



# Newsletter Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

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## Information for Parents



Welcome Back after Easter, I hope you all managed to have a lovely break! The children have come back really well and settled back in to their school routines.

This time of the year I know parents start getting anxious about who their child's Teacher will be in September. As I have said in previous years, due to resignation dates I will be able to tell you on Friday 10th June who the class teacher will be.

Please could all Parents ensure they have their Transport Operator / Escort contact details (if applicable), because if you collect your child from school early for some reason and transport isn't required, you will need to let them know as we are unable to do this on your behalf. Many Thanks.

There is a letter at the end of this Newsletter regarding the Free School Meals Self Service and the changes that Worcestershire have made. If you have any queries please email [freeschoolmeals@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

**For anyone who is currently eligible and receives free school meals, there will be no changes or loss of eligibility until at least July 2023 even if your personal circumstances have changed**

The Vaccination Team will be in school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May to deliver the second dose of the HPV Vaccine to all of our Year 8 pupils.



## Communication Team News

Hi everyone, check out the website, [signalong.org.uk](http://signalong.org.uk). The website has a section called 'Freebie Friday'. This is where you can download and print a free signing resource.

The free resource available this time is a holiday signing poster. Click on the link below to have a look.

[https://signalong.org.uk/filemanager/Freebie%20Friday/19.07.19\\_holidays\\_signalong.pdf](https://signalong.org.uk/filemanager/Freebie%20Friday/19.07.19_holidays_signalong.pdf)

Many thanks, Beverley (WFS Signalong Tutor)



## Sixth Form News

Class 13B have decided to focus on healthy foods this term. We have considered food swaps and how we can make our favourite meals better for our bodies.

Here are some pictures from our Independent Living Skills (ILS) lesson. Some pupils visited Tesco and decided on good choices of produce, some remained in school and considered healthy swaps. A group then prepared sweet potato wedges (over chips) with grilled (not fried) burgers with lots of salad and a huge variety of fruit salad for their pudding.



Pupils in 12s have been enjoying attending BTC. We have been learning to budget our money and to order off a menu independently. Pupils then use money skills to pay the bill.



## Class 11SG

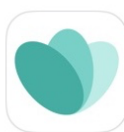


11SG have been really excited this week to start work on the Post-14 / Pathway 3 allotment next to the Forest School site. Our aim is to be able to grow our own fruit and vegetables and to create a sensory wellbeing area. 11SG and 10H have got lots to do getting the garden ready for planting and are excited to see the transformation.

If you have any garden equipment or spare seeds or plants you think would be useful please contact Sam Harper ([sharper@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:sharper@wfs.worcs.sch.uk)) or Amy Scott ([ascott@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:ascott@wfs.worcs.sch.uk)) as we would be grateful of any donations or this project. Thank you



## Cookery News

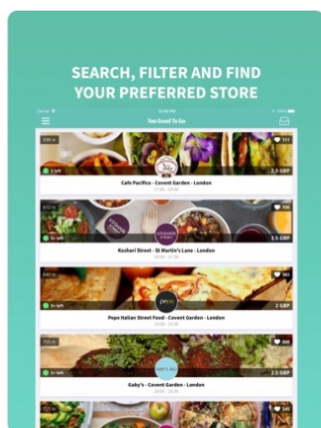
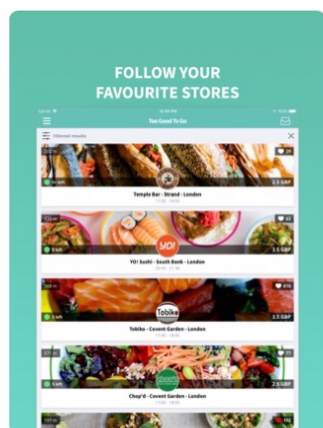


Too Good To Go: End...

Eat well, fight food waste

Editors' Choice

GET



It's been a great return to school after the Easter break, with Classes 10P and 11WD looking at how we can prevent food waste, and do our part to prevent our 10% of the 9 million tons of food waste that goes to landfill in Europe.

We have researched the app "TooGoodToGo" and purchased the food items shown, from Starbucks, for £5, with a value of over £15!!! The foods were not wanted by the shop at the end of the day.

A great way to save money and prevent food being binned.

You might like to download the app for a chance to purchase from Spar, Greggs, Costa and many more.



Jilli Guy  
Independent living

## SPRUCE Class



This week in SPRUCE class we have been very busy! We have been doing lots of measuring and investigating in our Maths lessons, to solve problems. We have started our new topic 'The Scented Garden' and have begun by looking at some tools and equipment we might use when gardening. We did some art work linked to this too, where we used a range of materials to draw with, including crayons, pastels and chalks. And finally we had chance to play! We've been working on playing together and turn taking, with hot wheels, sensory play and with games like snap.





