

What is Going On at Warstones!

21.4.21

Oh my goodness! What an emotional week it was !

We were so upset last Monday morning when we saw what had happened to our lovely EY play area. To smash glass everywhere in a children's sand pit and all over the areas children play in, while destroying their play equipment is so senseless and dangerous. But then the wave of support that has washed over us during the rest of the week was so uplifting—the offers of help, messages of support and then the response to the Justgiving page to repair and replace the equipment has left us humbled and moved. Thank you seems so inadequate but we mean it so very sincerely. What an amazing community we are lucky to be part of!

We need to empty the sand pit and we will also empty around the mud kitchen to be sure everything is safe and there are no hidden dangers. We had a first wave of hardy volunteers who emptied the sand pit by end of play on Friday! Amazing! Thank you so much—I hope your backs were ok on Saturday! When we have everything cleared we will arrange for all the sand and bark to be delivered for a weekend and put a rota together for willing volunteers to come and help put it all back together again. We have had so many people offer help on Facebook but so that we don't miss anyone, please can anyone able to help either drop a note in at school or e mail the office even if you have said on Facebook already. We will not have an exact date until we know when things can be delivered so we will not hold you to it if you can't make it in the end—we are just grateful that everyone is doing their best on our behalf.

All the money raised (over £2000 at the moment), will go to making the outside area even better than before – there were some repairs needed anyway and we can also get some sturdier play equipment that can not be so easily thrown around and broken.

It is such a wonderful resource for children to play and learn in. Some of our youngest users will only have memories of lockdown and no one has been able to go on holiday. To be able to climb in to a large sand pit and pretend to be on the beach is such a memory making experience. The opportunities to develop their creative ideas, develop their language, communication, social and interaction skills—all outside in the open air away from screens, is priceless. During the first lockdown, all our keyworker and vulnerable children spent most of the day out playing in this area, with it being enclosed and safe. It is a special place and your support will make it better than ever. The biggest thank you ever from us all!



A mighty media response to our troubles: ITV Central filming on Wednesday, the Express and Star story and an image of some of the broken glass in the sand pit.



Health and Safety Reminders

- We are still under a phased reduction from lockdown so we still need to maintain social distancing when walking round the school site and on the pavement outside. The Council have a Covid Support Team who are coming to school to speak with parents to remind them about maintaining these rules and we will be part of this during this term.
- Please remember to **WEAR A MASK** if walking on the school site.
- A number of children are arriving late or being picked up late. This does make it very difficult for us to maintain the social bubbles that we have to do in school. Please make every effort to arrive during the 10 min slot for your child's year group. *Remember younger siblings can arrive at the same time as older ones and older ones can be picked up at the same time as younger ones!*
- **PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN BY YOUR SIDE** as you walk around school. Children are running off out of sight of parents/ carers and also into other family bubbles. This is going to be especially important as the construction of the new KS2 equipment is put in after the Bank Holiday. It will be a construction site and may be dangerous if children wander on to it.
- I know this sounds mean but **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE KS2 EQUIPMENT BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL**. I know it is tempting now the weather is nicer but it is important that we leave the site immediately, that we don't have children using the equipment out of school hours without appropriate supervision, also the equipment in each play area is geared for certain ages. Young children may not be safe to use the equipment designed for older, larger children. We have strict risk assessments for who, how many and when children can use the equipment in school, we do need your support in not letting children climb on it other than with staff present during the school day. Thank you.

Diary Dates. We are trying our best to incorporate curriculum and cultural experiences into the diary again while maintaining COVID safety precautions. Kingswood can accommodate this so we have a number of days arranged for there. However, for some events we have to invite the provider into school and although this saves on coach fees, we can not put whole year groups together and have to arrange for a visit to each class so doubling the costs. As a school we subsidise events to keep costs as low as possible but we do need parental contributions if we are to go ahead with these. I appreciate that it is difficult for some families at this time— please come and talk to myself or the class teacher if you are struggling to pay or need more time. But it is important that we know asap as we will have to make some hard decisions about going ahead with events if we find we can not cover the price. We are a 'cash-less' school, so you will need to register on SIMS pay. If you did not register when log ins were first sent out, those will have expired. Please do e mail the school office if you are struggling to get on. We can give you a QR code to pay at the Post Office if all else fails!

Dates so far—more being added!

27/29.4.21	Viking Day (Y4—different class each day)	8.6.21	Children return to school
3.5.21	Bank Holiday (School Closed)	25.6.21	Kingswood Y1
4.5.21	Kingswood Y3 Stone Age Day	30.6.21	Kingswood Y2
28.5.21	INSET DAY (no children in school)	1.7.21	Kingswood 6RB
31.5/4.6.21	Half Term	2.7.21	Kingswood 6AC
7.6.21	INSET DAY (no children in school)	21.7.21	School Closes for Summer Break

You will see a new face in the office! We welcome Mrs Sue Jukes to the team. She is here for a week learning the ropes and then will start properly on 10th May. Please bear with us while the office is short staffed—if possible, e mail rather than phone with queries. Also please remember the office is a secure bubble and only come to the hatch if it is a vital enquiry and you can not e mail.

Over this last year I have been petitioning Highways regarding a crossing outside school, especially since we lost our crossing patrol. There is a real shortage of these across the city so we are unlikely to get a replacement anytime soon. However, Highways have agreed to create a new crossing area, with indents into the road to reduce the width, a few metres further up the road away from the island. They will adjust the fencing outside school and put in reflective posts to warn traffic. They cannot put in another zebra crossing sadly as there is one very close at the top of the road. Hopefully this will make it less of an issue for those crossing the road.

One thing that makes it difficult though, is the parking. No one should be parking on the hatchings in front of school on either side of the road. We have had some near misses and damaged cars recently. Please be mindful of this when dropping children off—it may be easier to park further away and walk the last part to school.

