



# Worth Valley Primary School NEWSLETTER

26 February 2021

## Headteacher's Message



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are all well and, like us, cannot wait for school to reopen to all pupils on **Monday 8 March**. Staff have been working harder than ever to make the return to school as welcoming and exciting as possible for our pupils.

Our rigorous systems before this lockdown were working very well and therefore they will remain the same as before. As a reminder, the arrangements for before and after school are as follows:

### Arrival information for each year group

Year	Arrival time	Gate	School entrance
6	8.30am-8.50am	Main gate	Main office
5	8.30am-8.50am	Main gate	Main office
4	8.30am-8.50am	Main gate	Y3/4 cloakroom
3	8.30am-8.50am	Main gate	Y3/4 cloakroom
2	8.30am-8.50am	Main gate	Main office
1	8.30am-8.50am	Main gate	Y3/4 cloakroom
Reception	8.30am-8.50am	Small gate	Reception door
Nursery	8.30am-8.50am	Small gate	Nursery door
Pre-school	8.40am prompt (am) 12.15pm prompt (pm)	Small gate	Pre-school door

- The majority of our families (around 70%) have more than one child in school, which is why we will continue to offer a 20 minute arrival slot for all pupils rather than staggered times for different year groups
- To reduce the pedestrian traffic on Bracken Bank Crescent, only one parent should accompany their child to school. Please avoid gathering with other families around the school gates
- Please wear a face mask on the school grounds. This requirement, along with all other measures, will be reviewed in line with government recommendations as restrictions gradually ease
- Parents will drop their children off at the gates during their allocated times stated above
- Parents, visitors and contractors will not be permitted on site without an appointment, with the exception of the end of the school day to collect children
- Staff will be stationed both inside school and within the school grounds to help direct pupils to class. This system has been in place for several months and is very effective
- Members of staff will be at the gates each morning to greet children and help direct them to their correct point of entry; the Early Years team will ensure our youngest children are accompanied into school from their gate
- **The register will be taken at 8.55am prompt; any pupils arriving after the register has been taken will be marked late. Pupils arriving after 9.15am will be marked absent for the whole session**

## Collecting pupils at the end of the school day

A one way system will be in place to enable parents and carers to collect their children at the end of the school day:

- From 3.05pm, parents and carers will enter via the large vehicle gate and walk down the drive into the playground
- Pupils in Years 1-6 will line up in the Key Stage 2 playground
- Pupils in Nursery and Reception will be collected from their classrooms as before
- Parents and carers collecting children from both playgrounds will first collect their children in Years 1-6, then Early Years and leave via the KS1 playground and small gate
- Staff will be stationed in the school grounds at the end of the day to help direct parents and carers if needed
- These arrangements will be in place regardless of the weather. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing—i.e. waterproof coats with a hood if rain is forecast
- Children in Years 5 and 6 may walk home by themselves, though parents must give permission beforehand. These pupils will be released after the bulk of pupils have left the school premises
- Social distancing markers will be in place on Bracken Bank Crescent and adults are responsible for adhering to current government guidance on adhering to social distancing measures



**Government guidance is clear that any changes in arrangements at the start and end of the school day should not reduce overall teaching time. It is likely that the collection of pupils at the end of the day will take longer than normal—please be patient. The safety of your children always has been, and always will be, our priority.**

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**



### **Breakfast club will be open from 7.45am—8.15am.**

The organisation will largely be the same, though children will sit with pupils from their class, or 'bubble' to eat rather than interact with other year groups. As staff will need to be stationed at different locations within school by 8.30am, we will not be able to accept any children after 8.15am.

### **School Uniform**

All pupils will be required to wear the correct school uniform and the standard expectations will be upheld. The school website contains further information on the correct school uniform as well as our uniform policy. Please visit [www.worthvalleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.worthvalleyprimary.co.uk) and click on 'our school' and 'school uniform'.



