

Wyke Weekly News



Edition: 25 Friday 8th September 2017

Page 1 of 3

Value of the Month for September is Responsibility!

Dates for your diary:

*changed from previous date

11th Sept	Archery Taster Day
	Meet the Teacher 3.15pm
14th Sept	+Pay system surgery/helpdesk—School Hall, 9am
15th Sept	Mr Nicholson meeting parents 3.15pm
18th Sept	Archery Club starts
*25th Sept	All other After School Clubs start
	Parent Forum 2.45pm

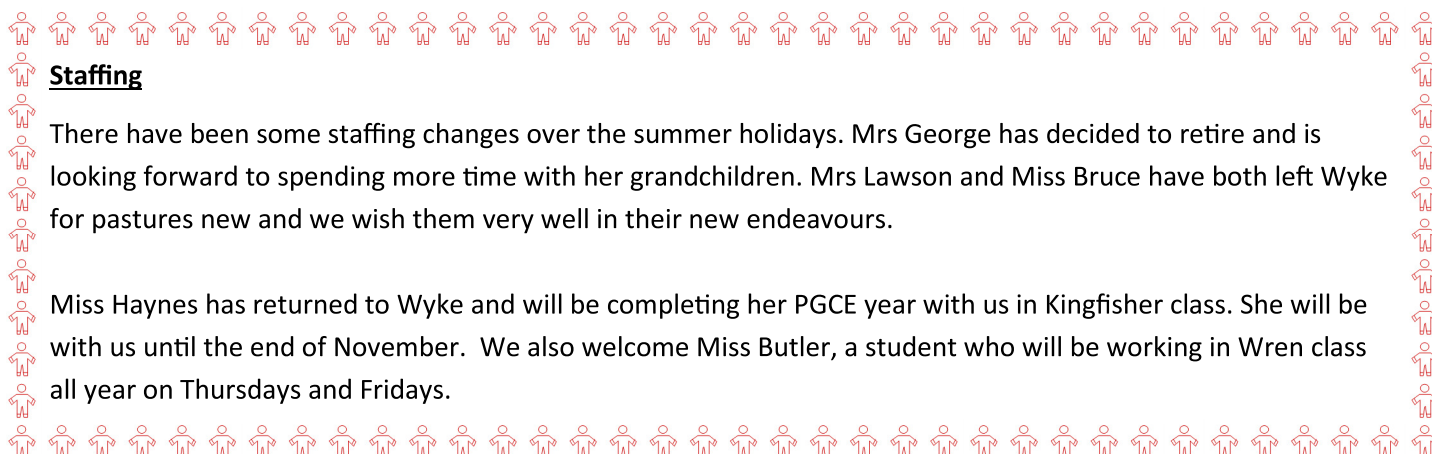
Meet the Teacher 

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Meet the Teacher event. It will take place in classrooms on **Monday 11th September at 3.15pm**

WELCOME BACK

It is lovely to see all the children again this term. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families to Wyke. We are very much looking forward to this academic year and hope you are too! I do hope you all had a good summer holiday and that the children are feeling relaxed and refreshed!

I would also like to welcome the new Headteacher at Gillingham School, Mr Paul Nicholson, to the Gillingham area. He is visiting Wyke on Friday 15th September and would like to meet as many of you as he can. He will be in the school hall from 3.15pm for you to come and say hello!



Staffing

There have been some staffing changes over the summer holidays. Mrs George has decided to retire and is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren. Mrs Lawson and Miss Bruce have both left Wyke for pastures new and we wish them very well in their new endeavours.

Miss Haynes has returned to Wyke and will be completing her PGCE year with us in Kingfisher class. She will be with us until the end of November. We also welcome Miss Butler, a student who will be working in Wren class all year on Thursdays and Fridays.

Uniform

The children all look very smart in their new school uniform. There is a list on our website which details what they need to be wearing and bringing in for PE lessons should you need a reminder. Uniform is available from our normal supplier (Kitz UK) in Sherborne but also from F+F (Tesco) online. Further details can be obtained from the school office and the website if you need them. Please remember that accessories are not part of our uniform and that hair ties need to be sensible and appropriate. No jewellery please!



Unauthorised Absence—A Message from Dorset County Council

All children and young people have a fundamental right to education in order to achieve their maximum potential.

