



Newsletter – Tuesday 13th March 2018

Snow

Thank you to everyone for your help and support during the recent snow. As it turned out, I think we absolutely made the right call and timed the closure of the school perfectly. Thank you for all the positive feedback we have received regarding our decision and the timely manner in which we shared this with you.

I would like to say a big thank you to the staff for making the effort to be in on the Thursday – despite the tricky locations that some of our staff come from.

Should we have any further snow (we hope we won't but just in case!) please do not take the word of other 'news sources' over our communications. Unfortunately, our website was temporarily down but that was swiftly rectified. Our own social media feeds are always the most reliable sources of information.

Staffing update

We have said goodbye to Mr Morrow who was a Wildern SCITT student in Poppy class. Mr Morrow had moved onto his second placement of the year in KSI at Valentine Primary. Having moved there, Mr Morrow has decided that KSI is where his passion lies and so he will remain at Valentine for the rest of the year.

We would like to formally welcome Miss Isted to the School Office team. Emily is a welcome addition to the School Office alongside Mrs Clark and Mrs Taylor.

Miss Ngomuo will be joining Oat class this week replacing Mrs Nash. Miss Ngomuo joins us from Bitterne Park Primary in Southampton.

The Year 5 team is expanding! Mrs Street and Mrs Broomfield will be joined by Miss Wilson, Mrs Moore and Mrs Todd this week. Mrs Elliott will be moving to Rye class with Mr Anderson over the next couple of weeks.

As you are aware, Miss Tizard recently left her role as Speech and Language Skills Assistant at school in order to become her sister in law's full time carer.

We are delighted that we have been able to secure some more regular support from Mrs Michelle Scorey (a qualified Speech and Language Therapist who has worked with Miss Tizard at Wellstead for many years) to work for the school and support us in continuing to provide the excellent speech and language provision that we are well known for providing.

Michelle is a welcome addition to the team at Wellstead and will be invaluable for ensuring the children's speech and language skills are fully assessed promptly and that appropriate provision is put in place.

Reading helpers – we still need more!

Classes **across the school** would really appreciate the help of anyone who has a couple of hours per week to come into school (preferably in the afternoon) to hear children read.

Before volunteers come into school, they must complete a volunteer pack, undertake a DBS check (which often takes around 2 weeks to process) and ideally take part in a volunteer workshop (although this can be undertaken once you have started volunteering).

Please speak to or email Miss Bourner directly (emma.bourner@wellsteadapps.co.uk) if you would be able to offer your help and she will arrange for a volunteer pack to be sent out to you.

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Mother's Day

The feedback we have received from our Mother's day lunches has been incredible. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have all said how much they enjoyed coming into school and sharing a meal with their children.

We must say a huge thank you to Tracey and her HC3S team in creating around 250 additional lunches to celebrate Mother's Day this year. Thank you also to our own lunchtime team for creating a wonderful atmosphere in the hall for our visitors and children. Thank you to PoW for the wonderful bunting and serviettes, Charlotte Taylor-Horlock for the daffodil vases and to our friends at Sainsbury's Hedge End for the daffodils. Huge thanks also to our office team who have undertaken an awful lot of extra work to ensure these events have gone to plan!

We are now considering what we might do for Father's Day... watch this space!

HC3S

As we move towards the summer term, we have received new summer term menus from HC3S which will be sent home just before Easter holidays. HC3S picnic bags will be returning for the summer term allowing the children to eat outside during the warmer weather. The picnic bag menu will also be coming home just before the Easter holidays.

As last year, we will have a Year 6 menu for the summer term. This allows the children in Year 6 to have a menu similar to the menu that they will encounter at secondary school. Again, a menu will come home just before the Easter holidays.

Moving forward, children will also be able to sign up for a picnic bag lunch to take with them on any school day trips. There will be 2 options of picnic bag to choose from.

Morning snacks

Recently 2 of our Year 6 children came to a Governor's meeting to talk to them about our 'Food in School' policy. We were discussing the snacks that the children bring into school and the amount of rubbish that is generated by pre-packaged snacks. Before Miss Bourner undertakes some work with School Council on the snacks that are brought into school, we thought you may appreciate a reminder of snack suggestions. The list is by no means exhaustive but may help when having discussions with your child at home.

