



Wednesday 20th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of term, I thought I would write with some key messages and keep you updated with events in school.

Ofsted Inspection

As you will know, Ofsted inspected our school on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February. It was a thorough, rigorous but fair process. I will be able to share the report with you after Easter but I just want to reassure you all that we are pleased with the outcome. They recognised there were many good things about the school and I am looking forward to you all being able to read about these. The areas they gave us for improvement were known to us and they recognised we are working towards tackling them. There is so much to like about this school and I urge you to listen to professional voices when forming an opinion about our school community.

Things to Celebrate

There have been many positive things going on in school this term. For example, we were well represented by a group of six dancers at Kidderminster College on 28th February. The PE Department were extremely proud of the way that they choreographed their own routines and how they embodied the school values in everything they did.

On Thursday 7th March, we celebrated World Book Day in school. This involved pupils dressing up, special assemblies and Library activities. Reading is so important as it allows pupils to access the curriculum and broaden their horizons.

On Saturday 16th March, our Young Enterprise company attended a trade fair in Solihull – they came third! These pupils were a credit to the school and are budding entrepreneurs in the making.

This week we are having rewards and celebration assemblies. Pupils will receive a range of awards for having high numbers of house points, excellent attendance and embodying our school values. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place after school on Wednesday 20th March. I am yet to experience one of these but I have heard they are great fun!

Countdown to Exams

Year 11 have been working hard, preparing for their upcoming GCSEs. They have had a final round of mocks in recent weeks and have tackled them well. Many have attended Guided Support Sessions put on by their teachers and designed to help them to prepare. Some subjects have been putting the final touches to their assignments, while Non-Exam Assessments have taken place in some subjects (e.g. Food). An information evening is planned to take place for Year 11 on Wednesday 20th March at 6.30pm. When we return, they will be on the final stretch, with exams beginning shortly after. Please check the exam timetables for exact dates.

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Headteacher: Mr A Weatherhogg

End and Start of Term

Term ends on Thursday 21st March at 3.05pm. Friday 22nd March is an inset day.
Pupils return on Monday 8th April at 8.35am.

Working Together with Families

In recent times, I have become increasingly concerned about relationships between school and home. Since I joined the school six months ago, I have made a concerted effort to meet parents and carers. My team and I have devoted a great deal of time to meeting with parents and attempting to alleviate any concerns that they may have. School works best when home and school are united, pulling in the same direction for the benefit of the child. We may not always agree, but if we are talking directly to each other we can help to make things better for the people who matter, the children.

Please may I request that when you have concerns or issues, you contact the school directly. We can only solve a problem if we are aware of it. We are not perfect; we are human beings like everyone else. What my staff are trying to do is to do their best by your children. They work hard, often at personal cost, to try to improve the life chances of the young people they work with. The truth is that it is getting harder to recruit people to work in schools due to the pressures and stresses of working in education. The only people who suffer if people leave the profession are the pupils themselves, who receive worse teaching and less support. We as a school are spending a great deal of time dealing with things that do not make a difference. We are here to teach subjects and educate pupils, so they learn what they need to and can follow their dreams after school. Some find school easy, while others need more support. This may be with their behaviour, wellbeing or other things. We only have a certain amount of staffing and resources. Schools now offer so much more than they used to and at Wordsley we have been investing heavily in providing this support. We have high expectations of behaviour because that is how it should be. We have rules in place to keep pupils safe and for the benefit of everyone.

This is a plea, from me to you, to work with us not against us. Only together can we support your children to be in school, in lessons, learning and thriving. If you have a concern, contact us directly and give us chance to respond. Only then can we solve the problem, in partnership.

I wish you and your family a happy Easter.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Weatherhogg
Headteacher

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