



# Warden House Primary School

Irresistible learning for all...

Newsletter – Monday 11 September 2023

## Headteachers' Message

A very warm welcome to you all to the start of another exciting new year at Warden House. I hope that the summer holiday was enjoyable – even given the changeable weather! It has been lovely to see the children return to school so positively, enjoying meeting their new teachers and TAs and getting started with their new topics. We loved meeting our new reception children for the first time today too.

As you may have noticed, we have had several projects underway during the summer holiday. The old nursery building known as “The Deck” was demolished, the car park was widened – and, thanks to Mr Atkinson and parent Mark Steward. We have created the lovely ‘Coronation Pebble’ display around the flag pole at the front of the school. Plans are progressing for repairing the old Year 6 building during the year ahead too.

We look really forward to working with you this year and are looking forward to all that the children will achieve.

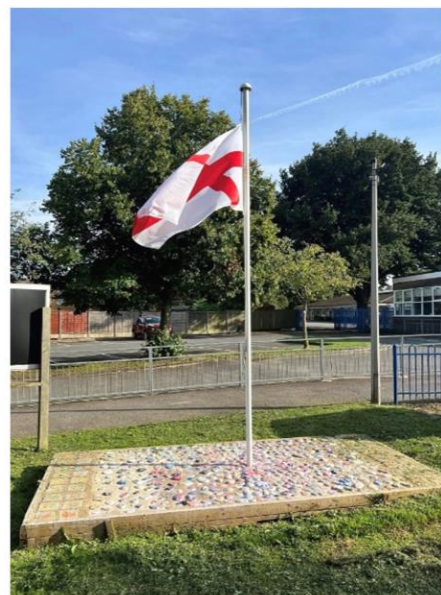
Best wishes

Mr. Hackett

## Welcome to new staff

At the end of last term, interviews took place to appoint a range of new staff members to our team here at Warden House.

We would like to welcome new site manager Steve Richards, new admin apprentice Roxanne Lauton, new nurture TA Leanne Newton, new TA Jess Fox alongside new midday supervisors Janine Farrier, Abigail Goldsack-Hayes and Holly Gooding.



### Top attendance!

At Warden House we want all children to attend school as much as possible. Last year, our whole school attendance figure was 93.8%. This is below the government's national attendance target of 96%. This past week has seen a fantastic 97.6% of pupils in school. We would like to ask for your support to ensure all children attend school as much as possible.

Please do remember that leave from school can only be granted in the most exceptional of circumstances. Holidays cannot be taken during term time, and any requests for time away from school **must be made in advance** in line with our [school policy](#).



We do recognise that sometimes there can be unavoidable reasons why children cannot be in school. Do remember that if your child has a minor illness that can be managed effectively with pain relief, this can be administered in school so that they can still come in. Please contact the office for further details.

### Lateness

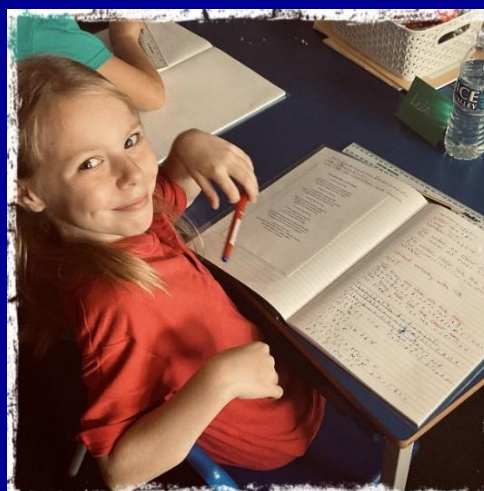
We ask that all families do all they can to ensure their children arrive at school on time. Please remember that classroom doors open at **8:40am** and close at **8:45am**. Any child arriving after this time must be taken to the office and signed in with a reason for the lateness provided.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

### Nut free school

We would like to inform all parents **that we are a nut free school** due to the significant allergies of a range of staff and children. Children are asked not to bring any nut products into school.

This includes many popular chocolate and sandwich spreads such as Nutella. Please do check the ingredients carefully. Thank you for your support with this important matter.



### Jewellery Reminder

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear Jewellery to school, with an exception being made for small earring studs in pierced ears and small objects of religious significance.



### Curriculum updates

This year, teachers will be sending out termly updates regarding what the children will be learning in class. Please look out for these – and do visit our [school website](#) to find out more details about how we teach the curriculum at Warden House.



## Breakfast and After School Club

Did you know that we have a fantastic breakfast and after-school club provision at Warden House called 'Jungle Club'?

Breakfast club is available in the school hall from 7:45am every morning and costs £2.50 per child. After school club is available each day based in the Pavilion (old scout hut) until 6:15pm. The different pricing options for this service are detailed on the [Jungle Club page](#) of our school website.



## RAAC update

Following the concerning news recently in the media, our Trust business team have confirmed that, following a range of work with our surveyors – and through completion of the DfE survey sent to schools - we do not have any RAAC concrete present in any of our buildings at Warden House and, as a result, no further action is required.

## Reading at home

You may recall that last school year, we worked really hard to promote and work towards a whole school reading reward. The children were offered the chance of a whole school treat if they could hit a very attainable 'points target'. Unfortunately, the children were not able to meet the collective target. Records kept in class show that, last year, on average approximately 1/5 of children were not reading regularly enough at home and we would really like this to change over the year ahead. We want to do all we can to support families in enabling ALL children to become regular readers at home and are happy to support as much as we can.

**Our school expectations are that children read at home for a minimum of 5 x per week and that this is signed off and recorded each time in their reading record. We ask for the support of all families in ensuring that this takes place.**

Reading expectations for younger children who are learning phonics are a little different. These children have two books at any one time – a sharing book and a phonic-matched book. Older children use our 'Accelerated Reader' system which parents can engage with by [clicking here](#) in order to find out how well children are getting on with their quizzes.

### How you can help?

Please do all you can to build in daily opportunities for your child to read at home as part of your normal routine. Do visit our [school website](#) to view a range of useful tips and strategies to help.

# Key Dates for Terms 1 and 2 2023-2024

Kent Test for Year 6 pupils	Thursday 7 September 2023
Dover Grammar Tests	Saturday 9 September 2023
Individual Pupil Photos by Kittle	Wednesday 4 October 2023
PTFA Disco for Years 1-6	Thursday 5 October 2023 (Details to be confirmed)
Harvest Assembly	Friday 6 October 2023
Scholastic Book Fair	Tuesday 10 October 2023
Year 1 – Year 6 Parents evening	Tuesday 10 & Thursday 12 October 2023
EYFS Parents evening	Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 October 2023
INSET day	Friday 20 October 2023
<b>End of Term 1</b>	<b>Thursday 19 October 2023</b> Please note that Friday 20 October 2023 is an Inset day for staff.
<b>Start of Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 30 October 2023</b>
PTFA Pumpkin Parade	Wednesday 1 November 2023
PTFA Fireworks	Saturday 4 November 2023
Remembrance Day Assembly	Friday 10 November 2023
Children In Need	Thursday 16 November 2023
INSET day	Friday 17 November 2023
Whole School Pantomime trip to The Marlowe Theatre	Tuesday 5 December 2023* (Note the later return to school)
EYFS Nativity	Thursday 7 & Friday 8 December 2023
PTFA Christmas Fayre	Friday 8 December 2023
Year 1 Performance	Monday 11 December 2023
Year 2 Performance	Tuesday 12 December 2023
Christmas dinner	Wednesday 13 December 2023
Class reports	Friday 15 December 2023
<b>End of Term 2</b>	<b>15 December 2023 at 2pm</b>