the morning. If, as an adult, you choose to break our school rule what message are you portraying to your child? How are the children supposed to learn which school rule they are going to follow and which one they think their parents will support them in breaking? There are rules in life and we all have to follow them.

You will actually see that some parents are encouraged into the school building. This is for private and confidential reasons which have been arranged between the parent and the class teacher.

I have spoken to Mrs Roper who has reassured me that no adult goes into their child's classroom in the Junior School so parents of children in Year Two need to let their children practice now when they are happy and confident with the building and staff.

Early Years Foundation Stage Parents – Teaching Assistants are going to start important catch-up programmes with individual children from 8.45 am from Monday so will not be guarding the door. Please do not use this as an excuse to sneak in. Please be reassured that we will contact you if your child is distressed.

I do hope this clarifies mine and the school's standpoint on why we do not want numerous adults in school. We only want the best for your children and a calm start is the best way to start the school day.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Suzanne Cawson

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 11

25th November
2016

Phyllis Tuckwell Reindeer Romp



Last week Phyllis Tuckwell Charity team came into school and lead a very interesting assembly on the work of the Hospice. Phyllis Tuckwell is our chosen charity for this Christmas as it is such an important charity for many local families. This year we will be especially remembering Mr Johnson, Mrs Johnson's husband, who we sadly lost earlier in the year.

You will all by now have had your sponsorship envelope. In exchange for any sponsorship the children will receive a set of antlers and a red nose on **20th December**. We will all be wearing our antlers and red noses for a wonderful sponsored Reindeer Romp around the playground (or hall if wet).

To add to the fun children may wear a Christmas Jumper or Christmas colours on this day if they wish. They are welcome to wear home clothes on this day but no dressing up costumes and please ensure that all items of clothing are suitable for a normal school day.

If you would like to sponsor your child, please return the envelope, along with the sponsorship money, to school before 20th December and place it in the post box in the reception area or ask your child to hand it to the school office.

Change to dinner menu week commencing 19th December - week 2

On Tuesday 20th December we will be having our Christmas meal which will consist of:-

British Roast Turkey with stuffing Or Quorn Festive Parcel (v)
Served with
Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes & Gravy
Followed by
A Decorated Christmas Biscuit

Any child who normally has the hot dinner on Tuesday 20th December will be ordered the Christmas meal (special diets will be taken into consideration) but if your child normally has a packed lunch on this day but would like to order the Christmas dinner instead, please let Mrs Tinkler know by Thursday 1st December. Unfortunately, we will not be able to order any extra dinners after that date.

Parent Support Group

On Wednesday 7th December 2016 In the school from 9-10am we are having a Coffee Morning for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. There will be the opportunity to share problems and support each other. You will also be able to meet our new SENCO Mrs Retallack.

If you have not received your personal invitation but would but feel this group may be of benefit to you please just come and add your name to the list held in the School Office. Thank you.

School Lunches

Week commencing **28th November** we will be on **Week 2** of the new dinner menu.

Emerald Class Cake Sale

The Emerald Class Cake Sale is on **16th December** at 3pm in the playground. Please could Emerald class mummies and daddies donate cakes for the class to sell on this day. All proceeds will go directly to Emerald class and they will use the money to buy equipment for wet play and golden time.



Christmas Performances

The wonderful Christmas Elves have been busy making costumes for the Christmas Play. If your child has not been given a personal letter the school is providing the costume and all you have to do is come along and enjoy our performance. Thank you.

A letter has been sent home in book bags this week regarding allocation of tickets for the Christmas Performances. Please ensure that you return your completed form to school as soon as possible to ensure that you are offered your preferred performance date.

If you have misplaced your letter, please ask for a copy at the school office.

Letters to Santa

Our Christmas post box will be put out on 28th November and it will be located in the corridor opposite the staff room, if your child would like to send their letters to Santa.

If you need a copy of the letter that we emailed home about this, please let Mrs Thorn in the school office know.

Taking Children to the Theatre

This week the Travelling Theatre Company came to visit us and performed Burglar Bill for the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and

A visit to the theatre has the potential to be a life-changing experience, as well as an opportunity for a unique kind of learning. It can touch the imagination, arouse curiosity, or fire an artistic impulse. Theatre can also be an exceptional resource, linking as it does to so many areas of knowledge: history, geography, language, citizenship, and much more. That is why we took the decision to include a trip to the theatre as part of our learning.

Discussion Points

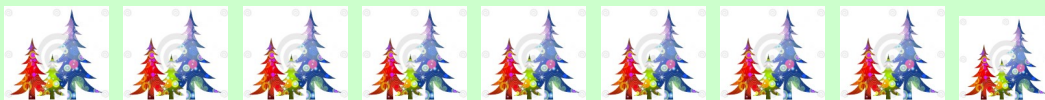
Some good questions to ask your child after their visit might be:

- What is the difference between a performance in a theatre and seeing a filming of that performance on a TV or at the cinema?
- What sort of theatre was it? (old, young, big, small) Does that affect the kind of shows you will see there and how they are put on?
- How should we behave in a theatre?
- Who were the main characters?
- What were the characters like (personalities, appearance etc)?
- What was the story about?
- How did the story start and end?
- What did you learn from the story?

