

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**



Date: 06/01/2023

Mrs Emma Jones, Headteacher
Withycombe Village Road
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3BA

Please ring us on: (01395) 263397
email: admin@wrpschool.org
website: wrpschool.org

News from your Headteacher

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a lovely Christmas with lots of tasty food and quality time with one another. The children have come back into school full of energy and excitement and it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back. It is going to be a fun-packed and busy term so please ensure you keep abreast of what is going on via our website, Facebook and newsletters as well as the other communications sent out by text and email.

Attendance and Lateness

We monitor attendance and lateness regularly and I am becoming increasingly concerned about the high numbers of late marks and persistent absentees. Research undertaken on attendance in schools, clearly shows that good attendance at school has a positive impact on children's academic achievements. A good level of attendance is essential for children to make the best progress in their academic, social and emotional development. Teachers regularly comment that children who are persistently absent (Attendance below 90%) find it difficult to catch up on missed learning and often do not meet their targets for the year. Everyone at Withycombe wants the very best for the children at our school and we want every single child to have the best chance to reach their full potential. When children are late to school this also creates significant problems for both staff and children as lateness causes delays to lessons and disrupts our daily routines.

Reporting absences

We operate a first day response system which requires parents/carers to ring the school absence line on the first day to report a child's absence. It is beneficial to school if parents can inform us via the absence line as early as possible. When you leave a message please state your child's name and class along with a short description of why they are absent including any symptoms. If we do not receive notification of a child's absence, we view this as a safeguarding concern and therefore the school office will make contact via text to ask parent/carer to confirm the reason why their child is absent from school – it may also be necessary for us to make a home visit to check on the wellbeing of an absent child.

Medical Appointments

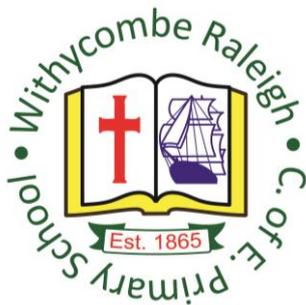
We ask please that medical appointments in the school day are avoided whenever possible. We understand that sometimes there may be a medical emergency where this is unavoidable. If you cannot avoid a medical appointment in the school day, parents/carers should inform the school office at the earliest opportunity, providing verification via a formal letter or appointment card

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that any application for Term Time Absence, must be made using the Absence Request Form and submitted to the office at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

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Guidance is clear that Headteachers should not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, this includes holidays.

Lateness

Punctuality is an important life skill and we encourage children to attend school on time each day. If a child is just 10 minutes late each day, this equates to 50 minutes per week of missed learning. Over the year, these late arrivals will have a detrimental effect on the child's learning just as if they were absent from school.

The school gates open at 8:40am and they are closed promptly at 8:50am. Learning starts at 8:50 once the registers have been taken. Any child arriving after the register has been closed will be recorded as (L) Late. We ask that parents and carers make every effort to get their child to school on time to avoid missing out on important learning.

We employ a number of strategies to promote regular attendance and we will continue to monitor termly attendance. Attendance concern letters will be issued to children with attendance below 90%.

Thank you in advance for working with us on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like some support or advice about how we can work together to improve your child's attendance or punctuality.

Contact us

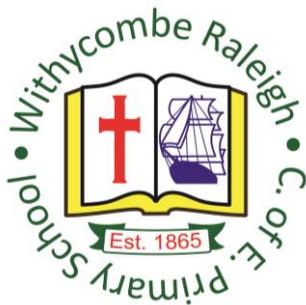
Please remember that there are many ways you can contact school staff if you have any queries. You can email your child's class teacher directly using the class email account; alternatively, you can email admin@wrpschool.org or enquiries@wrpschool.org or call us on 01395 263397.

Please be aware that teachers do not have the opportunity to check emails during the school day and therefore if you have an urgent message for staff within the school day, please ring our office or email as indicated.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs. E Jones

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Upcoming Events

Term dates can be found at: <https://www.wrpschool.org/parents>

10th January

Solihull Parenting Course begins

14th-22nd January

Hope 4 Kibera Cycle Challenge

7th February 3:30-6 and 9th February 3:30-6:30

Parents' Evenings (Face to face)

Monday 13th February-Friday 17th February

Half Term

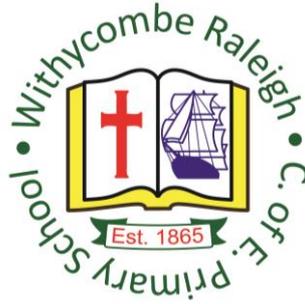
Collective Worship

Our theme this week has been: A new beginning

At the start of a New Year, people often make a New Year Resolution. This week we have reflected upon the fact that we all have the opportunity to change or start something new.

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Safeguarding – Setting Up New Devices for Children

Some very lucky children may have been fortunate enough to have recently ripped the wrapping paper off new phones, tablets, computers or games consoles. It is common that in the rush to let children enjoy their shiny gadgets, that parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps.

