

4th October 2024

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 have settled 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.**

Change in Leadership

As many of you are already aware, Mr. Pearson has given notice that he will step down from his role in January 2025. His successor, Lisa Naughton will be joining WJS on 4th November 2024. We are delighted to be fortunate enough to have a thorough handover process. Mrs. Naughton will join us initially as Headteacher Designate to work alongside Mr Pearson, for Autumn Term 2, taking over the full Headteacher role immediately after the Christmas break. For clarity, Mr. Pearson will remain Headteacher and will retain all responsibilities associated with that post until 6th January 2025. Kind regards, Patricia Colden (Chair of governors)

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

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. Parents should accompany any pupil who is late to sign them in at the office, the exception being older pupils who walk by themselves to school. 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 (Assistant Headteacher) 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 **£2,962.73** which is incredible! 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. Our overall total since we started fundraising is an amazing **£50,805.79!**



Year 6 Secondary School Applications

Please note that the closing date for online applications is 31st October 2024. Failure to apply, or a late application, will mean that your child will NOT be allocated a place on 3rd March 2025. 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 Conway.

Considerate Parking Reminder

Before and after school, can all parents please park considerately, particularly along the side roads, as local residents need to be able to get in and out of their own driveways, as well as allowing access for emergency vehicles at all times.

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.

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 £13.50 per week (i.e. £2.70 per meal). If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be **£91.80** for Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December. 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.

Hotdog Lunch – Wednesday 23rd October

We would like to give the children who normally have sandwiches the opportunity to have a Hotdog Lunch on Wednesday 23rd October. If you would like your child to have a lunch the cost is £2.70. **Payment for Hotdog Lunch should be made using Scopay online payment system.** Hotdog Lunch can be found in 'Products' then 'Hotdog Lunch'. Payment should be made no later than **Friday 11th October. Please only pay £2.70 for the October Hotdog lunch and refrain from making overpayments as it causes issues on our payment system.**

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

For the third year running, 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 to families who need them most in and around the Minworth area. These items should be non-perishables, such as tinned food, pasta, rice, cereals and jars of sauces. We would appreciate all donations coming into school by Friday 25th October. Thank you for your support.

Air Ambulance Clothing Bank

We have a clothing recycling bank in our school visitors' car park to help raise money for the Air Ambulance Charity. If you have any donations of clean clothing, towels, sheets, blankets (not duvets) and paired shoes please ask the school office to arrange access and a suitable time to drop them off.

Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term 2024

8 th October	Flu Vaccinations
22 nd October	Parents' Evening
23 rd October	Parents' Evening
25 th October	Break up for Half Term
4 th November	School Open
6 th – 8 th November	Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes Trip
13 th November	Year 4 Botanical Gardens Trip
29 th November	Teacher Training Day
5 th December	PFA school disco
9 th December	Year 3 Christmas Show - Grandparents
10 th December	Year 3 Christmas Show - Parents
19 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
20 th December	Break up for Christmas

Spring Term 2025

6 th January	Teacher Training Day
7 th January	School Open
14 th February	Break up for Half Term
24 th February	School Open
11 th April	Break up for Easter

Summer Term 2025

28 th April	School Open
23 rd May	Break up for Half Term
2 nd June	Teacher Training Day
3 rd June	School Open
18 th July	Break up for Summer
21 st July	Teacher Training Day