



WAVENDON GATE SCHOOL

Gregories Drive, Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes. MK7 7HL
Tel: 01908 586394

Email: admin@wavendongateschool.co.uk Website: www.wavendongateschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Kerry Jarman BA (Hons)

Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum Update Autumn 2

I hope that you and your family had a lovely half term break. At Wavendon Gate School, we are committed to providing the best curriculum we can so refining and improving what we deliver to our pupils is part of our regular practise. Below are some of the exciting curriculum developments this half term.

English curriculum developments

We have been busy refining our English curriculum this term and focusing on the progression of writing skills across the school and the focus books that we use to support us with writing. Each year, we review our focus books to ensure they remain exciting and relevant. We have a list of all the books that are shared with pupils across the school on our website in the English curriculum section. This document is called our school fiction spine. We have also developed a school poetry spine which outlines the poets and individual poems that are studied across all year groups and this document can also be found on our website. Both documents might prove useful if you are looking to purchase any books for your children over the coming months. Click on the link below which will take you to correct page on our website.

<https://wavendongateschool.co.uk/english/>

Maths curriculum developments

When viewing your child's books, you may notice that they are no longer using the Power maths workbooks that we have used in previous years and all of their maths work is now all within a squared page exercise book. When reviewing our maths curriculum last term, we felt that pupils often needed further written opportunities to practise in lessons which the workbooks didn't offer. We are pleased to share that we are already seeing the benefits of this across the school both in books and in pupil confidence.

Pupils from year 2 onwards have access to TTRockstars (an online maths program) to practise their multiplication facts and are expected to visit the site regularly as part of our homework expectations. If your child is in year 5 or 6 and already confident with this, it is important they continue to visit the site to keep challenging themselves to beat their completion times as this helps them to remain fluent with this important knowledge.





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Trips and Visits

We have an exciting mixture of trips and visitors planned for this term. Year 1 will be taking part in a walk around our local area and visit to St Mary's church, Wavendon to support their geography and RE curriculum. Year 5 will be visiting the Science Museum in London to support their science curriculum. Later this half term, M & M productions will be performing their annual pantomime in the school hall for years 1-6. A selection of pupils in years 2-5, who are part of our Christmas choir, will be representing the school on November 25th and singing a selection of Christmas songs at Frosts Garden Centre in Woburn Sands at 3pm on this day. If you or your family are nearby, it would be lovely to have some support for our choir.

Next half term, will see years 2 and 6 embarking on their first school visits of the year. Pupils in foundation will have their first offsite visit later in the school year when they are more familiar with our school routines.

Parent Engagement opportunities

The first of our class performance assemblies will take place next week. Class 3A will be performing their assembly about the Stone Age on Thursday 9th November which supports their learning in history from last half term. Details of this performance have already been sent home to year 3 parents and we hope many will join us for this special event. Pupils in foundation have started to rehearse their nativity play called Honky Tonky Donkey and performances will take place during the afternoons of 13th and 14th December. Further details will be sent out to parents in the coming weeks. Next half term, sees further assemblies for classes 5A, 5B and 4B and details of these will be shared with you nearer to the end of this term.

We hope that many of you will join us again for the spelling workshop during the afternoon of December 1st. I will be leading the session with a short talk in the hall about our new online spelling curriculum called Spelling Shed. This will be followed by an opportunity to work alongside your child in their classroom on a spelling activity and to see their books. We had over 180 parents join us for our reading session last half term; we hope to see lots of you again this time too!

Looking ahead...

This month, sees the important Anti-Bullying and Children in Need initiatives which we will be supporting within school. Pupils will be invited to wear odd socks to mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying week on Monday 13th November and Mr Scott will be leading his assemblies that week on friendships. The focus this year is on making noise about bullying and how pupils shouldn't stay silent if we see it taking place.





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Mr Scott will talk to the children about the hurt bullying can cause and how this can sometimes wrongly be dismissed as friendly banter amongst older children.

He will share what bullying means with the children and what to do if you suspect this may be happening in school. Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) class lessons will focus on this message during that week too. We have purchased a rich selection of non-fiction books for the library to support classes on being a good friend which will be shared during their library times.

Details of our Children in Need activities have been sent out this week and the School Council have an exciting day planned involving a whole school Bearpees (which I am informed are burpees with a Children in Need twist) challenge! Pupils are invited to wear yellow or official Children in Need merchandise on the day (Friday 17th November).

Curriculum Newsletters

I have attached your child's curriculum newsletter for the half term which outlines the key knowledge they will be learning across all of their curriculum subjects.

We are so looking forward to teaching this half term's exciting and innovative curriculum and have lots of great learning ahead before the Christmas break.

Do not hesitate to contact me, via the school office, if you have any questions regarding our curriculum.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sheridan

Deputy Headteacher

