

Interim Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Rebecca Day

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Wroxall Primary School



Learning Together

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**NEWSLETTER
20/12/2018**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Firstly, I must say a HUGE thank you to all stakeholders of the school community; children, parents, carers, staff and Governors for making me feel very welcome in my first few of weeks as Interim Headteacher at Wroxall Primary School. It has been a pleasure to be involved in the children's learning in the classrooms and to meet many parents and carers individually or have a conversation on the telephone. I enjoyed meeting collectively with parents and carers alongside Di Barker, Chair of Governors a couple of weeks ago, where it was my intention to celebrate the things I feel are going well at Wroxall, as well as the focus and vision I have for Wroxall over a period of time. For those who attended these sessions, I hope you found this beneficial. For those who could not attend an after school or evening session, I would like to outline the main points we discussed during the meetings, which I detail below.

I have identified the following strengths in the last three weeks and feel encouraged by:

- How receptive the children are to learning, in their approach and attitude
- The warmth the children show in their manners and the way they stop to chat and welcome people to the school
- The children's happy disposition and how safe they feel in the school community
- How keen parents and carers are, in wanting to support their children's education and become actively involved and engaged in the life of the school.

Whilst these are some key strengths, there are others areas for development that are essential in ensuring that Wroxall Primary School provides the very best for each and every child in the school community.

Key areas for development include:

- Leadership and Management – a clear focus for continued school growth and stability
- To develop even further and embed the quality of teaching and learning that each child is entitled to, by providing support and challenge for staff and pupils, to make learning reap success, whilst having fun and being engaged by a clear 'hook' into learning.
- COMMUNICATION – making communication as effective and efficient as possible. This will include keeping everyone as informed as possible, considering how information is accessed and how to prove systems and processes to ensure the right information gets to the right person in the most appropriate way, in a timely manner.
- Staffing – ensuring stability for the children of Wroxall Primary School, through ensuring transition of staff is managed in the best way possible.
- Engagement of parents and carers in the life of the school to give opportunities to see the children's work, the school and the wonderful displays of learning and working together in a team approach.
- Working closely with the PTFA to ensure a clear vision in line with the schools vision, for engaging families and fundraising for every child and family in the school.
- Ensuring policies of the school are transparent to all and these are adhered to 100%.
- Work with wider professionals to see the development of the Wroxall site through its 6 phase building works.

I am very passionate about school being the place for each and every one of your children to flourish and grow into individuals, who leave Wroxall Primary as pupils that are ready for the challenge of Secondary school. I very much look forward to working with all of you to reignite the warm, engaging and fun school underpinned by high expectations and consistency to meet needs all children.

I strongly believe this is built on the model of a triangle. The children are at the top of the triangle and the parents/carers and the teacher and wider school staff are in the other points of the triangle. This model shows the children – being the sole purpose for school life they must be at the top – a top priority for the parents/carers as well as the school.

If all of these people work together, the triangulated approach will bring together the skills, attitudes, values and social and emotional support to develop holistically rounded children for the future. Let's try and keep the triangulated approach at the forefront of our minds as we move forward on the start of this journey together.



The journey may be a little bumpy at the beginning, as we establish an effective relationship and working ethos within the school, but very soon this will be a path where we are continually on the journey alongside each other.

I would actively encourage any of you to please come and see me if you have any concerns or queries, so I can meet and discuss these with you. Thank you.

Communication via email

Whilst meeting with many people, it has been strongly felt that a more direct email for the Headteacher would be appreciated. This has been considered and a new email has been set up. You can contact me directly on: r.day@stenburyfederation.co.uk

I am sharing this with a little caution and as a reminder that whilst I really enjoy engaging with you all as parents and carers, and will always be available to say hello and chat, this email does not make the main administration email null and void. As Headteacher, my time must be prioritized in ensuring the quality of teaching and learning at Wroxall is developing well so my responses will not be immediate. I will endeavor to reply to emails within 48hours of receipt (Monday to Friday). Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Clubs

Clubs has been an area of query for some parents. We would like to introduce a new system for clubs at Wroxall from January to be tried and tested for a term. Clubs will begin in the second week after the break, from Monday 14th January. A separate letter will be sent regarding the variety and sign up for the clubs... but how does ballet, cookery and sport sound??

