



Winscombe Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Lorna Richardson

6th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to you all, we sincerely hope you all enjoyed a lovely summer full of fun, sun and made plenty of happy memories. It has been wonderful to see our children enjoying their return to school over the last two days and we're all excited about the year ahead.

A special welcome to those families who are joining us for the first time. We hope both you, and your child, will be very happy at Winscombe Primary School, and that their time here is as successful and rewarding as possible.

Staffing updates

I will continue to work three days a week across Sandford and Winscombe schools in my role as Executive Headteacher, and will be supported by our new Head of School, Mrs Baker who is also one of our Year 6 teachers. In addition to Mrs Baker and I as school leaders, Miss Humphrey and Mrs Pemberton are members of the Senior Leadership Team.

We also welcome a few new teachers to the school; Mrs Molina in Oak Class (Year 2) who will be working alongside Mrs Axton, Mrs Fiona Collery in Silver Birch Class (Reception) who is job sharing with Mrs Crawshaw and finally Mrs Cara Dewey in Maple Class (Year 5) who is covering Mrs Perry's maternity absence.

In other news, Mrs Janet Bull has made the decision to retire over the summer. Mrs Bull has worked at the school for 10 years and she will be sorely missed. We would like to thank her for all she has contributed to the success of the school, particularly our Breakfast and After School Clubs and wish her well in her retirement. We will be planning an opportunity for Mrs Bull to come into school and say farewell to the children in due course.

As you are aware Mrs Ellie Travetti is currently on maternity leave and has now had her baby and we send her our congratulations and best wishes. On Saturday 17th August she gave birth to a little girl named Elsie Eden weighing 8lb 15oz!!

Suspended curriculum: Our Aspirations

We are beginning the year with a wonderful text to inspire our children, called The Most Magnificent Thing, by Ashley Spires. This is a story about creativity, disappointment, resilience and perseverance.

To further inspire our children to think about their aspirational hopes and dreams we have organised a number of visitors and experiences to inspire them too. The text we have chosen drives scientific and computing themes and as a result we have organised a Science Dome visiting the school next week and Miss Humphrey will be leading the classes in Computing activities as well. We also have a visitor to the school to share his work on CGI!

The week will culminate on **Friday 13th September** in a non-school uniform day. We are asking the children to come to school dressed as their future aspiration, 'what they would like to be when they grow up'.

'Welcome to my School' event

As you are already aware, our annual Welcome to my School event will take place on **Thursday 12th September**. This year, I will lead you all through a short presentation in the **school hall starting at 3.20pm**, sharing the success and expectations we have as a school and your responsibilities as a parent. You will then have an opportunity to visit your child's classroom afterwards. If you cannot find alternative childcare for your child during this time, they may remain in class during the presentation. Please let the class teacher know if you are doing this.

The presentation will be shared via Class Dojo for those families that are unable to attend. You will already find Year group information on our school Jotter app as well.

Success

We are delighted that we have been awarded the International Eco Schools Award over the summer! A big thank you to Miss Willows and the Eco Council for this success. Our allotment has also produced some incredible vegetables over the summer with some prize marrows and squashes!

I would also like to pass on my thanks for the generous donations you all made to our Charity Crew day last term. We were thrilled to have made £137.00 and the charities chosen will be equally grateful.

Finally, I would like to share our success in last year's KS2 results. We achieved a combined average of 85% compared to the national average of 61%. This is an incredible achievement and one we are all extremely proud of.

Future Stars have begun their management of Breakfast and After school clubs with our current staff and thank you to those who have booked in already. We will also be sharing opportunities they provide for holidays clubs during half term holidays in the coming weeks.

Our normal newsletter will commence next Friday and we will be able to share key dates for the year ahead with you.

Thank you for your continued support and we very much look forward to a successful year ahead.

Kind regards
Mrs Lorna Richardson
Executive Headteacher