



Oh my goodness— what a start to the new year!



Can I thank you all for your patience and understanding when we were unable to open at the start of term. Mr McGregor had gone into school during the Bank Holiday the day before to check the site and the heating and all was well, so the leak must have occurred overnight. When he went in at 6am on the Tuesday, he could hear water gushing in the pipes by KS1 hall but there was no water getting into the school system.

It took so long to fix because it was proving impossible to find where the leak was! Much of the EY playground was dug up trying to source it as we could hear water rushing away there even though we had no flooding or obvious water seepage. Somehow, it was rushing away through our drains, which was a great relief as the school was not being damaged, but only added to the puzzle.

However, after due diligence from the LA Officers and contractors, with cameras up pipes and sheer deduction, they tracked the leak down to a corridor *under* school that we were not aware of. When the school was built, a narrow underground corridor was put in to house pipes. This corridor alters in size and depth as the different levels of the ground affect it; in

some places it is simply a shallow gully under the floor, in other areas you can stand up in it. When the school was built, these gulleys and corridors probably all linked, but because the building has had so many alterations over the years, areas have been blocked or cut off and so become inaccessible and forgotten. A process of elimination, led them to the area below the KS1 Hall, just in time before it was dug up from above, which would have been an enormous task and so disruptive to school. A bonus has been, that at the time of building, the designers put in additional drains so that if there was a leak, any water would flow into our normal school drains rather than fill up the corridor. A really good 'what if' thought at the time of building that, although it made the leak hard to trace, has helped us out all these years later as we have had no damage!

A massive shout out to Mr McGregor! He discovered we had a problem straight away, has facilitated all the comings and goings of contractors, helping them and opening up school at all different times. Then clearing up to get the school fit to open this week. What a superstar! Thank you!

Young Voices 2023

What an amazing day the choir had on Wednesday 11th as they headed to Birmingham for the annual Young Voices event. The children sang and danced, they had a wonderful time and the staff were so proud of them—their behaviour, their attitude and their engagement. Wonderful—every one of them!

Thank you Miss Hartshorn for arranging this and working so hard all year to get them ready with Mrs Bayliss 's support. Friday night choir is a real commitment! Thank you Mr Cook, Mrs Brown and Miss MacKenzie for supporting them on the day.

Tired bodies, sore throats but wonderful memories the next day!



A gentle reminder that the car park is a private one for staff only. The disabled bays are needed for the taxis that bring our children to the Deaf Base and are not available for public use, even with a blue badge.

Welcome to some new TA staff at school! In Early Years, Mrs Swift and Mrs Denson joined us towards the end of last term and are already settled in as if they have been here for years! In KS2 this term, we are delighted to welcome a new TA, Mrs Sonya Simpson, working at the moment in Y5.

Welcome as well a new member to our lunchtime team, Mr Fletcher! A keen and experienced football coach, I'm sure he is going to be a hit in KS2! Please do make yourselves known to all our new staff and welcome them to our school family!

Also BIG SHOUT OUT to the lunchtime supervisors! They are coming in to school to learn some BSL with Adult Education to help support our deaf children outside. Well done all of you!

Punctuality

A high level of attendance at school is vital if your child is to reach their potential and make the progress they should at this crucial time in their lives. We have often shared with you why attendance is important and the consequences if your child is not in school. However, of equal concern is punctuality. At the moment, we can sometimes have up to 30 children late to school in the morning. This is equal to a whole class!

It may seem not as important as attendance because your child is at school for the day. But it is important to realise that lessons start straight away once the register is taken. If your child is a few minutes late, they are missing vital teaching. Most classes start the day with reading/phonics groups. We have been reviewing last years attainment data with teachers and noticed that some children who are not making as much progress in reading as we would expect, are some of our more regular late children and they are missing out on the teaching they need.

Morning Timetables

Reception	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
8.45 Handwriting/fine motor practice 9.00 Teaching sessions begin	8.35 Spellings practice as children come in. 8.45 Weather board and word of the day. 8.55 Phonics/Reading lesson.	8:35 Accelerated Reader, including hearing readers as they enter the classroom. 8:45 Kinetic Letters. 8:55/9:00 Reading lessons begin.

Gates open for TW and Nursery at 8.30am, for Y1-6 from 8.35-8.45am, and for Reception from 8.45-8.55am. Staff are in place to supervise children throughout this time. After this they are in class teaching so must close doors to go back to class. We do not have 'spare' staff that can stand at gates and doors just in case children are late. In the office, staff are under pressure, with phone calls and the need to get registers completed to be able to order dinners from Springdale. If delayed by latecomers, numbers may not be sent in time or even wrong and children not having a dinner ordered. If your child is a school dinner and late arriving, they may miss the order altogether. Admin staff often have parents complain to them about having to take their child round to EY or KS1 when they are late, but the sheer number of late children arriving at different times makes it impossible for them to have the time to walk backwards and forwards with children when they have their normal work to do. We also have children arrive late with no parents to sign them in. This is a serious safeguarding issue. We do not know if you are aware they are late—have they been delayed by some reason on their way to school? Parents need to sign them in so there is no concern as to their safety.

We are aware that there may be genuine issues as to why children are late and we want to be able to support families wherever we can. Please remember, there is a Breakfast Club available, so if it would help to bring your child to school earlier, this can be arranged.

Moving forward, rather than signing in at the office, we will have staff outside the FaF room door to register children who are late and the reasons why. Parents, you will still need to come and sign that you have dropped them off so we know there is no safeguarding concern, and children for EY or KS1 will still need to be walked round to the classroom doors. If children arrive alone, we will be phoning parents to check why. If there is a problem getting to school on time, we can talk with you and try and help. If late, we will be sharing with you at the end of the week, how much time your child has missed that week so you can be aware of the impact of this.

5 mins late every day can be equal to 3 days of missed teaching and learning in a year.

Please make every effort to bring children on time so all these problems disappear. It really makes a difference to your child's learning and self esteem if they are able to go into class with everyone else and not miss out or stand out by being late. Thank you.

City Lifestyle Survey—Wolverhampton City Council

This is open to all Wolverhampton residents aged 16+ and explores factors which affect residents lifestyles. For every response the council receive, they will pledge £2 to schools, in the form of vouchers to go towards sports or classroom equipment. Information from this survey will be used to plan future service provision across the city.

Link: www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/lifestylesurvey *(Please take part. Every penny helps school!)*



Our staff have the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. They should be able to do their jobs without being physically or verbally abused. Most people respect this and we thank you. We do want to work with you to resolve any concern and ask that you email the school to arrange a meeting so we discuss the issue calmly and to look for a mutual understanding and resolution.

Please do not speak to staff in anger on the phone or at the classroom door/office or send aggressive e mails.

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DRB@warstonesprimary.co.uk General enquiries: warstonesprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Information can also be found on our webpage: www.warstonesprimary.uk