Clubs will be free to attend, however the commitment needs to be given for the whole half term as teachers are giving up their time to provide this facility for your children and the children need to value, respect and be interested in the club provision. Thank you for your understanding in advance.

An advance warning too: We are also looking at the schools after school Chill club provision and the costs of this moving forward in line with other local schools.

School Money

I really appreciate that this is not the best time of year to discuss finances however, I must bring it to your urgent attention, as this is one of my Christmas break tasks, to analyse the School Money payment system and the amount of debt that has been accrued over time. Schools are a public sector provider and we all know the pressures that there are on these budgets. The school cannot sustain the amount of flexibility in the level of underpayment and therefore, all school money

accounts will be followed up in the new year. There are outstanding payments for school dinners, trips and visits, breakfast club and after school chill club. Please ensure you log onto your account over the break to view and make payment of your child's account if you have outstanding debt. I will be writing to all parents individually in the new year once I have considered the accounts in more detail and will be working with the legal team to rectify the situation. Please remember if you feel you may be eligible for pupil premium funding this brings additional funding to the school which, in turn we use a proportion of to support your child in school. Please ask at the office for a form if you would like to consider this option.

School Uniform:

Please check all uniform over the Christmas break, to make sure all items are named and all children have a **full school uniform**, including a **full PE Kit** to return to school with in January. If you need to purchase any new school uniform, please do remember you can purchase uniform from Kids and Co Ryde. However we are in the process of subscribing to Tesco for school uniform orders. This is to make it easy for you as parents to purchase your uniform and have it delivered. You can accumulate your Tesco Clubcard points and the school earns 5% commission back to the school and have the logo embroidered onto your item. The uniform from there is very cost effective and as a school on uniform sales from Tesco. We are hoping this will be set up over the break so please check the Tesco website for items and costs. If it delayed slightly by the time of year – a very busy time for Tesco's! – it will be up and running in the new year. I really hope this does help to make uniform management for cost effective and easier for you all.

Admission/Transfer to Primary school – September 2019

It is the time of year that schools are planning and preparing for next year's school intake. The application round opened in September and applications must be received no later than midnight on Tuesday 15th January 2019. We welcome as many children and families into school during the term to come and see the school in action, so parents can make informed choices of what we have to offer. We do not have a set Open Day, as we feel that families can visit at a mutually convenient time, so they can see the school as it is every day – a purposeful learning environment and culture for every child to learn in. If you know a child who is due to start school in September 2019 please encourage them to come and meet us and view the school to see what we have to offer. Appointments can be booked through the school office on 01983 852290. Thank you.

Letters for any period of absence.

If your child has an occasional illness and is unfortunately absent from school, a letter must be sent in to school to confirm the reason for absence on their return. A call to school on every day of absence by 9:30am is essential but unless there is written evidence sent in to school to confirm this verbal reason for the absence, the absence will be unauthorised. Any medical appointments must be accompanied by evidence of attendance, e.g. doctors, dentists, hospital. This forms part of the school's monitoring system and Education Welfare monitoring of the attendance of children. Any planned period of absence other than illness must be requested via a Leave of Absence form which can be obtained via the school office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Attendance

Current attendance at Wroxall primary school is significantly below National Average. We are looking at attendance patterns daily and can see there are trends within this. We currently have a significant number of children who are persistently absent from school. Persistently absent is having an attendance of below 90%. Children need to be in school every day and on time to gain the most from their time in school. They not only miss quality learning but also the social and emotional development alongside friends. There have been many School Attendance meetings this term with Education Inclusion Team and the school and this will be continued in the New Year. Please ensure that your children attend school and on time every day. Our part in this commitment



is ensuring that there is the provision to meet your needs so we have a breakfast and after school club each day. The gates are opened at 8:45am each day. I am aware that there have been some occasions that this has been late however, this has been addressed and I can assure you that the gate will be open at 8:45am each morning.

Coats, Hats and Scarves

The weather is really starting to cool down. The mornings are particularly cold. Children go outside at least twice a day, sometimes more, and they require a warm winter coat for playing outside, as well as visits out and about. Please ensure that coats are clearly labelled with your child's name. Hats, scarves and gloves are also appropriate items to bring to school, but likewise these MUST be clearly labelled to avoid lost or missing items. Thank you.



