

Welcome Back!

The excitement in school this week, around the return of all children on Monday, really has been palpable and we cannot wait to be together as a community once more. The last few weeks have been incredibly challenging for all and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for all of your support during this time. We know many of you will have been juggling work alongside home learning and this will have been hugely challenging at times. Please do take some time for yourself next week. Thank you also to our incredible staff team, who again have stepped up to the challenge and worked tirelessly to support the children both at school and at home. The team have been worked hard over recent weeks, preparing for the return of all children, and are very much ready to welcome them back next week.

Staffing News

We are pleased to let you know that Mr Cutter has returned to school this week, after receiving notification from his GP that his individual case has been reviewed and he has now been removed from the shielding list. We are also delighted to have welcomed back Mr Wright, one of our minibus drivers, who has been unwell since Christmas but is now recovered and raring to go!

We have also welcomed some new members of staff to our team recently: Mrs Gretta Willans has joined the Early Years team and Mrs Fiona Crayden and Mrs Lizzie Anger have joined our Key Stage 2 team.

World Book Day



This year we celebrated World Book Day with the children in school and also virtually with those at home. It was great to see so many children and staff dressed up – even those who weren't able to join us in school. The children thoroughly enjoyed guessing who our 'Masked Readers' were (some were very tricky!), as well as taking part in a range of World Book Day activities and hearing Mr Cutter read some of his favourite stories on Google Meet.



Behaviour Policy



Following our INSET day at the start of the term, which was focused on developing positive approaches to behaviour management, we have spent the last few weeks reviewing and rewriting our behaviour management policy. We hope to be able

to finalise and share this with you very soon. Some of the changes will come into effect on Monday though, with Mr Cutter introducing all children to our three school rules – ‘Ready, Respectful, Safe’. All classrooms also now have a ‘recognition board’ on display and this will be used on a daily basis to recognise and celebrate the behaviour of those children who have gone ‘over and above’.



Our New ELSA Room



Mrs Proost, our ELSA and home-school link worker is very much looking forward to meeting the children who have been at home over the last few weeks and is planning on spending time over the new weeks getting to know them. Mr Cutter’s old office has now been ‘transformed’ into our new ELSA room, thanks to a generous donation from Friends of Wickham Primary

School. We are delighted to now have a dedicated space in school for children to work with Mrs Proost, which also doubles as a private meeting room for parents to be able to meet with her. Mrs Proost can be contacted at any time by calling the school office or emailing r.proost@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk.

Communication

We would like to remind you that we are no longer using ParentMail to communicate with parents and carers. Instead you will receive emails directly from school. Please check your junk/spam folders if it appears that you are not receiving our emails.

As all children will be returning to school and classroom-based learning from next week we would ask that you do not use Google classroom as a method of communication with teachers or school as it will not be monitored on a daily basis. If you wish to speak to your child’s class teacher then please either call or email the school office on adminoffice@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk.

Those families who are loaned a Chromebook may continue to keep these as we will be using Google classroom to set some of our homework in the future.

Easter Holiday Club

We are delighted that Treetops, the company who runs our breakfast and after school care, will be running an Easter holiday club here at Wickham Primary School. They have a range of new and exciting activities including Lazer tag and Zorbing. Please visit their website to book a place for your child: <http://www.treetopsclubs.co.uk>. We are currently waiting on

confirmation as to whether Tree Tops have been successful in their bid for funding, which will enable them to offer funded places to our vulnerable families and those who are eligible for Pupil Premium (free school meals).



Parking on site

Please be reminded that, in order to keep our children and visitors safe, parents are not permitted to use the school car park unless prior permission has been sought from the school. There is plenty of parking available at the community centre and in Wickham Square which we ask that you make use of. Many thanks.

Pianos



We have been successful in a bid for funding, from Universal Music UK Sound Foundation, which has enabled us to purchase a new piano for the school. Our aim is to offer a great range of instrumental lessons in the future once the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, piano being one of these. The new piano does now mean that we have two old pianos which are surplus to requirements. Please let us know if you are interested in rehoming one of them, in return for a small donation to the school.

Key Dates

Monday 8 th March	Children return to school
Thursday 1st April	INSET day
2 nd April – 16 th April	Easter Holidays
Friday 18th June	INSET day
Monday 21st June	INSET day

Take a Break Tuesday

Over the last few weeks we have been encouraging children, parents and staff to look after their mental health by taking a break during the day. On Tuesdays particularly, this has been a focus. It has been lovely to see photos of everyone taking a break in different ways. Here are just a selection of those we have been sent.

