



# Newsletter

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a good start to 2019. We are delighted with the way that the children have returned after the holidays; full of 'New Year resolutions' and eager to take on challenges, which have been high profile due to this year's work on Growth Mindset. We have a Growth Mindset workshop for parents coming up that will explain this further. Please see below for details.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Smart, *Head Teacher*

## Achievement Awards



**Badgers:** Oliver Carradine, Noah Cole

**Hedgehogs:** Chev Reed, Nia Roberts-Wooding

**Otters:** Josh Davies, Max O'Sullivan

**Squirrels:** Nathan Gunton, Joseph Fry

**Owls:** Olivia Stephenson, William Hawkins

**Kingfishers:** Emily Trott, Evie Northey-Craig

**Golden Pencil** – not this week!

**Attendance** – Owl Class

**Reading Rocketeers** – Badger class

## Vacancies

We have a vacancy for the following post:

1. Senior SMSA. This post is for 5 days per week, term time only, to lead our team of experienced dinner time staff. Closing date 24th January 2019

<https://www.wellswaymat.com/careers>

Please ask at the School Office for further information.

Dates for the year	
Assembly dates for parents: Kingfishers 15.3.19, Otters 22.3.19, Owls 29.3.19, Hedgehogs 28.6.19, Squirrels 5.7.19, Badgers 12.7.19	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	PTA Year 1 Entertainment Night
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	PTA Reception Family Disco
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Classrooms, 8.50am - 9.15am. Come and look at your child's work with them in class.
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Maths Evening for parents, 5-6pm (Reception), 7-8pm (Y1/2) pending Miss Williams' return to school.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	PTA Adult Quiz Night
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Chinese New Year themed school lunch
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Information session for Year 1 parents re National Phonics Check, 6pm.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Valentines' Cake Sale.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Y2 Writing Workshop for dads, uncles, grandads or other male role models. 9.10am
18 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Half term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY 4
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Y2 SATs meeting for parents, 6pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Themed Lunch for World Book Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day

**NB, all dates for terms 3-6 will be sent as a separate attachment today.**

## Upcoming Workshops

All workshops will be advertised on our Facebook page and can be booked via the Parentmail 'Events' section.

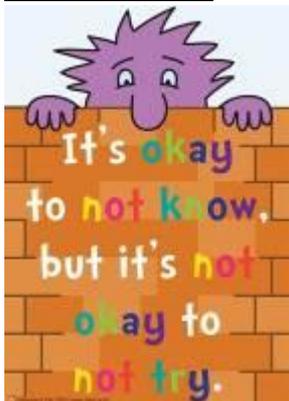
### All Year Groups

**MATHS:** This is a practical Maths hour, scheduled to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 5pm - 6pm for Reception parents and 6pm – 7pm for Year 1 and 2 parents. This was a very popular workshop when it ran 2 years ago, so please book your place via Parentmail Events. NB, this session is dependent on the return of Miss Williams. We will inform you as soon as possible if there is a need to postpone.

### Year 2 only

**ENGLISH:** On the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> February at 9.10am, Miss Willington is offering an inspiring session for male family members in particular, to come and take part in a fun writing activity with their child. This is in line with our whole school priorities of raising attainment for boys. By having male role models in school and encouraging joint writing projects, this is one of the ways that we hope to do this. Further details to follow. We will consider rolling this out to other year groups later in the year.

### All Year Groups



Growth Mindset: What is it and how can it help your child to be a better learner?



Since September, we have working in parallel with another school in our Multi-Academy Trust – The Meadows Primary in Bitton, to train staff in Growth Mindset. Come along on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> March at 9.10am and we will tell you all about it! You will also have an opportunity to work with your child on various tasks within the classroom.



Does your child attend sessions at Skool Kidz? If you are cancelling a pre-booked place, please let us know too, so that we have the same information when Skool Kidz staff arrive to collect children at the end of the day. Thank you

### New Year Resolutions



Ellie

I would like to get better at swimming backwards and sharing and caring.



Cosmo and Jude

We would like to get better at hopping, skipping, helping our mums wash up and emptying the washing machine!

### Appointments during school hours

Please avoid booking medical or dental appointments for your child during the school day where at all possible. If an appointment has to be taken during the day, please try to make this towards the end of the school day. We will ask you to show an email or appointment card confirmation in order to authorise the time out of school.

### Newsletters will cease

With the increasing use of Facebook and Twitter as means of communication and 'in the moment' sharing of what is happening in school, we have decided to stop our newsletters at the end of this term. We will still publicise events and send important information such as dates on a Friday where necessary.

## Building Learning Power



We have developed our work on the Learning Power animals this year and thanks to Mrs Sears, we now have these beautifully displayed in the hall. Take time to talk to your child about which animal they have been most like today. The 'Altogether Ants' work as a team, the 'Try Again Tortoise' never gives up, the 'Useful Unicorn' thinks creatively and the 'Wise Owl' thinks things through!