Section 7 Education Act 1996

'Parents/carers have a legal duty to secure full-time education for children of compulsory school age. The education provision must be suitable to the child's age, aptitude and ability, and to any special needs the child has. A child who is registered at school must attend regularly and punctually.'

Dorset County Council anticipates that it will be extremely rare for a leave of absence (a holiday) in term time to be authorised. If a parent/carer takes a child on holiday during term time or fails to ensure their child is receiving suitable full time education then they are committing an offence and may be issued with a Penalty Notice or prosecuted under the Education Act 1996, Section 444(1). The Department for Education is clear that there is no parental/carer right for a family holiday and that cost, experiences for the child or overlapping with school holidays are not factors on which the decision should be made.

Dorset County Council expect all schools to report families to them who take an unauthorised leave of absence (a holiday) or have high levels of unauthorised absence (persistent lateness/poor attendance).

Since April, the number of Penalty Notices issued by Dorset County Council for unauthorised leave of absence (holiday) is 559. They have also issued 71 Penalty Notices for poor attendance (unauthorised absence). Authorised officers have the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice without warning where the parent/carer has chosen to take the child on leave during term time without authorisation.

Previously Dorset County Council have in some circumstances allowed parents to pay Penalty Notices in instalments. From September 2017 they will no longer be able to agree to payment by instalments. Therefore, any Penalty Notices requested by schools and issued by Dorset County Council from the start of this school year must be paid in full by parents.

Penalty Notices can only be issued in cases where a pupil of compulsory school age has been absent and the absence has not been authorised by the school or where the pupil has persistently arrived late after the register has closed. The level of absence that is necessary before a Penalty Notice can be issued is 10 or more half days of unauthorised absence within a 12 school week period.

Regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities. In law, an offence occurs if a parent/carer fails to secure a child's attendance at the school at which they are a registered pupil and that absence is not authorised by the school.

It is important you know and understand the stance Dorset County Council is taking with regard to school attendance so you can ensure your child/ren can achieve their maximum potential and so you don't find yourself and your family in a situation where you have been issued with a Penalty Notice.

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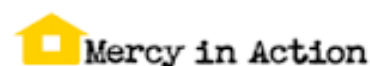
Edition: 25 Friday 8th September 2017

Page 3 of 3



You should have already received, or will soon receive a list of key dates for this academic year. We want to give you as much notice as possible with regard to upcoming events. However, please bear with us as some dates can change due to circumstances often beyond our control. In these situations we will of course give you as much notice as possible. Other dates may be added to the list over the course of the year. There will still be a dates section in each newsletter for dates in the very near future to act as a reminder.

This week we have received a certificate from Mercy in Action thanking you for the shoes you donated at the end of last term. A really big thank you to Emily Williams again for initiating our support for this charity. More details to follow about the child we will be sponsoring in The Philippines once we have the sponsorship set up! The certificate will be displayed in the school office reception area and will also be on our website.



Parent Forum

First Meeting this term is Monday 25th Sept 2.45pm

I would like to thank our current Parent Forum representatives who have agreed to continue in their role this year. However we are looking for some additional parents to join us! We would like two representatives from each class! If you are interested, or are a new parent to the school then please speak to your class rep or the school office team for more information about what the role involves.

Wren Class: vacancies x 2

Woodpecker Class: Becky Thomlinson

Robin Class: Karen Penny

Falcon Class: Jules Bond, Tracy Phenix

Owl Class: Hannah Reed

Heron Class: Amy Woodhouse

Kingfisher Class: Sam Stone

Link Governor: Elizabeth Ingham

New School Year Reminders

- If you are providing your child with a drink for during lessons or for lunchtime please only send in water. Water is available throughout the day for all children.
- The gates will be opened at 8.40am and closed at 9am. The whistle will be blown at 8.50. Registration closes at 9am. Please come via the school office if you are running late so your child/ren can still be registered.
- Thank you for not using the staff car park and for parking considerately in side roads at the start and end of the school day.

If there is ever anything you would like added to the newsletter about local events please do let the school office know and we will add it in where we can!

WOW! What a long newsletter this week to start the term! Apologies but there is so much information to pass on already.

The children have all settled into school really well this week, including our new Wren class who are tired but doing brilliantly!

Have a lovely weekend,
see you all on Monday.

Palmer.