



Wickham Common

Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss R Williams BA (Hons), NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers,

22nd July 2025

As we reach the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on just how much your wonderful children have achieved and grown. This year has been full of new adventures, challenges and discoveries. It has been a joy to watch our pupils flourish in confidence, resilience, and independence. Whether tackling tricky maths problems, speaking up in assemblies, or embracing new friendships on the playground, your children have shown courage, kindness and a true love of learning.

I thought it would be a good time to look ahead to September with a few practical reminders and a few points to note going forward. Please read the points below to ensure that your child is fully ready for their new academic year ahead.

- Pencil cases are welcome in the Key Stage 2 classes, but please ensure they are a sensible size to fit in trays and don't become a distraction. The large Smiggle type are so cumbersome and not necessary as they end up on the desks and take up far too much working space for the children.
- Stanley cups are not permitted in school. All children must bring a **refillable water bottle** each day to stay hydrated and reduce plastic waste. This is essential as we have seen, even with this heat of late, so many children are forgetting their bottles. We will not be providing any plastic cups going forward so please ensure your child has their own, clearly labelled bottle of water each day. We can refill these with the various water points across the school.
- Labubu toys and similar collectibles are not allowed in school due to distraction and loss concerns. We have already had some unfortunate exchanges with such toys and, these are better left at home. Any such toys will be confiscated and sent home should they be attached to bags etc in the new year. Thank you for your support with this.
- Only **Year 6 pupils** may bring mobile phones to school. These must be handed to the teacher upon arrival into classrooms and will be securely stored until the end of the day.
- If you are allowing your Year 6 child to walk home alone, you must ensure that you have filled in the appropriate permission form which was circulated a few weeks ago.
- We are a completely **NUT FREE** school. This includes any goods which are considered to also fall under the "may contain" category. As we have children with various allergies, I implore you again to read the ingredients of everything you may send in for a packed lunch very carefully.

It wouldn't be right to let the huge work of the PTA go without being given a large and heartfelt thank you for all they have done this year. We are all, as a staff, incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTA for their tireless work and creativity this year. From ice-cream sales to quiz nights,



WE HAVE
ACHIEVED



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wreath making to bouncing, Christmas fete and night markets and of course- our very first Wickstock! I can assure you that with budgets getting ever tighter, their fundraising has made a huge difference already and I am really excited about all of the projects we will be able to undertake for all the children due to these much-needed funds. Thanks to their efforts, we have been able to secure Forest School sessions for all year groups, enriching our curriculum and offering children the chance to connect with nature, take safe risks, and build teamwork and resilience.

We hosted our very first Wickham's Got Talent last Monday in aid of the Evelina Hospital, which is close to all of our hearts. The whole event was such fun and a superb opportunity for so many of our children to have the confidence to get up on the stage and share their abundance of talents. It was lovely to see such an array of acts and my special thanks goes out to Miss Gibbs for organising and running the whole event. We also had two-star judges in Miss Gibbs as a professional choreographer and Mr Mills as a professional musician. The whole star-studded day raised a great £415, which I know will be essential funding for the life saving and life changing work the hospital undertakes for the children. Congratulations to Khalil and Michael for winning with their stunning rendition of Smooth Criminal- gloves and all. Well done to all the children who took part- I am proud of each and everyone of you.

We have been busy working with many sectors in our local community to ensure that we are able to forge stronger links. If you run a local business in anyway or are able to offer any kind of support in terms of enterprise ideas in the upcoming year, please do get in touch with me I am always keen to ensure our children have the full wealth of experiences and would love for more of our parental and wider community to come in to assemblies and talk to the children going forward. With our community work in mind, it gives me great pleasure to announce that three of our very own pupils won the Sainsburys "design a bag" competition. Tabitha Steele in Acorns came first, Lilly Morris in 2 Holly second and Sebastien Hayden in 6 Oak came third. They have been invited to the opening of the new store on the 25th July where they will get their bags, that have been framed and will get a bag to take to home as well. Well done children!!

As the year draws to a close, we say warm and heartfelt goodbyes to two much-loved members of staff as they embark on the next chapter in their lives in happy retirement! Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Taylor are both retiring after many dedicated years of inspiring, supporting, and nurturing generations of children. They will be greatly missed by pupils, parents and staff alike, and we know you'll join us in wishing them a happy and fulfilling retirement.

We also wish the very best of luck to Mrs Ruddell who is leaving us to seek adventures new in another school. Mr Adam Yardley, one of our site managers is also leaving us this summer as is Mrs Hayden, in her role as Midday Supervisor, we wish them well as they head off on new and exciting adventures. Thank you for all you've brought to our school community.

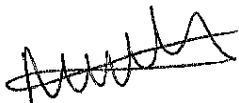
You will also find attached some key dates for the Autumn term and provisional dates for the rest of the academic year. This list will invariably be added to after the summer break when teachers begin to book educational visits and workshops, so please look out for an update in September. You will notice that the Autumn term Parents Evenings will be virtual rather than in person as these meetings are key in discussing how well your child has settled into their new year groups rather than sharing the content of their books. Look out for information in the new academic year as to how these will operate. Also, please feel free to share the dates of our new

parent tours to any family and friends that you know will be looking at schools for September '26. We still have some places for our EYFS classes for September '25, so if you know of any families who are still looking for a school for September, please ask them to contact us at WickhamCommon@mslt.org.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff here at Wickham Common for their continued support and dedication across the year. Without their ongoing energy and enthusiasm for the job, our school would not be such a wonderful place to lead. It has been a long year, full of adventures, and I must again record my sincerest thanks to Mr Slack for his full leadership of our whole school community across these past two terms. This was no mean feat and without his tireless dedication, this year would have been very different.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership throughout the year. We wish all our families a restful, sunshine-filled summer. Remember, these moments are so precious and our children are only really on loan to us. One day you will turn around and there will be a young man or young lady stood before you about to embark on their next solo adventure and you will wonder where all that time went. So, make the most of these long summer days together, get away from the screen and talk about everything and anything together - or just enjoy the silent moments too! I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 1st September, refreshed and ready to begin a new chapter of adventures together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Williams', written over a horizontal line.

Rebecca Williams
Headteacher