

29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Welcome back!

It is great to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break, with a special welcome to our new Year 3 children who are settling in quickly. Pupils have returned to school with an excellent attitude to learning and looking very smart. We would appreciate your support to ensure these high standards are maintained throughout the year so please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform at all times.

## Communication

Please remember that our newsletter will continue to be sent by email to the priority 1 contact in each family. Newsletters are also available on the school website and a paper copy will always be available for collection from the school office. They will **not** be issued every week, but will be on an 'as and when' basis and will be available on the school website no later than 4.00pm on a Friday. **If you do not receive an emailed copy of this newsletter, please speak to the school office and we will check your details.**

## Start of School Day

Children can arrive anytime between **8.40am – 8.55am** to allow for a calm, safe start to the school day.

## End of School Day

Years 3 & 4 – 3.25pm                      Years 5 & 6 – 3.30pm

## Walking to and from school – Road Safety

Please remember to use the pedestrian crossing and model good practices to children so they know how to safely cross the road. Too many parents are crossing the road at the front of the school and we have had some near misses.

Please also be considerate when you park your cars in the roads around school and prioritise the safety of children over everything else.



## Attendance, Absence and Punctuality

We ask that you support the school by not taking your child out of school during term time for holidays. Absence due to exceptional circumstances must be applied for by completing an 'Exceptional Circumstances Absence Form' which can be obtained from the school office. These should be returned to school and handed to the school office in advance. Any holiday requests during term time will not be authorised.

Children should arrive at school from **8.40 a.m.** – please do not bring them earlier than this (unless they are going to Earlybirds). They should be in school by **8.55 a.m.** and our school gates then close automatically. After this time your child should ring the buzzer and wait at the gate to be admitted. They will then be marked as 'Late' in the register. We are aiming to reduce the number of 'Lates' recorded, which are disruptive to the start of the school day. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child arrives on time.

We work closely with our Attendance Officer who supports Mrs. Conway (Inclusion Leader) in monitoring attendance, unauthorised absence and punctuality. Please note that Mrs. Conway will write to you if your child's attendance is of concern, particularly if it falls below 92%, as this will impact on your child's learning. The average attendance for the school has always been above 97%.

If your child is absent due to illness, we would ask that you contact the school office **before 9.30 am (by phone)** on the first day of absence so that we can ensure our records are up to date. We would then ask that you send a letter to your child's class teacher on their return to school. If your child has a medical appointment, please ensure that the school office is made aware in advance. We would ask you to arrange medical appointments outside the school day wherever possible.

## Parent contact details

We continue to communicate by texts and emails. Could we remind parents that it is your responsibility to inform the school office when your contact details change. School should have a minimum of three contact phone numbers to ensure we can get hold of someone at home in an emergency. If you change address, we need to see a copy of your most up to date council tax bill as proof in order for us to make the change.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning today and once again, it was a huge success. Together, we all raised about £2,700, which is incredible! (The count has yet to be finalised). We would also like to say a big thank you to all the parents and school governors who gave up their time to help, as well as our Year 6 prefects for running the games – we could not have done it without you all! Thanks to the whole school community for your generosity in supporting this important cancer charity.



## Year 6 Secondary School Applications

Please note that the closing date for online applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Failure to apply, or a late application, will mean that your child will NOT be allocated a place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Failing to put down your closest school on your options can result in your child being allocated a school anywhere else in Birmingham and we would strongly advise against this. If you need any assistance with your application, please speak to Mrs Harris.

## School Uniform

Please can we remind parents that we only allow minimal jewellery in school. Our policy states children should only wear a watch, and earrings should be small studs only, with no hoops or dangly ones that are a safety hazard. Your child will be asked to remove unsafe or unauthorised items and we will not be responsible for items that then become lost or go missing.

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a school tie and a waterproof coat every day. All items should also be named so that lost items can be returned easily. We really want to reduce the amount of unclaimed items that we are faced with every few weeks. Thanks very much for your support with this.

Trainers for P.E. should not be fashion/platform style as they are unsafe – just normal flat trainers, please.

Uniform can be purchased from Clive Mark in Boldmere or Uniform Hub in Minworth. It is worth bearing in mind that Uniform Hub also donate money towards our school fund – the more uniform purchased from them, the more money we make for school and can spend directly on the children.