I have provided a few tips from National Online Safety as a little time configuring any device properly can save a lot of anguish later.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

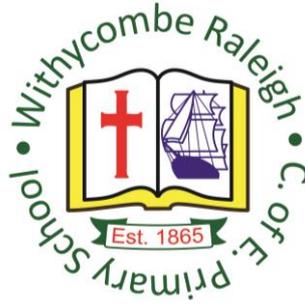
The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console: so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

If you are planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, I would recommend having a discussion with your child first - about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them (they know more than you think!). None of these methods is 100% fool proof and although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with parental vigilance.

Please also use this poster to discuss with children about how they can stay safe online.

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Happy New Year

Mr Smith – Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Top Tips for Wellbeing

Starting the Day in a Calm Way.

Returning to school after Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions for children. Many will be keen to see friends again but it is also normal for children to feel anxious about returning and some may not want to leave their parents/carers.

The rush of the morning before school can be hectic and sometimes stressful. Our children may feel this stress too, particularly when having to get used to a busy morning routine again after a break.

So, how can we help children feel less anxious?

Plan ahead. Prepare as much as possible the night before e.g. get uniform ready, pack lunch done, breakfast laid out for the morning - anything that can reduce the busyness of the morning.

Create a visual timetable or checklist. Children function best with a predictable routine, so create a checklist with your child about what needs to happen next - get dressed, have breakfast, brush teeth, get bag ready, put shoes on, out the door. Use pictures of these actions for young children.

Reward reluctant or anxious children when they are fully ready to leave the house. Keeps rewards simple, cheap and short e.g. 5 minutes of a short cartoon or read a short story to them.

Be positive. Talk about all the good things that your child enjoys at school, no matter how small. Keep conversation light, short and upbeat. If your child sees that you are ok with their anxiety, they may feel more confident.

Manage anxious talk. Children may want to talk about their worries around school in the morning, but this may only increase their anxiety. Encourage them to talk about their worries the day before. Create a Talking/Worry Time for your child each day after school. Choose a time when they are not hungry or tired, perhaps after tea. Keep the time short - 15 minutes at most. Use paper and pens if your child likes writing or drawing. Tell them this is a time to chat about anything but also to talk about any worries for the next day.

Distract, Distract, Distract! On your journey to school, help distract your child's worry thoughts. Play I-spy, use songs or rhymes, use your senses (tell me 5 things you see, hear, smell, touch), use exercise if you walk (do 5 hops, 4 jumps, 3 skips etc).

Use transition objects. Give something to your child to help them know you are thinking of them when they separate from you to go into school - something they can keep safely in their bag just to know it is there. A picture of you, a piece of soft material that you have both cuddled or a little note to say you love them. If your child has packed lunch you could put a different note in their box each day saying something lovely about them.

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Create a quick and positive good-bye ritual. Use a transition object (as above), give 3 kisses, do a high-five etc. Remind your child that you will see them very soon and if you have something to look forward to after school, remind them of that. Prolonging the good-bye will serve to increase anxiety. Keep it short and sweet.

Sports & Achievements

We love to hear about your children's sporting and other achievements. If you have anything to share, please email enquiries@wrpschool.org with your news and a photo if possible. We will endeavour to include as many of your photos as possible each week.



This week's Sporting Star:

Elliot in Beech Class collected an award
from his Judo class.

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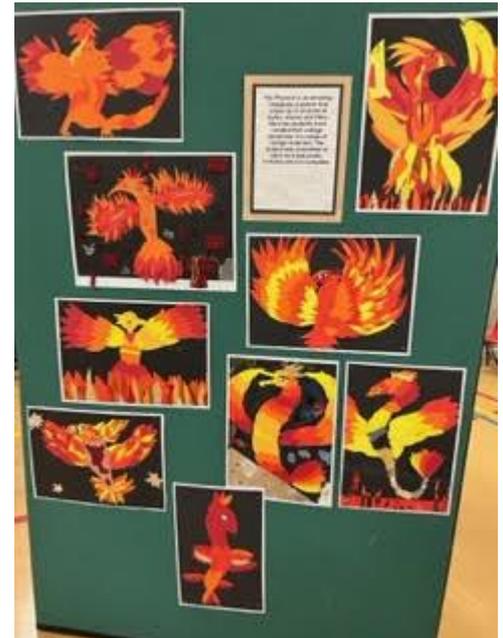
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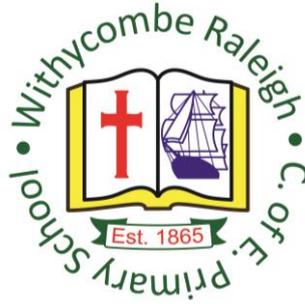
Last term we ran an Art course for children in Years 5 and 6. The course was taught by local art teacher Nic George. Over the 10-week course, children were taught how to use and experiment with a variety of media. The course culminated with an Art exhibition where their art work was put on display.

The standard was amazing!

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EYFS have a new area to play in!
We have relocated the KS1 Library so children can have this fantastic space for role play and construction.