

Tune in on Tuesday

Wheelwright Lane Primary School Newsletter

Issue 18: 12.01.21

www.wheelwrightlane.warwickshire.sch.uk

Diary Dates

Diary dates for the Spring Term are shown below and will be included and updated on every newsletter.

12.02.2021	Children finish for half term
22.02.21	INSET day
23.02.21 Tuesday	Keyworker and vulnerable children back today
01.04.21	Parents' Evening
02.04.21	Parents' Evening

INSET Day Monday 22nd February 2021

Children of Keyworkers and vulnerable children

The Government's message is very clear - **'Please stay at home if you are able to and only use your school place where necessary to cover your work.'**

Thank you to those parents that have worked with us to safeguard children and staff coming in to school bringing children in only when you are at work or on your shift - I thank you for your patience and support. We know that the more children we bring in the likelihood of the virus coming in increases - none of us want this to happen as it doesn't help anyone.

As mentioned in my previous extra newsletter dated 7th January we will move to remote learning for most of the children, including the children in school. Teachers are set to use the live lesson slots to support your children at home. Please make sure that the children use the Chat function to respond to the teaching staff/teaching assistants during lessons. If parents wish to speak to teachers then please contact through the correct channels or

telephone the school - we are still all here and able to support you.

Government advice is for schools to provide face-to-face/recorded (Tapestry) learning and work through assignments and websites for children to access. I am attaching our Continuity of Learning Policy for you to look through - lots of support is given in this document. Just a reminder that TEAMS will be used for Yrs 1 to 6 and EYFS will use Tapestry. We do not expect parents to be on line the whole time as we are aware that you have a job to do as well and we know how difficult it is for you juggling your own work and supporting your children. We will continue to upload assignments and invite children to lessons but you will be the judge of how much on-line learning takes place - we are happy to discuss this with you if you need support.

Risk Assessment - Nursery

We are still awaiting guidance from the Government regarding the situation with Nursery opening when the Nursery is a part of a Primary School. The Risk Assessment in place in the school is for all children, including nursery children - they are not classed as a separate unit here and never have been.

In line with the school's Risk Assessment we have been unable to open the Nursery to full time/part time children as it applies to Reception and Nursery children - the area is too small to accommodate all the children that would need to access it under the current Covid restrictions.

As soon as we receive further guidance we will contact all Nursery parents to let them know the situation. It may be that we have to furlough staff - this is not a situation we want to be in as it doesn't help children/parents/staff. Please lobby your MP, Craig Tracey, to support the funding of all Nursery provision, especially those attached to a Primary School.

Free School Meals

We are awaiting guidance from the Government regarding FSM. We have been assured that the voucher scheme will be available again and await further instructions. We will let parents know as soon as we have further details.

Applying for Reception

Please make sure you have applied for your child's Reception place for September 2021 by 15th January 2021. For Warwickshire schools use the following website.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception/apply-school-place-reception/1>

For Coventry schools use the following website:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/148/school-admissions/114/primary_school_admissions/2

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

The Government has recently made available COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme funding to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essentials. This funding is ring-fenced and available from December until the end of March

2021 for Warwickshire families and individuals facing hardship during this winter. The objective of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme is to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable. The council will be administering the allocation from the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme through the Local Welfare Scheme. Further information on the Local Welfare Scheme can be found at:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

Family Information Services

'We are living in unprecedented times, and our lives are changing very quickly. It seems there is new information every day, and even the language we are using has changed, this time last year we had never heard of furlough and living life in bubbles was an unknown.

At Family Information Service (FIS), information is our business, we know there is so much information out there that it can be hard to know where to turn, we have listed below some free advice services available locally which are there to support families in Warwickshire. If you aren't sure which service can help you or would like some support to access these services, please contact the Family Information Service. Details of how to contact the Family Information Service helpline and the Family Support Work duty line along with other services can be found on the attached briefing paper.'



Warwickshire Family Information Service briefing for families

December 2020

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Citizens Advice offer a local debt advice service. There are offices throughout Warwickshire. Their details along with a range of other debt advice services can be found here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/managing-money-debt/benefits-welfare/1>

Citistave Credit Union provides an alternative to high street banks, payday and other lenders. They are a modern credit union providing services on-line. To find out how CitiSave could help you save, borrow, or plan for tomorrow call 0121 616 6200 or visit www.citysave.org.uk

Protect yourself from loan sharks. Always check the lender is @TheFCA authorised.

Act on Energy If you are struggling to pay your electricity bills or you have a prepayment meter you may be eligible for some financial help. You could pay less if you switch supplier. Act on Energy can help with both of these. Call 0800 988 2881 or visit www.actonenergy.org.uk

Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme Central government has provided councils with one-off funding (COVID Winter Grant Scheme) for the period 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021 to support vulnerable families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals who have been particularly affected by the pandemic to ensure they have the support they need to afford food energy, water bills and associated costs. As a result of this one-off funding the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme has been revised for this period. More information here www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme or call 01926 359182 or 0800 4081 448.

For information about wider support from the council and other services, please go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship

Childcare to find out if you are entitled to childcare funding, and to source childcare in Warwickshire, please go to <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcare>

Webpages Good quality, accurate and up to date information on a wide range of subjects including finance, housing, childcare, family relationships, parenting and behaviour can be accessed via the Children and Families Webpages. www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies

For families looking for information and support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Warwickshire's SEND Local Offer can be found here www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send

If you wish to speak with someone, one to one support is available:

Family Information Service (FIS) run an advice and guidance helpline. Contact FIS for practical support on a range of issues including finance, housing, parental contact/conflict, holiday activities and childcare.

Available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. (closed 25th, 28th, 29th December & 1st January)

Phone - 01926 742272

E-mail - Fis@warwickshire.gov.uk

Family Support Workers (FSW) run a Family Support line. Contact FSW where primary concerns relate to family wellbeing including emotional wellbeing, conflict, behaviour and parenting.

Available 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday (closed 25th, 28th, 29th December & 1st January)

Phone - 01926 412412

The family support team can also be contacted by email for advice, support and guidance:

North Warwickshire	Familysupportnorthwarks@warwickshire.gov.uk
Stratford District	Familysupportstratford@warwickshire.gov.uk
Warwick District	Familysupportwarwick@warwickshire.gov.uk
Nuneaton and Bedworth	Familysupportnunbed@warwickshire.gov.uk
Rugby	Familysupportrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk

Families are encouraged to sign up to the weekly FIS newsletter. This is delivered 52 weeks of the year so you can receive up to date information throughout school holidays. To keep up to date with information, local activities and support sign up here <https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/familyinfoservice>

Other ways to keep up to date

Follow us on Twitter – @WarksFIS

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