



3rd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome your children back to Wordsley. I hope the summer has been one of rest and enjoyment, although I know having children at home can be very tiring and expensive.

This letter is intended to provide you with important information regarding the return to school and some changes that we have made this year.

Pupils' Return

Just a reminder that the pupils return on Wednesday 4th September. Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September are both inset days.

All pupils return at the normal time of 8.35am.

Year 7 pupils will go straight to the Hall.

Years 8 to 11 will go to their new year group form rooms.

All pupils will receive an assembly during the morning, outlining important messages and key changes. They will also spend time getting to know their new form tutor and the pupils in their form.

Normal lessons will begin at the start of Period 3.

The School Day

The school gates will not open until 8.10am, as we cannot provide supervision before this point. Please do not send you children in earlier than this.

From 8.10-8.30am, pupils will only be allowed in Oasis (the Canteen) or the Yard, where staff will be on duty. The remainder of the building is out of bounds as it is not supervised.

Registration begins at 8.35am, when the gate into school will close. After this point pupils will be considered late and must sign in through Reception. Arrival after 8.35am will also lead to a late detention being issued.

The school day has been altered slightly, as shown below:

8.35am-8.55am	Morning Registration and Assembly.
9.00am-9.50am	Period 1
9.55am-10.45am	Period 2
10.45am -11am	Break
11.00am-11.50am	Period 3
11.55am-12.45pm	Period 4

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Headteacher: Mr A Weatherhogg

12.45pm-1.20pm	Lunch
1.20pm-2.10pm	Period 5
2.15pm-3.05pm	Period 6
3.10pm onwards	Extra-Curricular Activities

The key changes are:

- Extending morning form time by 5 minutes.
- Lengthening lunch by 5 minutes.
- Removing afternoon form time, with pupils going straight to Period 5 after lunch.

Behaviour System Changes

This year we have decided to implement new and simplified behaviour system in lessons, that can be clearly understood by all members of our school community.

We have shared with pupils our new Wordsley Way of behaving and we will remind them again on their return. Our expectations are clear and simple. They are also expectations that every secondary school would expect their pupils to follow.

Pupils who meet our (or exceed) our expectations will be rewarded. As a school we are going to make a concerted effort to reward pupils who do the right things.

However, there will always be those who do not. For those who persistently fail to adhere to the Wordsley Way will be issued with Yellow and Red Cards.

- Yellow Cards – are a final chance to correct or improve behaviour. These will be logged on Class Charts, which you as parents will be able to see.
- Red Cards – failure to correct behaviour and continued disruption will lead to removal from the lesson and a detention being issued by the class teacher. Repeat offenders or failure to attend detentions will lead to further sanctions.

All pupils have the right to not have their lessons disrupted. Further details of the new policy will come out in due course. As parents and carers, I just want you to understand the language staff will be using with the pupils.

CCTV

For the safety of pupils and staff, CCTV has been installed around the outside of the site. As a result, the whole of the outside of the building is covered by cameras. This further adds to the inside coverage that we have had since the summer of 2023.

Vaping

It is illegal for people under the age of 18 to buy a vape or have a vape bought for them. It is also illegal for any person, child or adult, to smoke or vape on a school site. Vaping has been on the rise amongst young people, yet as a society we are yet to fully understand the damage this is doing to them. In order to protect our young people, we have had vape alarms installed in our school toilets. Anyone found to be vaping will face a sanction and will be expected to hand over the prohibited item.

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Uniform

We want our pupils to take pride in their appearance. Expectations regarding uniform can be found on our website [here](#). All pupils are issued a Standards Card at the start of each term; this outlines our expectations regarding both uniform and equipment. Failure to carry a Standards Card or if a pupil receives five crosses will result in a detention.

Please may I remind you that ties must be worn at all times. Failure to attend school wearing a tie will lead to your child being provided with one for the day. If they do not return it then you may be billed for that tie. In addition, piercings are often a problem at the start of a new term. No facial piercings are allowed. Please ensure these are removed before pupils come to school. Just having had it done will not be an acceptable excuse to be wearing them. As part of this year's equipment, pupils will be expected to have a green biro. We operate a stationery shop at break-times should pupils need to purchase one. Finally, can you ensure that your child is wearing shoes that are all black.

Mobile phones

Please can I remind parents that mobile phones should not be seen or heard in school. If your child is seen on their phone anywhere or at any time, it will be confiscated. This is for the safety and well-being of pupils and staff.

Year Groups

As outlined last term, we as a school are moving to a year group pastoral system.

Just to remind you, the Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Leader in each year group are as follows:

- Year 7 – Mrs Perks and Mrs Rees
- Year 8 – Mr Dyson and Miss Dufficy
- Year 9 – Mr Hope and Mrs Stockton
- Year 10 – Mrs Longman and Mr Ridge
- Year 11 – Miss Lloyd and Mrs Williams

In most instances, your first port of call should be the form teacher. Please address any questions, issues or concerns to them first.

Key Dates

Please note that as well as the first two days in September, there will be inset days on:

- Friday 18th October 2024
- Monday 6th January 2025

The school's Open Evening will take place on Thursday 26th September 2024. School will close at 2pm to pupils.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Weatherhogg
Headteacher

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