If you have the opportunity to take your child to the theatre or Panto, maybe you could ask your child these questions afterwards to find out how much they absorbed and what they learnt.



Parental Guidance



Christmas Shopping Evening

A huge thank you to our PTA team and everyone who attended our Christmas Shopping Evening last Friday. We are delighted to tell you that we raised over £500 at this event, plus £69 worth of commission from Usborne Books, which is a record! This money will go a long way towards providing the children with extra resources that we would not normally be able to buy with our school budget.

Thank you!

Please help us to raise money whilst doing your Christmas shopping on-line!

Raise free funds by shopping online with easy fundraising just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wmipta and follow the simple steps to sign up. Every time you shop online at over 2,700 retailers including, John Lewis, Smyths Toy Store, Asda, Tesco, Amazon, Argos and eBay you will earn a donation for us and it won't cost you a penny!

Co-op

We are lucky to have been selected as one of the Co-op's Local Community Fund charities until March 2017, to help raise money to create an outdoor musical classroom for the benefit of the children and families of the school and the wider community.

If you shop in the Co-op and have a card why not log onto the Co-op website and select the Parent Teacher Association of Walsh Memorial CofE (cont) Infants school, as your charity so we receive 1% of your spend on Co-op branded items.



PTA
NEWS



Message from Surrey County Council Fostering Service

You may be interested to know that there are over 880 children in care in Surrey. Around 40% of them are placed outside of Surrey because we haven't got enough foster carers. We are looking for foster carers for children aged 0-18, for supported lodgings providers for young people aged 16-21, and Short Breaks carers for disabled children. Whether you are married or single, male or female, are straight or gay, do or don't have your own children, rent or own your home, work or don't work, we would love to hear from you.

Meet our foster carers at cafes around Surrey

You might enjoy having an informal chat with foster carers about what it's like to foster with us. We are very grateful to the cafes that have agreed to let our foster carers have a table on a monthly basis at the following: All Things Nice in Ewell, Leatherhead Youth Project in Leatherhead, Hothouse Cafe in Cobham, Bread and Roses in Addlestone, Bill's in Woking, Patisserie Valerie in Camberley, and West Central in Redhill, with more venues to come. To find out the dates and times, please visit <http://bit.ly/2d9zjpc>. You can simply drop in to the cafes at any point during the advertised times to chat with the foster carers.

Book a home visit to chat to us about fostering

Why not give our friendly Fran a call on 0800 0969 626 or email fostering.recruitment@surreycc.gov.uk to book a home visit? We can book a time that suits you on Monday to Friday, between 9am and 9pm. There's no obligation to take your enquiry further if you decide after talking to us that fostering isn't for you at this time.

Meet us at the Ripley Village Christmas Fair 4 December 12-4pm

We will be at the Ripley Christmas Fair in the High Street, Ripley Village GU23 6AY. There will be lots of stalls and Santas on motorbikes riding through, so something to entertain everyone. Look out for the white gazebo with purple cartoon animals and lots of balloons. Come and make a Christmas tree decoration and a Christmas hat while you chat to us about fostering.

Meet us at Denbie's Christmas Shopping Event on Monday 12 December 5-8pm

We have a stall at the fair, why not come along and soak up the Christmassy atmosphere, do a spot of shopping and chat with us about fostering?

Follow us on social media

We regularly update our Facebook and Twitter accounts, so this is a good way to keep up to date with us. 'Like' us on Facebook at [facebook.com/surreyfostering](https://www.facebook.com/surreyfostering) and follow us on Twitter @surreyfostering. We appreciate Facebook shares and retweets, as it helps to spread the fostering message.

Date	Event	Time
	Autumn Term 2	
6th December	Flu Vaccinations for Years One and Two (for those with signed consent forms)	
7th December	Christmas Craft Club	3.00pm-4.30pm
12th December	Dress Rehearsal of the Christmas Performance (please see letter sent home)	9.15am
13th December	School Christmas Performance (adults and pre-schoolers with tickets)	9.15am
14th December	School Christmas Performance (adults only with tickets)	9.15am
15th December	School Christmas Performance (adults only with tickets)	1.30pm
16th December	Emerald Class Cake Sale	3.00pm
19th December	Christmas Church Service (all year groups). Walkers will be needed. Parents to collect their child from church—no DBS required	2.00-3.00pm
20th December	School Disco (more information to follow)	5.00pm-6.30pm
20th December	School Christmas Lunch for children	
21st December	End of Autumn Term	School closes at 1.10pm
	Spring Term 1	
3rd January	Start of the Spring Term	8.45am
15th January	Deadline for Junior School applications for all Year 2 children	

Dates for your Diary