



Wickham Common Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss R Williams BA (Hons), NPQH

13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the midpoint of the Spring Term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has already been a wonderfully productive and positive start to the year.

The children have made excellent progress across all areas of learning. It has been particularly pleasing to see the growth not only in their academic achievements, but also in their maturity, confidence and independence. They are showing increasing resilience in their work, greater thoughtfulness towards one another, and a developing sense of responsibility within the school community.

We are equally proud of the aspirations they are beginning to form for themselves. Through their learning, enrichment activities and daily interactions, they are developing ambitions and goals that will guide them as they continue their educational journey. It is a privilege to witness this growth and to support each child as they strive to reach their full potential.

Reading continues to be at the heart of everything we do. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of reading at home each day. Regular reading not only strengthens fluency and comprehension, but also nurtures imagination, curiosity and a lifelong love of learning. In a world increasingly shaped by digital media, nothing can truly replace the value of a book shared between a child and an adult. We ask that you continue to support your child by setting aside time daily for reading and discussion.

Important information regarding attendance

I would like to inform you of an important update to our attendance procedures. Due to an increase in the number of absences linked to prolonged sickness and term-time holidays, we are now required to request formal evidence for certain absences. This measure is necessary to ensure that attendance records are accurate and that safeguarding and statutory attendance requirements are met.

With immediate effect:

- Proof will be required for all periods of prolonged sickness absence. This may include medical evidence or other appropriate documentation. This can include texts and emails from GPS etc.
- Any holidays taken during term time will require proof of outbound and inbound travel (for example, flight confirmations or travel bookings).

This decision has been made following an increase in cases where family holidays are being taken immediately after periods of reported illness. Clear evidence allows the school to monitor attendance accurately and apply our attendance policy fairly and consistently for all families.



Regular school attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing, and progress. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting the school to meet its legal responsibilities and to promote good attendance for all pupils.

If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please contact the school office during normal working hours.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all families of the importance of maintaining professional boundaries when communicating with all my school staff, in particular with Mrs Anderson-Whiley who has been receiving direct emails from parents that can be read as very demanding and, at times, rather unkind. In such a busy environment and with emails now being such a preferred method of contact, it is worthwhile remembering that such emails can have an impact on staff wellbeing. Please note that Mrs Anderson-Whiley does not work full time and is only with us Monday through to Wednesday. She will therefore be unable to respond to emails on her non-working days from this point forth. We kindly ask that this is respected, as staff cannot reasonably be expected to monitor or reply to emails outside of their contracted hours.

In addition, we ask all parents and carers to respect our staff's professional working hours. All emails, including those addressed to myself and Mrs Anderson-Whiley, need to come through the main school email address, whatever the time, which is as follows: wickhamcommon@mslt.org.uk.

I understand the need for parents to communicate via emails outside working hours however please be aware that this falls outside my staff working hours and is a breach of our agreed communication expectations. Staff will not review or respond to e-mails outside of their working hours

We value positive and respectful partnerships with our families, and clear boundaries help ensure that staff can continue to provide the best possible support for our pupils during working hours.

We have been monitoring our home learning provision and impact on the children's learning for some time. In direct response to this and feedback from yourselves as part of our parent forum and in our parental surveys, I have taken the decision to purchase CGP books for reading and maths for all children in Years 3 through to 5 to support other activities in their home learning. This will not replace the use of Seesaw to communicate the home learning opportunities and sharing of information, and there will still be activities set on here over and above the CGP books as there is a far broader spectrum of activities that we wish for the children to be involved with. The CGP books will not be used weekly and these will be marked as whole class pieces, and feedback as appropriate. These books are school property and will be sent home with the understanding that they will be treated as such. Any lost books will need to be replaced at a cost to yourselves as we encourage the children to take great care of and responsibility for all that they work on.

It has already been a busy term for our children in their sporting lives too. All classes have received specialist focused coaching in Gymnastics by our very own Mrs Carter whose expertise and passion for the subject exudes all she does with and for our children. It was super to see the new equipment being used in full and I very much look forward to seeing this continue onward.

Some of our children were also involved in a local Korfbal competition, which all our children will be engaged in after half term with a specialist coach as part of our PE provision in lesson times. The squad from Wickham Common quickly put into practice everything they had learnt on how to defend the goals, and although they lost the first game the game was extremely close at 2-1.

The team gained their confidence in the next two games in which they played two squads from Balgowan. They passed the ball amongst them with ease, made some amazing interceptions and took the



opportunity to not only take but score the goals. These two matches finished 4-0 and 3-0 to Wickham Common. In the U11 matches we had two pupils from years 5 and 6 joined forces with another team to give them an opportunity to play in some games. Both the girls worked exceptionally hard against some very experienced players. Both of the girls passed well, took the opportunity to try and take some shots, and defended their players well so that they could not shoot. I am, as ever incredibly proud of all of our children for taking part in new experiences and love to hear of your enjoyment and successes equally.



A huge [congratulations](#) to all the children in years 1 through to 6, who took part in the cross-country inter-house competition on Tuesday, 10th February. Nearly everyone embraced the mud and many finished with smiling faces! Mrs Horton is currently looking at the results and after half-term, letters will be sent to those children who have been selected to represent the school. A huge thank you to Year 6, who helped to prepare the course, marshal, encourage others and record the results.

A few more diary dates for those budding sports people out there:-

Years 1 & 2- Bunny Run is on Thursday, 26th March (top 2 in each race)

Years 3 & 4 - Crystal Palace Cross Country - Saturday, 21st March (top 6 in each race)

Years 5 & 6 - St David's Dash - Friday, 20th March (top 5 in each race)

Finally, I would like to remind all parents and carers about end-of-day safety. For the safety of all our pupils, please remain on the pavement when collecting your child and ensure that they stay with you at all times once they have been dismissed. Your cooperation helps us to maintain a safe and orderly environment for everyone.

Acorns	Tuesday
Conkers	Tuesday
1 Lime	Monday & Tuesday
1 Oak	Monday & Tuesday
2 Ash	Wednesday & Friday
2 Maple	Thursday & Friday
3 Elm	Monday & Tuesday
3 Holly	Monday & Tuesday
4 Cherry	Tuesday & Thursday
4 Horse Chestnut	Tuesday & Thursday
5 Hazel	Wednesday & Thursday
5 Poplar	Wednesday & Thursday
6 Beech	Wednesday & Friday
6 Willow	Wednesday & Friday



Values Assembly

Class	Child's Name	Value
Acorns	Dolly	Respect
Conkers	Joseph	Effort
1 Lime	Holly	Kindness
1 Oak	Elize	Responsibility
2 Ash	Jake	Creativity
2 Maple	Joshua	Effort
3 Elm	Sophia S	Integrity
3 Holly	Dex	Effort and Fun
4 Cherry	George	Fun
4 Horse Chestnut	Sonny	Effort
5 Hazel	Max	Effort
5 Poplar	Thea	Effort
6 Beech	Joshua	Kindness
6 Willow	Eva	Honesty

Assembly Themes this week:

Safer Internet Day Assembly
Spinnaker Assembly

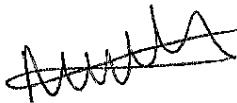
Reminders:

- Half Term Monday 16th Feb to Friday 20th Feb
- Harrison Spring/Summer Menu w/c 23 Feb - w/c 20 July
- All KS2 pupils will require a gum shield after half term. Class teachers will advise on the days these will need to be brought into school via Seesaw.

Have a wonderful half term and I very much look forward to welcoming you all back after a very much needed and well deserved break.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that every child thrives both academically and personally.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Williams
Headteacher

