



Winscombe Primary School

Care, Aspire, Respect and Excel

5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year. I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful summer break, and I look forward to working together to ensure that all our children have a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

As we start the term, I would like to remind you of a few key expectations and upcoming events:

Welcome to my school meeting

You will have already had contact with class teachers and undoubtedly heard about the start of school from your children. Next Friday 12th September, reading books will be sent home, along with knowledge organisers, which have been created by teachers to inform you about your child's learning this term.

To enable you to hear more about the year ahead, I would like to invite you to a *Welcome to My School* meeting on **Tuesday 23rd September at 2:40pm**. This will be a valuable opportunity to meet staff, visit classrooms and ask any questions you may have.

Behaviour and attitudes:

We want every member of our school community to feel safe and happy. Over the coming weeks, each class will be revisiting our school rules and values. Please take a moment to go through the pupil code of conduct below with your child and support them in following these important expectations. By working in partnership, we can ensure the very best for your child's achievement and well-being.

- ✓ Arrive at school in good time
- ✓ Treat adults and other pupils with respect
- ✓ Work hard in class and allow others to work
- ✓ Respect and follow the agreed class and school rules
- ✓ Look after other people in the school
- ✓ Report bullying or any accident or other incident
- ✓ Remember safety rules and good manners when using email and internet
- ✓ Take messages home

✓ Look after the school environment

✓ Complete homework tasks and home reading when they are set

Uniform

We are very proud of how smart our pupils look in their school uniform. Please support us in maintaining these high standards by ensuring your child comes to school each day wearing the correct uniform and footwear. This helps create a sense of pride and belonging for everyone.

Specific details can be found in the school information books which have been shared.

Attendance

Good attendance is essential for learning and progress. Our expectation is that every child attends school regularly and on time. If your child is absent, please inform the office before 9.30am each morning. Where a child misses more than 8 sessions (equivalent to 4 full days) due to illness, we are required to see evidence that medical advice has been sought. This helps us work with you to support your child's wellbeing and ensure they do not fall behind in their learning.

Unauthorised Term-Time Leave

Children have a protected right to full-time education. Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly. In line with statutory guidance, we are unable to authorise any requests for term-time leave unless the circumstances are both exceptional and unavoidable. Any unauthorised leave that meets the national threshold is likely to result in parents being issued with a penalty notice.

Why Attendance Matters:

Learning Continuity: Regular attendance ensures that your child is included in important lessons, activities and opportunities.

Social Development: Being in school helps your child build strong relationships with peers and teachers.

Future Success: Consistent attendance sets a positive pattern for future education and employment.

Communication

We'd like to kindly remind parents and carers of the best ways to communicate with the school.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like to talk something through, the most effective way is to contact the school directly. We're always happy to help and are committed to working in partnership with you to support your child's wellbeing and learning.

For class-based queries, teachers can be messaged directly via Dojo between 8am and 5pm. Teachers will try to reply within 24 hours, although will always endeavour to respond as soon as possible. For more general enquiries, or for urgent messages, please contact the school office (email: office@winscombeprimaryschool.com / Telephone: 01934 843407).

Beyond school, while platforms such as WhatsApp or social media can be helpful for general parent-to-parent chats, they are not appropriate for discussing sensitive or school-related issues. Messages shared in these forums may not remain private and can easily be circulated more widely.

We respectfully ask all parents to take care when posting or commenting online. Please consider whether the information is accurate, necessary, and in line with the respectful and inclusive values of our school community. In some cases, sharing false or harmful information online can have legal consequences.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a positive and respectful school environment. Together, we can make this a happy, enriching and rewarding year for every child.

With very best wishes,
Paula Baker
Headteacher

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