If you have any uniform that your child has outgrown, we are now collecting donations at the school office. Please ensure the uniform items are washed and in good condition as we plan to hold a second-hand uniform sale later this term.

## Payments to school

Can we please remind parents that we are a cashless school, and all payments should be made using our online payments system <https://www.scopay.com/walmley-jun> We do not hold any cash in school and therefore cannot refund any payments made in cash that subsequently need to be returned. **Please note that any cash payments made, that need to be returned will sit on your child's account for you to use for a future trip/event.**

## Dinner Money

Dinner money is £13.00 per week (i.e. £2.60 per meal). If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be **£101.40** for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure that payments are made promptly using our online system. Outstanding dinner money invoices are sent by email and we wish to remind you that dinner money **should always be paid in advance not arrears**. We hope that your child will have school dinners, but please remember to give the school office one week's notice in writing of any changes to your child's lunch arrangements.

## Water Bottles

Please provide your child with a named water bottle. The children always have access to water and they will need their bottle in school every day to keep them sufficiently hydrated. Please do not send them in with squash.

## Free School Meals

Changes have been made as to how we collect information for Free School Meals. You no longer have to come into school to complete paperwork and bring in evidence as it is all done by simply registering online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>. You only ever need to register once and school will automatically be updated of eligibility or any changes of eligibility; this information is data protected as per the terms shown.

## Earlybirds Bookings

A reminder if you need to make an emergency booking it must be made before 12 o'clock on that day. In addition, if you cancel an Earlybirds session after 12 o'clock, you will have to collect your child from Earlybirds as they may have already been taken there by a member of the Earlybirds team.

## St.John's Food Bank

This year, we are collecting food donations to support the work of St. John's Church in Walmley. Each month, these donations are put together to make free food parcels that are given out at Place of Welcome and Minworth Junior and Infant School. The following items would be much appreciated: tinned tuna, tinned vegetables, pasta, rice, cereals, pasta sauce and rice pudding. We would appreciate all donations coming into school by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.stjw.org.uk/engage/foodparcels/foodparcels.php>

## Eco News!

Our new Eco Committee has been chosen - thank you to all pupils who applied! You will be able to see the new class eco councillors on our website.

On October 2nd, we are re-introducing our Travel Tracker throughout the autumn term. Our aim is to reduce transport emissions in the local area. We would like to encourage children to safely walk, scoot or cycle to school. If you live further away, you have the option to park and stride - parking a little further away and walking the remainder of the journey. Or why not share vehicles with a friend taking a similar journey? Not only will these actions help to prevent further transport pollution, but a little extra exercise is also beneficial! Badges will be rewarded to those who achieve their monthly goal. As always, thank you for your support.

## Poetry Towers: Voices of the Future

In the summer term, children from Walmley Junior School were invited to take part in an external writing competition where they had the opportunity to have their very own poems published. The book 'Poetry Towers: Voices of the Future' has now been published by Young Writers and 33 children from Walmley Junior School can now see their work in print. You can find a copy of the book in the school's reception waiting area should you like to read some of the fabulous work produced. Well done to all of the children who entered and we look forward to promoting more writing competitions throughout the year to encourage writing for pleasure.

## Dates for the Diary

### **Autumn Term 2023**

4 <sup>th</sup> September	Teacher Training Day
5 <sup>th</sup> September	School Open
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 trip to the Botanical Gardens
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Book Fair arrives in school
24 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Term Parents' Evening
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Disco 5.30pm-7.00pm
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for Half Term
6 <sup>th</sup> November	School Open
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Hour of Code Week
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 dress rehearsal for grandparents 2.15pm
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 Balaji Temple visit
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas show parents 9.15am
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Theatre trip – Peter Pan
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Week (add a Christmas item to your uniform)
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Carol Service at the church 6.30pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch Day
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Teacher Training Day

### **Spring Term 2024**

8 <sup>th</sup> January	School Open
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up
19 <sup>th</sup> February	School Open
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Break up for Easter
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Teacher Training

### **Summer Term 2024**

8 <sup>th</sup> April	School Open
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for Half Term
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Teacher Training Day
4 <sup>th</sup> June	School Open
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up for Summer
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Teacher Training Day