Farewell to Mrs Smith – Hello to Mr Price

Today was Mrs Smith's last day with us at Wroxall. Mrs Smith has been a member of the teaching team for seven years in various classes. Mrs Smith is looking forward to her new venture teaching younger children in another Federation school however, she is very much going to miss the Wroxall team of children and staff. We all wish Mrs Smith the very best.



Mrs Smith has completed a handover with Mr Price who is very much looking forward to teaching at Wroxall from January. Mr. Price sends these words:

It was fantastic to meet some of you at the morning 'meet and greet.' If you could not attend - I am Bradley Price who will be teaching Daisy class from January 2019. I currently work at an outstanding school in Kingston as Head of Year 1. I manage the year group across two schools which consists of seven classes. I am also maths coordinator and mentor students and NQTs

(Newly Qualified Teachers). It was a delight to meet all of the children and get to know a little bit more about each of them whilst I was in school last week. I cannot wait to start in January and look forward to working with you all closely so we can provide the best possible outcomes for your children. Have a lovely Christmas holiday and I look forward to meeting all of you properly when we come back.

Thank you

I would like to say 'Thank you' to the staff, families and children for making Christmas week fun in school. There have been lots of events going on in school with plenty of laughter and smiles. The performances of Cinderella's Strictly Christmas and Sleepy Sheep were both enjoyed by the children, staff and many parents. The performances allow us to see the children in a different light. We would love to be able to do a whole school event at this time of year so I am already considering how we can change and develop the Christmas events ready for next year. If you have any feedback to the school please drop in an email or letter – your views (both positive and developmental considerations) are really important to me.

School Menu for this week: A new menu is available in the new term

School meals cost **£1.95** a day or **£9.75** a week. All payments for meals from Y3 to Y6 via school money please and MUST be ahead of the meals purchased. All children in Reception, Year One and Year Two are entitled to a free school meal every day.

Rebecca Day, Interim Executive Headteacher

Dates for the Diary for the term ahead –

Week 1	
Thursday 10 th January	e-safety workshop for all KS2 children.
Thursday 10 th January	U9's football tournament at Wroxall v Shalfleet
Week 2	
* Clubs start this week	
Monday 14 th January	Y3 Stone Age Day – 1pm at Chillerton and Rookley
	U11's Football Mixed Y5 & Y6 v Brighstone (Cup Match)
Friday 18 th January	Y5 Science Trip to London – a letter will follow
	9am - School Nurse to see YR children and Parents
Week 3	
Wednesday 23 rd	U11's Football Mixed Y5 & Y6 v Brighstone (Cup Match)
Friday 25 th January	U9 Y4 League match v Brighstone (away match)
Week 4	
Share and share the learning an opportunity to come into school and work with your children in English and Maths a signing up system will be in place in the new year – we're looking forward to welcoming you.	
Tuesday 29 th January	U11's Girls League Y5 & Y6 v St Blasius (away)
Wednesday 30 th	U11's Football Mixed Y5 & Y6 v Brighstone (home)
Week 5	
5 th February	U11's Girls League Y5 & Y6 v Brighstone (away)
Thursday 7 th February	Y5 bikeability am – letter to follow Y6 bikeability pm – letter to follow
Friday 8 th February	2-3pm – Footprint Trust energy saving workshop for families
Week 6	
Friday 15 th	1pm J-Rock Final rehearsal in the hall – come to see us perform!

I would like to take the opportunity in this final newsletter of the term to wish each and every family a very Happy Christmas. I hope you celebrate many happy times together over the coming couple of weeks with family and friends.

The children have all worked hard during the term, supported by yourselves as parents and carers – thank you for your continued support to the school in this turbulent time. I wish you all the very best for a very Happy New Year as we move into 2019. A new year, a fresh approach, an improving school – I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming weeks and months to make Wroxall the very best it can be.

I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 7th January. Let's see if we can start the year off with a bang – with 100% attendance on the first day! Have a super Christmas Break.

Mrs Rebecca Day

