



1 Worrall Drive, Wouldham Kent ME1 3GE
☎: 01634 861434 Email: office@wouldham.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher : Mrs Victoria Baldwin BSc (Hons) NPQH

28th August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. As we eagerly anticipate the start of term next week, I wanted to update you on a few important matters.

To ensure that we meet our legal requirements for the school day, we will be opening the school gate at 8.40am (the normal main school gate to the left of the office, adjacent to the school field). Our aim is to have all children in school by 8.45 am, however, initially, we will keep the gate open until 8.50 am until we are all accustomed to the new timings. For reception class children this will be different please see below. The end of the school day will remain the same, with collection from the school playground at 3.15 pm.

While I sincerely hope that all our families have had a restful and enjoyable summer break, I am aware of the civil unrest that has occurred within our county and nationwide, resulting in some individuals from minority backgrounds, in particular the Islamic faith, feeling vulnerable. I am proud of the diverse, multi-cultural, and multi-faith community that our school represents. It is essential to remind all patrons of the value of respect and kindness within our school community. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards extreme views and aim to ensure that every individual feels supported and valued.

In light of recent events, should children wish to discuss any of the occurrences during the summer, we will facilitate respectful and professional discussions where extremist views will be challenged, and tolerance and respect will be encouraged. For parents who wish to address these issues with their children, I recommend visiting [Educate Against Hate](#) for valuable resources.

As a new leadership team last year, we enjoyed working with staff, parents and children to develop lots of new and exciting curriculum initiatives, which we are pleased yielded fantastic results and positive feedback from our Local Authority partners. This year we will be focusing largely on embedding and further improving our approaches. We look forward to further developing our outdoor, play and learning programme (OPAL), which has proven extremely popular with the children and had a positive impact on multiple aspects of their holistic development.

This year we are also excited to introduce a brand-new rewards system, which will link to well-being and we also look forward to new initiatives in phonics teaching and the teaching of handwriting as we roll out Little Wandle and Kinetic Handwriting, more information to follow! All of our new initiatives and successes are made possible by the fantastic work of the PTA and support from the Parent Forum. I hope that wherever possible, parents will consider supporting the school this year.

Lastly, I look forward to welcoming all children from years 1 to 6 into school on Monday 2nd September for another exciting and successful school year. Following their home visits, we then look



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forward to welcoming our new reception children on Monday 9th September. Reception class children will use the gate to the right of the main school office, where the minibuses are situated. Their start time will initially be 9am.

The main school entrance barrier will initially be open until we have re-distributed blue tokens. A reminder, that **only** parents and carers with a blue badge plus Nexus families and taxis should drive onto site. This is then a drop off system, which can be accessed between 8.30 and 9.00am and from 3pm. Cars should not be left on site and should be switched off when they are waiting. Should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs V Baldwin
Headteacher