

Wednesday 6th September 2023

Welcome Back 2023-2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

It was lovely to see all the children back in school yesterday. They have settled in well and are enjoying their time with their new class teachers and meeting up with their friends. The children have come back with a positive, can-do attitude and we are all looking forward to the new school year.



Drop Off

As you will have seen yesterday, all staff are in the playground this week, to welcome children back into school and ensure they find their way safely to their new classrooms. Next week teachers will be in the classroom, but Teaching Assistants and the Senior Team will still be in the playground to support. Parents in Y1-Y6 are asked to drop off the children at the school gates where members of staff will take them to class. Nursery and Reception parents are asked to take their children to their classroom and enter the school through the Dartford Avenue gate.

Collection

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children are collected from their classrooms at the end of the day.

Y1-Y6 children are collected from the playground at the end of the day at 3:15pm.

Meet the Teacher Coffee Mornings

Please attend your child's 'Meet the Teacher' meetings over the next couple of weeks. This is a great opportunity for you to find out what the children will be learning this year, expectations on homework and days for PE etc. This also provides you with an opportunity to talk with the class teacher.

All meetings start at 9am and tea/coffee will be provided.

Date	Year Group	Time	Location
Thursday 7 th September	Year 4	9-10	Upper School Hall

Friday 8 th September	Year 5	9-10	Upper School Hall
Monday 11 th September	Year 6	9-10:30	Upper School Hall
Tuesday 12 th September	Year 1	9-10	Upper School Hall
Wednesday 13 th September	Year 2	9-10	Upper School Hall
Thursday 14 th September	Year 3	9-10	Upper School Hall

Y6 Secondary School Transfer Meeting

All year 6 parents are invited to a meeting to discuss Secondary School choices and the process for applying for Secondary School. This is an important meeting, and all parents are encouraged to attend. This meeting will take place straight after the Meet the Teacher Coffee morning on Monday 11th September at 9:45am. This session will be repeated at 6pm on the same day.

Our secondary school – Heron Hall Academy, will host an open day on Tuesday 10th October for all year five and year six parents. This is a chance for you to look at the brilliant facilities available at Heron Hall, meet the Headteacher and explore the new sixth form.

School Uniform Shop

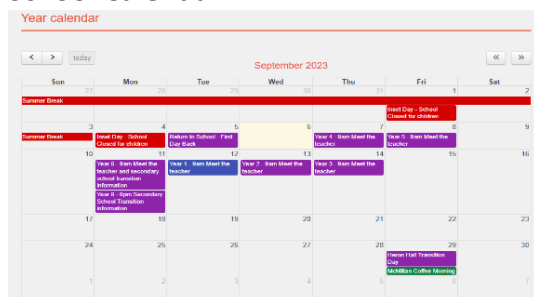
Every Wednesday morning from **8:45am** we will be running a School Uniform Shop from the Upper School Hall. We will be selling new and previously loved school uniform, shoes, coats, jackets, and PE kit.

Please come along and pick up a bargain. Every little helps at this difficult time.

Food Bank

The school food bank continues to run every **Monday afternoon from 1 o'clock**. This facility is open to everyone in our school community that needs it. All you need to do is turn up on Monday at 1pm with a bag to take the food away with you. Please make use of the food bank. We are here to support our whole community, especially throughout the current financial difficulties.

School Calendar



Please look on our school website for the school calendar.

All key school dates for the year have been added to this.

If you have any questions, please speak to the school office.

Parking Issues

This year I'd really like to make sure that our parent community, who need to drive to school, do so with the safety of all children in mind. Firstly, thank you to the vast majority of parents who park a little further away and walk their children to school. Just a reminder that you must not park on the yellow zig-zag lines and you must not use the car park behind the flats to drop children off at school.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on **Friday 29th September** from 8:45am in the Upper School Hall. This is a great way for us to raise money for an amazing charity that supports so many people in our community. It's also a great chance for you to meet other parents and relax with tea, coffee and cake. I look forward to seeing you there.



Arbor App - Parent Portal

All parents need to download the **Arbor Parent Portal App** to their smartphone, as the school will only be using this system to send text messages from 1st October 2023.

The App is simple and easy to use and it allows you to pay for school trips and you can book your child's place on after school clubs and activities.



If you have any trouble accessing this App, please ask the school office to support you.

After School Clubs and Activities

The school office has already sent out the list of school clubs for children to sign up to for this half term.

Please take a moment to look at the list and ask your child if they would like to attend any of them. There are a range of activities for each year group from Y1 to Y6. Some of these are delivered by school staff and other are delivered by a new sports company we are using this year.

To access these clubs please use your Arbor Parent Portal App.

I look forward to working with you all again to ensure our children have a happy and successful year.

Kind Regards

Nicky Ross
Headteacher **Woodpecker Hall Academy**
NSCT Leader of Primary Education