### **Attendance**

Attendance will be mandatory from Monday 8 March, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

Please contact the school office on 01535 604240 before 8.30am if your child is absent for any reason

## Captain Sir Tom Moore Fundraiser

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, all four schools in the Trust have planned a fundraiser in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore. Given that all pupils will return to school from 8 March we have decided to postpone the Captain Tom fundraiser to take place during the course of that week so children can enjoy the activities with their peers. Class plans are as follows:



Class	Activity
Year 6	100 minutes of learning the 'Jerusalem' dance routine throughout the week
Year 5	Create a domino rally made of 100 home-made giant individual dominoes
Year 4	100 minutes of skipping throughout the week
Year 3	Join 100cm of 1p and 2p coins per child
Year 2	100 minutes of dancing throughout the week
Year 1	100 acts of kindness
Reception	A collective relay of 100 laps of the bike track
Nursery	100 minutes of walking within the school grounds throughout the week
Pre-school	100 slides down the slide throughout the week

Sponsor forms will be printed off for each child ready to bring home on Monday 8 March. All proceeds will be donated to the same charity Captain Tom raised money for: NHS Charities Together.

## International day of Hygge

Making sure we do everything we can to maintain children's mental health and wellbeing is always important; but now more than ever. We have done a great deal of work in school and through our remote learning provision to help children manage their emotions and make sense of the world we are currently living in.

Mrs Richardson, our nursery teacher, has a keen interest in the Danish concept of 'Hygge' and has been looking at ways to incorporate this way of thinking into our everyday lives in school.

Sunday 28 February is the international day of Hygge and so on **Monday 1 March**, each teacher will provide their class (both in school and via remote provision) with a selection of Hygge activities to help maintain positive wellbeing amongst our children.

### What is Hygge?

Pronounced "hoo-ga," this Danish concept cannot be translated to one single word but encompasses a feeling of cosy contentment and wellbeing through enjoying the simple things in life. If you've ever enjoyed reading a book indoors on a rainy Sunday or a cup of hot cocoa on a snow day, you've experienced *Hygge* without even knowing it!



## Laptop Loans

If you have loaned a school laptop in order to access remote learning please return it to the school office during the week commencing 8 March. We can then sign the device back in to school use.

## Monday 1 March

International day of Hygge

## Thursday 4 March

World Book Day

## Week commencing 8 March

Captain Tom fundraising week

## Monday 15 March

Living Egg week (chicks hatching)

## Friday 19 March

Red Nose Day—wear red and share a joke

## Tuesday 23 March

Dr Bike maintenance for Year 5 & 6

## Wednesday 24 March

Year 5 bikeability

## Thursday 25 March

Year 6 bikeability

## Friday 26 March

Easter Egg Raffle

Close for Easter holidays

## Thursday 22 April

Earth Day

### Bikeability

We are pleased to have been able to reschedule Year 5 and 6 Bikeability training for the week commencing 22 March. Dates are above.

Children will need to wear normal uniform and wear a warm coat, gloves and sensible footwear.

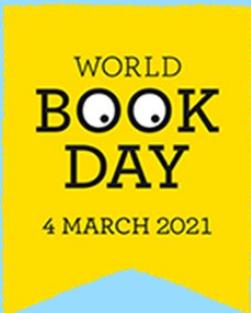
On Tuesday 23 March pupils in Year 5 and 6 will be able to bring their bikes to a 'Dr Bike' maintenance workshop. Letters giving further information have been sent out during the week commencing 8 March.



Thursday 4 March is World Book Day. We have set two challenges for pupils and staff to choose from:

1. Send a photo in of yourself reading in an unusual place
2. Send a photo in of yourself dressed as your favourite book character – reading one of your favourite books!

Photos can be sent via the Facebook page or to your child's teacher's email address and there will be prizes for the most creative entries!



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
4 MARCH 2021

### Easter Egg Raffle

The Easter Egg Raffle is a tradition at Worth Valley Primary School! Raffle tickets will be available to purchase in classes from the week commencing 8 March—20p a ticket or £1 per strip.

The draw will take place on **Friday 26 March**.



### Red Nose Day is on Friday 19 March.



**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**

Pupils and staff are invited to come to school wearing anything red.

As our contribution to helping the nation smile again, pupils are invited to share their favourite jokes in class. I have no doubt that in some (or all) classes this may quickly escalate and become an organised comedy show!!

**We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community. We'll continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.**