



Wickham Common

Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss R Williams BA (Hons), NPQH

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I can not believe that we are already at the half-term holidays, although I know that I speak for all my staff when I say it is more than needed and so lovely to go into it with the sun shining. Your children have all worked incredibly hard these past few weeks to ensure they are engaging in their learning at all times and it has been wonderful to watch our new children in Conkers and Acorns bloom into our community. May I take this opportunity to congratulate them all on their very first half-term with us and extend a warm thank-you to you as their parents for being so supportive of this exciting first step.

It was super to see all of our pupils getting involved in the Hello Yellow day last Thursday by wearing something Yellow to raise awareness for children's Mental Health. This was a pivotal part of our Mental Health awareness week where the children took part in assemblies and activities in the class room to ensure that we are educating ourselves about this ongoing area of need. Thank you Miss Gibbs and our super Agents for Change for raising our awareness.

Our Harvest assembly on Tuesday was a great occasion for the whole school to come together and focus on various elements of Harvest, such as eating seasonally, foods we export and airmiles attached, climate change and those in our own community who are accessing food banks. A huge thank you to all of you who were able to donate to this very worthy cause. The Bromley Foodbank was so overwhelmed by our generosity. Thank you to Mrs Myles and Miss Rayward for organising this day.

Our Year 5 children went to the science museum yesterday and I have to commend them on the positive feedback I have heard about them from many people in the community. The children themselves were so enthused about their learning and have waxed lyrical about this trip. Thank you children for being such superb ambassadors for our school and for showing London how we are good citizens as well as having a great day of learning outside the classroom.

I must reiterate how important these school trips and enhancement activities are. The staff work really hard to plan and deliver days out and to invite workshops in to broaden our curriculum offer and ensure children have the opportunity to visit other learning environments. This is becoming increasingly difficult with budget constraints and I must emphasise here that, if we continue to make a loss on school trips and excursions, we will have to start cancelling such vital offers. It would be incredibly sad to have to stop educational trips from happening but, simply put, we can only continue with trips if you as the parental community play your part by paying for your child to attend.

Our first week back is a busy one to start off another busy half-term. We will be looking at activities with the children to ensure we commemorate Remembrance Day on the lead up to the 11th November, where we will hold a whole school assembly on this important part of all of our history. Poppies will be on sale from the 4th November so please do allow your child to bring in some money should you wish for them to purchase a poppy here at school.

The PTA were able to support a fun and interactive workshop for the Year 4 children yesterday which was so lovely to see the children so actively engaged. Mrs Lawrence, our new Chair of the PTA, was able to come in and see this in action after our meeting, which was super as these events could not happen without the money you all help to raise and through the hard work of the PTA.

With that in mind, please do not forget to sign up on Arbor and pay for your child to attend the PTA disco on the 7th November which looks to be another fun activity for the children and a chance for them to dance the night away!

Next term, we will be continuing our focus on attendance and punctuality across the school. We will continue to monitor this as there is a pattern emerging with some of the lateness in particular. Please be aware that if your child is not picked up at the set time of 15.10 for children in EYFS or at 15.25 for all other year groups, we will be looking at a fining system as, in some cases children are being collected 15-20 minutes after this time over several times a week. These children can not access Tree Tops as our rations are set against the number of children booked and paid for but, parents will be asked to pay going forward if this is more than a one-off, as we know that sometimes we are all late to collect children as part of our busy lives. If you are late collecting your child at the end of the day, you will need to sign your child out via the screen in reception

Can I please also remind you all that it is your responsibility to sign your child in on the screen in the waiting lobby if you are late in the mornings. There is an increase in children being let in without adults and this can not then be tracked. Please do sign your child in each time and ensure you also record their lunch choices with the team. The below statistics I think are very clear as to how lateness can impact your child's education.

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

Our attendance was 77% today which was our lowest all year. It is a shame to see so many children missing their last day of the term and I am aware that many of these absences are due to unauthorised holidays. Please do remember that every day matters in your child's education and that missing school is a contributing factor to children not achieving their expected levels.

Sporting round up by our pupils:

Football:

Girls - Yesterday we had our first girls football match and we had great fun running up and down the pitch. Fortunately, we came away with a brilliant result and won 7-0! It was extremely tense because no one scored in the first half of the game. The parents were very supportive and were cheering whenever anyone scored. The boys were playing beside us and it was very exciting to see their game. In conclusion, we walked off of the pitch happy and ready for the next game! We felt encouraged to win more games and improve our gameplay.

Boys - Yesterday we played Biggin Hill Primary School at Wickham Common. The score was 16-0 to Wickham Common with the whole team scoring except for our goalkeeper! It was a one sided match with Wickham Common controlling the possession and sliding the ball through the defence of Biggin Hill. The Wickham Common boys were delighted with the win to get the season off to a good start. The goal difference should put us top of the table!

Lacrosse:

Over the past six weeks, we've been having a blast with our lacrosse lessons at school! What started as a challenge has now become something we look forward to each week. At the beginning, many of us found it tricky to pick up the ball using a lacrosse stick, but with lots of practice and patience, we've all improved significantly.

Now, we're not only comfortable picking up and throwing the ball, with complete mastery, but have also begun playing matches and scoring many goals for our teams! The feeling of playing a newly introduced game with our friends and improving week on week has made the experience of playing lacrosse one to remember, and it's great to see how much everyone has improved.

Our coaches, Mike and Liam, have been amazing throughout the lessons teaching us so much in such little time. They've made sure each session is fun and engaging, mixing in drills with friendly competitions and team games. Their positive energy and encouragement have really helped us learn while having a lot of fun. Thanks to them, lacrosse has quickly become one of our favourite sports at school!

We're excited to continue learning and improving, and who knows – maybe we'll have some future lacrosse stars in our class!

Values

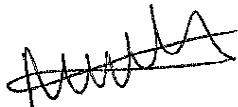
We look forward to welcoming the Conkers and Acorns joining us for our whole school assemblies after the break so that we can also introduce them to our values awards. The children below received the Values this week. Well done to you all.

Class	Child's Name	Value
Acorns	n/a	n/a
Conkers	n/a	n/a
1 Ash	Chester	Integrity
1 Maple	Ariadne	Respect
2 Elm	Amelie	Responsibility
2 Holly	Ivan	Effort

3 Cherry	Thomas	Kindness
3 Horse Chestnut	TBA after half term	
4 Hazel	Maria	Effort
4 Poplar	Nellie	Effort
5 Beech	Sammy	Responsibility
5 Willow	Asher	Responsibility
6 Oak	TBA after half term	
6 Lime	TBA after half term	

May I wish you and all whom you hold dear a wonderful Half term break. Please look after one another and take this time to reflect on the simply things in life that make us all smile. I am sure you will join me in extending my thanks to every member of staff here at Wickham Common for a fruitful and fun half term. Your resilience and humour is always needed and your hard work always appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Rebecca Williams
Headteacher