Snacks brought in from home may include:

- ✓ Fruit
- ✓ Vegetables
- ✓ Milk
- ✓ Seeds
- ✓ Fruit-based snack bars
- ✓ Yoghurt

The following foods are not suitable for snacks:

- * Savoury crackers or breadsticks
- * Chocolate or chocolate coated products
- * Cakes, biscuits, pastries or desserts
- * Crisps

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Bag storage in KS2

We are in consultation with County, the Fire Service and Mount Industries (who built a lot of our classroom furniture) to find a more pleasing solution to our current storage for coats, book bags etc in KS2.

In our plans, we are allocating spaces for all children for their book bag, PE bag, lunch bag/box, water bottle and coats. We are unable to allocate spaces for bags.

It has always been our request that, due to very tight space limitations, **children do not bring bags into school.** The only exceptions for this has been bags brought in for after school clubs where additional clothing is required or by those children who cycle or scoot unaccompanied to school.

We would kindly ask that you talk to your child about this and return to sending them to school with their book bag unless they fit the 'exception' criteria. This would be very much appreciated.

Uniform smartness

We believe that belonging to the school community is to wear the symbols of Wellstead Primary School with pride. At Wellstead, we hope that children will develop a sense of 'belonging' and the wearing of school uniform enhances this. With this in mind, please could we also remind you of some of the requests outlined in our uniform policy.

The children should wear black shoes, no trainers or boots.

Long hair should be tied back so that it remains out of the child's eyes when they are working.

Nail varnish should not be worn.

Jewellery (unless it is of a religious or medical nature) should not be worn.

Music at Wellstead

Sadly, Mr Skinner (our Guitar teacher) will be reducing his days at Hampshire Music Service in the Summer term. Mr Skinner will be replaced by Mr Horne. The children's usual morning guitar lessons will still remain within the school day but will move from between 9.30 – 11.30 to between 12.30 – 2.30. Miss Bourner will let the children know the timing of their new slot at the start of the summer term.

Mr Skinner would like to invite the parents of the children who have been having guitar lessons to a performance during our Celebration Assembly on Friday 23rd March. The assembly begins at 10.30am and should last around 30 minutes. Please come into school via the School Office.

Mrs Buckley from Hampshire Music Service continues to work with KS2 and would like to celebrate the recent work that Year 3 and Year 4 have been doing by inviting parents in to hear their singing and their ukulele playing on Thursday 29th March at 9.15am - this should last around 40 minutes.

Honeypot Easter Eggs

One of our parents runs their own company and, as a company, they will be donating Easter Eggs this year to a local charity 'The Honeypot Children's Charity'. As a charity, they support children between the ages of 5 and 12 who are young carers or vulnerable children. The Easter Eggs will be distributed to the children they support - they need 1000 Easter Eggs this year. To see more about the work of the charity, please click on the link

<http://www.honeypot.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-help/>

If you would also like to support the work of this charity by donating an Easter Egg/s, please pop it into the School Office by the morning of Thursday 15th March.

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Red Box

We are delighted to announce that we are to become a donation point for the Red Box Project. Some information from the project...

A simple scheme, made with love for the young women in our community. We aim to quietly ensure that no young woman misses school or suffers embarrassment because she has her period.

We know that schools already do what they can in this area. We want to step up as a community to give you the peace of mind that your stocks will never run out and enable you to support disadvantaged young women throughout their period.

The Red Box Project gives young women in need - whether for financial or social reasons - the reassurance of enough sanitary pads for their entire period plus a couple left over for next time. This is what makes it special. We sponsor and stock a red box filled with sanitary towels and spare pants.

The box will be kept at the School Office.

This is a very simple, no frills project and is entirely funded by community kindness, woman to young woman.

Sport Relief

On Friday 23rd March, we will be undertaking our own Sport Relief event. In exchange for £1 for Sport Relief, the children can wear red to school alongside their running clothes and will run a mile in and around the park.

We ask the children to come to school on that day dressed in their running gear (children may change into their PE kit when they get into school if that is what they choose to wear). It would be great if some element of their outfit is red too!

Due to possible adverse weather conditions and availability of adults, we will aim to undertake the mile during the school morning but we will not be able to confirm timings for when classes will be running.