## WILLOW Class

Last half term WILLOW Class enjoyed planting different seeds. We used visuals to help us learn what to do! Some of our plants went home and our sunflowers have been planted in forest school! We hope they can grow really tall! Great work Willow class, you are all super stars!



## ACORNS – Reception Class



ACORNS Class have been learning all about growing by planting seeds this week, we have been tending to our new garden area.

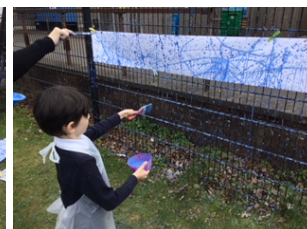


## ROWAN Class

ROWAN Class have had a very busy, but fun, week getting our classroom ready for our new exciting topic ... Ahoy There!

We have been working together to make a Pirate Puppet Theatre, a desert island retreat and a painted water scene, ready for our wonderful work. We enjoyed flicking and bubble painting to make a water effect backdrop for our display and best of all we dressed up as pirates, like the characters in our story The Night Pirates. Everyone is excited to make puppet shows and to dress up and go to the secret pirate island.

Well done Rowan Class a lovely first week back.







## ASH Class

This week in maths ASH Class have been practising their number formation whilst completing missing numbers on a number track. They boys had great fun and worked hard.



## FIR Class



This week FIR class have been finishing off our Amazing Africa topic. We experimented with light and shadows to create African animal shadow puppets and acted out one of our favourite stories, "The Lazy Lion." Then we found out about silhouettes and investigated mixing different shades of paint to create some beautiful art work inspired by the African plains. We finished off our African inspired creations with a digital art version of our silhouette pictures before sending home our Lazy Lion dioramas.



## BEECH Class

This week BEECH Class have settled back in after the Easter break really well and have been exploring different toys and items in the classroom.





## SYCAMORE Class

A very busy first week back in SYCAMORE Class. We have introduced our new book 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. We had our very own 'Marvellous Medicines'. We had to use our inference skills to say what we believed is in the 'medicine' who it is for and what it will do if it is drunk!

Our new topic is 'The Scented Garden' we have begun exploring parts of plants, seeds and bulbs, what makes up the soil we use and we have even begun planting our very own herb garden with coriander, basil, peppermint and dill.

We have also started our new topic in maths, weight and capacity. We have been exploring balance scales, using mathematical language such as balance, heavier, lighter and equal.



## POPLAR Class

This week in POPLAR Class we have started our new topic 'Ahoy there'. The children have enjoyed reading their new story "The Night Pirates" and writing about it in our Literacy lessons. We have also been very busy this week making our own pirate role play costumes including hats, eye patches and telescopes. The children are very excited to play with these in the coming weeks.





## PINE Class

PINE Class began the new term and our people who help us topic with the wonderful story, The Jolly Postman and Other People's Letters. The children loved dressing up as postmen and women and learnt how to post pretend letters into the post box. Finley pulled lots of letters out of the HUGE postman's bag and the big envelopes in the story and Savannah and Isla spent ages posting them! It was great fun learning to be a postie!



## RUSSELL HOUSE



This week we have been B&Q to purchase the paint we need to start our sensory garden project. Any donations suitable for this would be grateful received.



## **A new online Free School Meals System**

This letter is for you if your child or children are currently eligible, or may be eligible, for free school meals under the benefit criteria.

Worcestershire Children First are inviting you to use a new self-service process to manage free school meals applications and keep you up to date with any changes.

**For anyone who is currently eligible and receives free school meals, there will be no changes or loss of eligibility until at least July 2023 even if your personal circumstances have changed.**

### **What do you need to do?**

The system uses the same portal you used to apply for your child's school place. You should use your admission application login details on the Citizen Portal to apply for Free School Meals. You can access the portal using this link:

[https://emsi.worcestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en?ReturnURL=%2FCitizenPortal\\_LIVE%2F](https://emsi.worcestershire.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnURL=%2FCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F)

If you do not currently have a Citizen Portal account, please follow the on-screen instructions to register an account.

We need your permission to communicate with you in this way, so we need you to use the portal, enter your details and make an application. This will mean reapplying for Free School Meals for your child(ren) but please do not be concerned that this will affect current arrangements - all eligible families are protected until at least July 2023. Using the portal will not change this, it's just so that we can communicate with you.

Once you have applied using the new system, you will receive a confirmation message that your application has been received and is being processed. You will then receive further notifications via the Citizens Portal as your application progresses.

### **Why have we developed a new system?**

A key part of the new system is the ability for parents to receive updates on their application and ongoing status without delay via email and portal messages.

### **What about Universal Free School Meals?**

Universal Infant Free School meals for pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 will continue to be managed by the school and are not managed via the Portal.

### **Any questions or concerns?**

If you have any questions or comments about this new process, please contact the Free School Meal team via [freeschoolmeals@worschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@worschildrenfirst.org.uk).

Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your application

**The Free School Meals Team, Worcestershire Children First**