

Newsletter Friday 2nd October 2020



Message from Mrs Garratt to all Parents – Please read.



The pupils at WFS continue to amaze me. They have settled back into school life, and a *different* school life without any fuss and bother. I truly believe if the world was run by children it would be a much better place! They are an absolute credit to you all.

Molly is settling well and is learning and growing fast, however she hates getting out of bed in the morning and getting ready for school. She much prefers snoozing! She has met a few children but won't be working with anyone until she is fully grown and trained.

1. Having been a Headteacher since 2006 and the last 5 at WFS, I have learnt that I cannot please everyone all of the time and that is certainly the case where COVID-19 is concerned. Some parents think we're being too hard with our procedures and protocols and some parents think we're not being hard enough. What we are doing is following all the legislation and guidance that we have to and trying to make the school as safe as possible for both pupils and staff so we can stay open as long as possible.

2. Some parents are asking why we are not insisting on 14 days quarantine for families who are holidaying in the UK. Currently you do not have to do this so we can't enforce it. If the law changes we will change what we are doing.



3. We have several staff on maternity leave or about to go on maternity leave. It's been a bumper baby year for WFS! Some parents are asking us when staff are coming back. Employment Law means I cannot ask staff when they are due back; they might decide not to come back, to take longer, to request part time etc.

4. Please remember we will not be replying to emails after 5pm or at weekends from parents. We have our own families to look after as well and we have the same issues and anxieties at the moment as other families.

5. ACORNS is our new name for both the nursery and reception classes.



6. If you have a complaint please speak to class teacher in first instance and then phase leader. If you are still not happy, please use the complaints policy on the website.

7. Please be sure you are confident that the information that other parents are giving you is accurate. We have had some parents who have kindly filled in forms or told other parents when things are happening in school but unfortunately it hasn't been quite right. If you are unsure please ring school and we will help in any way we can.

8. Some parents have been asking why as the pupil's progress through school, some classes have less staff than others. This is because as the pupils mature and develop they require less staffing, particularly when they move from KS2 to KS3. We also try and get our pupils ready for life after WFS, independent living and/or college. Classes that have more complex and sensory learners or in the Early Years have more staff than in KS3 or KS4. It just shows that as pupils mature, and we have had them for longer, they require less adults in the classroom. Parents talk about 'safe staffing' levels, and there is actually no guidance telling us what the adult staff ratio should be in a special school or for different learners. We ensure all our classes are safe and Ofsted confirmed this and agreed that behaviour at WFS is outstanding.

Russell House News!



It's been a busy first few weeks back at Russell House. Although recent restrictions and not being able to take part in community-based activities, it has not stopped us having lots of fun. We have made the most of the warm weather and been on some lovely autumnal walks collecting conkers and leaves for our new displays. Art & craft, quiz and darts night, go kart races and a Russell House bowling night are just a few of the other activities that our students have

really enjoyed.



CHERRY Class Sunflowers – Look how they've grown! Well Done CHERRY Class!



Sixth Form Work Experience Interviews



Some of our new sixth form pupils chose to apply for a 'garden maintenance assistant' work experience position. The pupils were great at interview, displaying positive body language and replying to questions with confidence. The successful candidates will help to keep the WFS outdoor areas tidy and weed free whilst learning to use tools safely and gain work skills.



Roblox guide

Roblox is an online game where people from all over the world create games and worlds for others to visit and play in. Currently there is no age limit on Roblox so anybody can play it. Roblox is available to play online on phones, iPads, tablets, and more recently the Xbox. Roblox itself does filter the games that are created for inappropriate images and bad language. However, games still slip through that have horror aspects or bloody themes to them.

Roblox is free to play but children can purchase the in-game currency which is called "Robux". This can then be used to buy different equipment and outfits.

Being an online game, means player can communicate with each other through the chat feature. I'm sure this is worrying for some parents as anyone can attempt to communicate with each other. This is why it is vital to monitor what your child or children are doing and talking about. Monitor who they are accepting as a friend and act immediately. You can restrict interactions through the settings tab which the following guide will show you how to do it.

For more information visit

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/>

or for frequently asked questions visit

<https://corp.roblox.com/faq/>

Please contact the class teacher if you would like to discuss any concerns regarding your child.