Easter Competitions

On Monday 26th March, we will be having our annual Easter competitions.

Year R Easter Bonnet Parade

The Year R children are invited to create an Easter Bonnet and take part in a bonnet parade. The children should wear their bonnet into class when they come in to school. There will be a bonnet parade during the school morning so that the children can show each other their creative entries. There will be prizes for the most creative entries.

Years 1 – 6 Easter Egg Competition or Easter Bonnet

Children in Years 1 – 6 are invited to take part in either the Easter Bonnet parade or the Easter Egg competition.

Guidelines for the Easter Egg Competition

Can you create something imaginative using a hardboiled egg/s and a shoebox? Can you think of an imaginative title for your entry?

- 1) Entries should include only hardboiled eggs
- 2) You can enter as an individual or as a family
- 3) The winning entry from each class will receive an Easter egg.

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Please take your entries to class on the morning of the 26th March.

If you need some inspiration for your entry, you might like to take a look at the following website!

<http://www.ashtongate.bristol.sch.uk/easter-egg-competition/>

If you are planning to create an entry for the Easter Egg competition, you will need to collect an entry form from the School Office. You will need to bring this form in to school on the day of the competition and it will be placed next to your entry so that other children know whom they are voting for. Children should wear their Easter Bonnets in to class.

Adults in school and School Councillors will have the opportunity to look at and vote for their favourite entries during the day. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative entries.

Year R Production – The Princess and the Pea

The Year R production is scheduled to be performed on two evenings – Tuesday 20th March at 5pm and Wednesday 21st March at 6pm. We do not anticipate that the performances will last much more than 30-40 minutes.

Reminder - We are happy for you to bring any 'babes in arms' (provided they are sleeping) however we would ask you to sit near one of the exit points so that you can get out easily if the baby is crying. All of the children at school get the opportunity to watch the dress rehearsal and so will have seen their sibling performing. We would therefore politely remind you that **siblings should not be brought to the performance**. Please avoid an awkward conversation for yourselves and for the staff at school by following this request.

Arrangements for the evening performances

We would ask that the children arrive back to school at **4:30pm on the Tuesday** for a prompt 5pm start and at **5.30pm on the Wednesday** for a prompt 6pm start.

If you are not attending either of the evening performances, please come back to school to collect your child at 5:30pm on the Tuesday and 6:30pm on the Wednesday.



We are in the midst of making plans to celebrate our 10th birthday. We will celebrate our birthday on Friday 20th April – the day before our actual birthday.

As plans are confirmed, we will announce them. So far we know that we will be hosting a picnic lunch at school on Friday 20th April at 12pm. Families are welcome to join us. Tracey and her HC3S team will offer picnic bag lunches on that day – more information to follow soon.

Due to a very generous deal with Stockbridge Marquees, we will have 3 marquees (linked up) on the field to provide cover for everyone in case of inclement weather conditions. The marquees have been partly funded by PoW and will be partly funded by school.

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If any of our families have a business (or business link) that might like to support our 10th birthday celebrations, please email Miss Bourner (emma.bourner@wellsteadapps.co.uk). We are very grateful to our friends at White and Guard for their support – more information on how they will be supporting the event to follow soon.

As always, please come and see me if I can do anything to help.

Mr Matthew Robinson
Headteacher

Spring term 2018 key dates

Tuesday 13th March	Pupil Progress Meetings 4.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 13th March	Year 5 to Winchester Planetarium
Thursday 15th March	Pupil Progress Meetings 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday 19th March	KS2 Spelling Bee
19th March - 23rd March	Year 5 Bikeability training
Tuesday 20 th March	Year R production 5pm
Wednesday 21 st March	Year R production 6pm
Thursday 22 nd March	Year 4 walking to St Luke's
Thursday 22 nd March	PoW discos
Friday 23 rd March	Sports Relief run
Friday 23 rd March	10.30am Performance for guitar pupils
Monday 26th March	Autism Awareness Week
Monday 26th March	Easter Egg competitions
Monday 26 th March	Ageas Bowl – Chance to Shine – Years 1-3
Wednesday 28 th March	PoW Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 29 th March	9.15am Year 3 and Year 4 Music Performance
Thursday 29th March	Final day of the Spring term
Monday 16th April	First day of the Summer term