## Build your Own Burger and Ice Cream Day!

Thank you to everyone who booked their child in for a school lunch on Thursday. The number of children who took lunch was fantastic and DIRECTLY IMPACTS ON FUNDING THAT THE SCHOOL RECEIVES.

CT: 'It is the best day ever'. EV: 'These were the best burgers. I have tried build your own in another shop but school's were the best!'



## PTA News

Wow what a busy month it's been already. Since the start of the term we've held our first PTA meeting of the year where we voted through a whopping £8,073 of spend, launched ticket sales for three big events, and started to plan some of the exciting things coming up in the summer terms.

We held our first PTA meeting of the year last week and a big thank you to those that came along and shared their ideas. The highlights of that meeting include us voting through £8,073 for the school to spend on their agreed priority list by the end of the school year, this includes an extra £500 for each year group to spend before the Easter holidays. Ruth Coles (a Hedgehog mum) is our new Vice-Chair and will be leading on introducing a school lottery which we hope to launch soon (you may recall us asking parents for thoughts on this on our Facebook page towards the end of last year and the response was in favour of the lottery so we look forward to your support). We've also got some exciting new dates for your diary, all of which are shown on the updated PTA calendar attached, but the key new/ updated dates are a collection for old clothing on Monday 29th April, a Teddy Bears' family picnic on Friday 7th June and our Summer Fair on Saturday 13th July.

We also discussed holding another event for adults in the May timeframe. In response to the PTA survey held last summer we've narrowed this down to either a wine tasting night or a ladies fashion night. We've launched a Facebook poll to get some thoughts so please take a moment to visit our page and let us know what you think.

We're sure that by now you are familiar with who your PTA class representatives are but just in case we've attached our updated PTA committee poster. Your class representatives are the people to speak to if you have any ideas about future PTA events or questions about PTA activities.

It's a busy week next week with both the Year 1 entertainment night and the disco (including games and magic) for reception children and their families. There are still a few tickets available for each event so please use the following links to purchase yours:

- Year 1 Entertainment Night (Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 3.30-4.10pm) – [link](#).
- Reception Disco/ Reception Family Fun Night (Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 6-7.30pm) – [link](#).

Finally tickets are selling fast for our **adult quiz night** on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February (7-9.45pm). This was a great event last year and is coming back bigger and better. We still have space for a few more teams so you'd like to take part then please sign up early to avoid disappointment. Tickets can be found at this [link](#). When ordering tickets please give us a team contact name or if you would like us to organise a team for you simply add 'Make Me A Team' to the team name box that you'll find during the checkout process.

The PTA Team

### Requests for leave of absence

**Our term dates are DIFFERENT FROM THE DATES ON THE BANES WEBSITE. 2018,19 and 2019,20 dates are now available.**

**No leave of absence will be granted where our individual school term dates have not been followed.**

There is a clear correlation between good attendance and good outcomes at school. Children need to be at school in order to have the relevant teaching in order that they will be ready for their next stage in learning. I will be meeting termly with our Children Missing Education Officer (CMEO) regarding attendance at our school. We, along with other local schools, follow BANES policy on holiday requests. **Any child who has attendance below 90% is considered by the government to be a persistent absentee** (supported evidence of chronic illness of course is taken into account and would not be counted) and requests for holidays in term time will not be granted unless there are **very exceptional circumstances**. This means that they are "rare, significant, unavoidable and short." (National Association of Head Teachers) **The expected attendance for all children in Wellsway Multi-Academy Trust Schools is 100%. The headteacher makes the decision whether or not to authorise absence, including sickness absence.**

- All applications for leave of absence must be made **in advance** by the parent(s), carer(s) or corporate parent that the pupil normally resides with.
- Where a request for leave of absence has been made by one parent only, any estranged parent with parental responsibility<sup>1</sup> will be advised of the request for leave. The school will not become involved in disputes between parents over permissions surrounding the request. If the parent on receipt of the notification does not agree with the absence then he/she may put in writing to the headteacher notification to that effect. This will be given consideration should a Penalty Notice be issued for the absence. " <sup>1</sup> Except where there has been an order made by a court restricting the sharing of information with that parent. In such cases it is the responsibility of the parent to provide documentary evidence of the order.
- **Illness:** If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please either visit or phone Mrs Weeks in the school office rather than leaving a message with the Class Teacher, who may have lots of messages to remember. In this way, we can ensure that all absences are recorded correctly. Our school answerphone

has a dedicated line to report illness if outside of the office opening hours (8.30am -5pm, but 4.30pm on Fridays).

- **Please note that if your child is absent from school and we do not receive a message or are unable to reach you on the phone, we may be obliged to follow up with a home visit to check on your child's safety.**
- Please ring us on each day of absence, unless by prior arrangement with the office, e.g. in the case of chickenpox or sickness, where a set number of days at home may be required. Mrs Weeks will be in the office from 8.30am each day.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDREN MUST BE 48 HOURS CLEAR OF SICKNESS OR DIARRHOEA BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.**

Trust

Respect

Kindness

Cooperation

Courage

Creativity