



What is Going On at Warstones!

4.5.23

We have a new webpage! www.warstones.co.uk

(Google search has not updated their details yet so please be aware a search engine may take you to our old page which is no longer under our control).

We hope this one will be easier to navigate and keep up to date. We are trying to ensure all the information you could possibly need will be available to you on this site so you can look things up at any time and not worry or have to ring school to find out.

We are still uploading things as we can, but if you spot things you need to know that are not on the site, please email us. We are keen to make this a complete source of information for all so any suggestions will be gratefully received.

A new feature can be found on the 'News' tab, where we hope to put regular 'Sway' bulletins, to give a flavour of events happening in school with pictures. Class teachers will put more on their class twitter pages, so please do follow your class page to see the exciting things they do.

A calendar of events, attendance rates, and the school twitter feed is available on the home page and we hope to put a page up where you can access any letters sent home so if they get lost, you can get another copy. We will still send these newsletters out but they will be more sources of information that we need to give you rather than celebratory so will be shorter and less frequent. They will also be available on the webpage.

The webpage is compatible on tablets and mobiles, so please do make it a favourite and try and use it as your first port of call for any information you need.



We still have a few places left in our TW and Nursery provision for September. We offer 15 hour placements for 2 year olds and 15/30 hour placements in Nursery.

Do contact the Early Years email if you would like to know more! EY@warstonesprimary.co.uk

Attendance

We are thrilled to see the number of children late for school each morning is decreasing. Thank you to everyone for making the effort to be at school on time. Do remember the gate opens for KS1 and 2 from 8.35—8.45 so children can arrive at anytime within this window. Those who have children in Reception as well, if you arrive just before 8.45am then you should not have to hang around /be late. However, our attendance is still low at 93.3%. Even though this is a national picture, it is not normal for our school.

Please be aware we have a strict absence policy to follow and we must have a definite supported reason to authorise an absence—that is why you may be asked to bring medical evidence of Dr appointments or absence over a few days. For families with more than one child in school, if one is ill, the others still need to be in school and can not have an authorised absence. I know many families help each other out and bring children in for others, thank you for that. If your child is frequently ill, without a medical reason behind it, or if there is a pattern to frequent illnesses, we are advised to not authorise.

We are getting a lot of holiday requests at the moment. **I can not authorise holidays.** I can only authorise a certain number of days for very exceptional circumstances and only if that child's attendance is good the rest of the time. (Sadly, we are not allowed to authorise if parents can not get time off during school holidays as we did during Covid).

Places at After School Club

Thank you for taking on the changes we have made to booking places at ASC. Just a gentle reminder that any bookings for ASC need to be made through Pay360, unless you pay via voucher or through college.

Please check with Mrs Penfold if you are not sure. On a Friday, the following week's days will be made available to book and pay. It will stop booking when the number of places is full, so if you need to, you have time to make other arrangements. If you need to book on the day in an emergency you still can, however, only if there is a space available. Please do not tell your child they are in ASC in the morning unless a booking has been made, as it can be very confusing and upsetting for them if it does not happen.

Diary Dates—will now be found on the web page!

An advance notice though, to help with parents who need to book time off work, we hope to run our Sports day events on the following days, subject to weather and any other unforeseen events!!

**TW/Nursery Sports Event 19th June (morning and afternoon), Reception Event 14th June at 9.30am ,
KS1 Sports Event 29th June am, KS2 Sports Event 30th June am.**

Strike action

Thank you all for your understanding with the recent and ongoing strike action being taken. I know how difficult this can be for some parents to find child care and I am sorry for the inconvenience this causes. No teacher wants children to be missing school. Strike action has continued as unions object that most of the below-inflation pay award being offered is being taken from current school budgets, rather than central government budgets.

I thought I would share just some of the pressures on the budget that we are currently facing :

As the cost of living is hitting all families, school has increased the subsidises that it makes to avoid putting extra pressure on everyone: supporting educational visits (particularly coach costs which have risen very sharply) extended services (TW/Nursery, BC and ASC prices have not risen although costs for staffing, resources and snacks have), prices for school dinners (charges to school have risen as food costs have increased but we are trying to maintain the cost as it is as long as possible and covering the additional charges ourselves).

All classroom resources have risen in price, e.g. Exercise books for next year are already coming in over £1000 more than last year. School is funding extra Teaching Assistant staff to support children with additional needs who are not eligible for top up funding, as criteria for this is made tighter and more difficult to obtain.

Energy costs are still being negotiated for schools for last winter —but we anticipate a significant percentage rise for this and ongoing into next year as well.

The government have put additional funds into school that will help towards some of these costs, however, this was prior to the expectation that schools would cover the majority of wage increases on top. To do this without funding will have a huge impact on what we are able to offer in school going forward.

Academisation

On Friday 28.4.23, parents and carers should have received a letter from the Chair of Governors, outlining the plans to move into an academy with Springdale Primary and Highfields Secondary. Along with the letter is a document of 'Frequently Asked Questions', that may help you understand what this means and answer any queries you may have. **If you have any questions of concerns, please email our Chair, Mr Simon Penfold at Chair@warstonesprimary.co.uk by Friday 12th May.** The letter/document can also be found on our webpage under the Parents tab—Academisation.

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. We currently do not have enough spaces for staff. This is particularly important in the mornings as some people arriving for Breakfast Club have been using the carpark as staff are arriving and trying to park.

Can Breakfast Cub users please not walk up through the car park but use the footpath from the KS2 gate. We have had a number of near misses as small children can be difficult to see when driving on to site. Thank you.

It is SATS week for Y6 next week and for Y2 the following week.

It is **ESSENTIAL** that all children are here every day during their test week.

For Y6, we have to administer the tests on the same day as they are delivered nationally. We have external examiners who come into school to check. We can not do them on another day. *If your child is ill please contact school for advice as soon as possible.*

Early nights are essential—on the run up to the week, not just during it, Children get tired as the week gets on and stamina can be a major factor on their success or not. We will be running the pre-test breakfast club on the four days for all Y6 children for free in the FaF room, where we will offer drinks/toast from 8am so all will have eaten to start the morning. **The children have worked so hard—let's all help them do their absolute best. Proud of them all!**



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.