



Wickham Common

Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss R Williams BA (Hons), NPQH

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear children, parents and carers,

I wrote to you recently inviting you to **apply for the role of parent governor**. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Louisa Walsh has been appointed to the role. We're delighted to welcome her to the team and will look forward to the insight she can offer the governing body as a longstanding member of the parental community.

In response to some parental feedback, I have produced a document to demonstrate **how staff select parental volunteers for educational visits**. In the interests of safeguarding and child protection we will always prioritise asking parents with current DBS certificates with the school initially. However, there are other potential scenarios that may arise and these are detailed on the attached document which I am sharing with you in the interests of clarity and transparency. This process will remain in place for the rest of the academic year and should there be a need to review its suitability, we will do so after the summer break. Due to the financial implications of processing DBS applications, we are not currently accepting new checks as we generally have enough at this moment in time to fulfil our needs. However, these needs change regularly, as DBS certificates expire or children leave the school for example, so this is reviewed at the beginning of each academic year. **Should we deem it necessary to increase or replace DBS holders within the school, this will also occur at the beginning of the next academic year and will inform you in due course.**

Those of you among our school community interested in becoming teachers yourselves may be interested to know that the **Mosaic Schools Learning Trust are able to offer PGCEs to prospective teachers through their links with the University of Greenwich**. Placements for the course will be held in schools within the trust. You can find out more by following the link below: <https://www.mosaicschoolslearningtrust.org/training-courses>. I'm happy to speak to interested candidates about entering into such a rewarding and fulfilling career should they wish.

Due to scheduling conflicts that have arisen, **our upcoming RSE workshop with Miss Rayward and Mrs Taylor has been postponed**. We will inform you of the rearranged date as soon we have it confirmed in the diary.

A quick note on parental conduct. **I am disappointed to have discovered that derogatory and inflammatory comments have been made about members of my staff again on year group Whatsapp groups**. I would like to state that all of my colleagues try their absolute hardest to provide the very best learning experiences for your children and they do deserve to be treated with respect, both as professionals and – more importantly – human beings. You are obviously all entitled to your own opinions, but I would suggest that not everyone in your year group may want to hear them. We do also provide plenty of opportunity for you to feedback about your experiences through the appropriate channels, whether through parental surveys,



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emails through the school office or directly to me as I am on either of the children's entrances each morning. Thank you to the parents who made me aware of the issues. It's reassuring to know that so many members of our community support what we constantly strive to achieve here.

Speaking of achievements, this week, children from Mother Nature gardening club were visited by the **London Children's Flower Society who came to judge the spring daffodils** that they had been growing. I'm delighted to say that the children were award Gold Standard for their entries which you can now see at the front of the main entrance to the school. Congratulations to everyone involved! The LCFS will be back with us later in the Summer term to **judge the plants children have grown for the competition organised by Mrs Horton**. Those of you who have ordered seeds via the Microsoft Form should receive them in the not-too-distant future.

Congratulations to the below children who have received the **Values Awards this week**:

Acorns	Honey	Effort
Conkers	Luca	Effort
1 Ash	Lily B	Effort
1 Maple	Jaxon	Effort
2 Elm	Cece	Kindness
2 Holly	Kelsey	Effort
3 Cherry	Deren	Effort
3 Horse Chestnut	Luna	Creativity
4 Hazel	Jagger	Fun
4 Poplar	Thea	Effort
5 Beech	Marcus W	Effort
5 Willow	Abbie	Effort
6 Lime	Harrison	Accept
6 Oak	Erin	Respect

Reminders:

➤ We would like to remind you of the PE days for this half term:

Reception - Tuesday

Year 1 –Monday and Thursday

Year 2 - Monday and Friday

Year 3 - Monday and Friday

Year 4 – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 6 - Thursday and Friday

- Thursday 27th March is 'own clothes day' for all children
- Thursday 24th April Year 1 screening parental workshops @ 2.30pm and 3.30pm bookable via Arbor/Clubs

Yours sincerely,



Mr Ben Slack
Assistant Headteacher



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