

Tune in on Tuesday

Wheelwright Lane Primary School Newsletter

Issue 22: 09.02.21

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.

09.02.21	Off screen day - Healthy living and fitness day
12.02.2021	Children finish for half term
22.02.21	INSET day
23.02.21 Tuesday	Keyworker and vulnerable children back today
01.03.21	Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00
04.03.21	Parents' Evening 4.30-7.00

INSET Day Monday 22nd February 2021

Remote Learning

Thank you parents/carers for your support with remote learning. We know how difficult this is, especially when juggling your own work and supporting the children. Please be reassured that you are doing a great job and we are grateful for all your hard work and support. The children are much better on TEAMS now and we are recognising they are becoming more independent.

As soon as we have the go ahead to bring children back we will let you know immediately. We are already preparing for this.

In the meantime, just a few suggestions/ideas for support;

- Look at the TEAMS website - at the top of your child's TEAM page there is access to Oxford Owls reading - this is useful
- If wanting to use Purple Mash then this needs to be accessed via welearn365.com (do not put Purple

Mash in a browser window as you can't get to the whole site)

- There is a link in TEAMS for Times Tables Rockstars
- Children to keep cameras on in lessons so that the teacher is able to see them
- If you need more Hybrid Learning books at home please pop to the office outside window and collect - we have plenty.

Skamps Wraparound Club

Message from Lillian:

Dear Parents,

Re: Closure of Skamps Breakfast and After School Club based at Wheelwright Lane Primary School.

It is with great regret that I write to inform you that after 28 years of my service provided in school the above club will not be re-opening after the current lockdown. As you are aware we have been closed since 18th December 2020. Unfortunately due to the Covid19 situation the club is no longer financially viable and I am unable to sustain the setting any longer.

I apologise to all parents for any inconvenience caused. I wanted to give you time to arrange alternative childcare before school possibly re-opening in March 2021.

On behalf of myself and my staff we would like to thank you for the support that you have given to our clubs over the years.

Yours Sincerely

Lillian Dowling

(Owner of Skamps Kids Klub)

Thank you Lillian and her staff for supporting families at our school for 28 years - they have been a big part of Wheelwright Lane and great friends to the school.

As a school we are now looking in to how we can best support our families with wraparound care. Further information will be sent out in due course.

Parents' Evenings

We will be running Parents' Evenings on Monday 1st March (3.30-6.00) and Thursday 4th March (4.30-7.00) on TEAMS, similarly to the evening in Autumn Term. We have a new system of allocating times through our Teachers to Parents on-line system and further details will be sent after the half term. There will be no need for paperwork. Nursery will also hold Parents' Evenings and will send out times for their children.

Free Data SIMs for schools

We have been sent a few 'Data SIMs' - these are free from Vodafone. Please see the attached leaflet for more information. Again if you feel that your child would benefit from this then ring the office and we will add you to our list and get them to you as soon as we can.

Live lessons

Staff have also planned for extra lessons in small booster groups and your child will be invited into one or some of these groups for a more intensive learning session tailored to their individual needs. Staff will keep in constant contact with you to let you know what is happening in your child's class and when

these lessons will take place (outside the daily live whole class sessions).

Live learning lessons times for whole class lessons are as follows:

Years 1 and 2: 9.15 and 11.00

Years 3 and 4: 9.30 and 11.30

Years 5 and 6: 10.00 and 1.15

Staff will be available during normal school times 9 - 3.15. At all other times they will be expected to plan and mark children's work. If you need to contact staff then please use the admin2021@welearn365.com email or through TEAMS up to 3.15.

Food hampers for families in our community

People have done some amazingly kind things over the past year that have improved the lives of children and families - thank you to everyone who has supported our families and the local community over the past year - well done.

I have been approached by Mr Wing (one of our parents) who is collecting food donations at his home to be given to needy families in the local area. Mr Wing is happy to accept the donations and put the hampers together. These can then be collected from our school on certain days/times.

I am aware of some families that would benefit from these hampers but not all in the area. Please contact the school if you would like to receive a hamper and arrangements will be

made. Everything will be confidential and we will contact you directly with the details.

Thank you Mr Wing and the local community - a very kind gesture in these very difficult times.

Services and support available during lockdown

As national lockdown is likely to continue for a number of weeks, we want to remind you of the services and support that are available to you that will keep you and your children safe during this time.

Looking after your wellbeing is always important, but with the current circumstances, it has never been more so.

Please see the attached letter detailing services you can access at any time.

Letter attached

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

The Government has continued to make 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

See attached leaflet for more information

Half term – contact tracing

Where pupils and staff still attending their schools/settings test positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in schools/settings, schools/settings are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in schools/settings, the schools/settings is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in schools/settings. Please contact school using the out-of-hours number 07704064023.

Microsoft Teams

Please click on the following link to see what is required on a device to get Teams to work.

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoftteams/hardware-requirements-for-the-teams-app?WT.mc_id=email

Also please ensure you regularly update all of your devices as well as Microsoft Teams to ensure you have the latest versions available. Thank you.

Letter to parents:

As national lockdown is likely to continue for a number of weeks, we want to remind you of the services and support that are available to you that will keep you and your children safe during this time.

Looking after your wellbeing is always important, but with the current circumstances, it has never been more so.

The website <http://dearlife.org.uk/> has been created by health and social care partners across Coventry and Warwickshire to help people find the tools to maintain and improve their wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. It offers a wealth of information about where to get help in a crisis, advice on how to maintain good mental health, how to help others in need and comprehensive signposting to support.

It may be difficult to know if your child is feeling anxious or upset and how they may deal with these feelings so please take opportunities to talk to them, reassure them if you can and show them that support that is available. If you are worried about how your child may be coping and what they may do keep household items like medicine, chemicals and sharp objects out of sight and locked away to avoid any risk of self-harm.

With the current situation, young people are spending a lot more time online. They often use the internet in a completely different way to older generations, so it's hard not to worry about what they may have access to. To keep young people safe online giving you some peace of mind: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keeping-child-safe/cyber-safety/1>

Safe in Warwickshire was developed to help people find advice and support on subjects like substance misuse, cyber crime and exploitation. If you are worried about your child, visit <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/>

Did you know Warwickshire County Council has its own service dedicated to helping families? The Family Information Service provides support and advice for families across Warwickshire: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>. If you have specific concerns you can also call the family support line on 01926 412412.



COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME

Frequently Asked Questions (Updated for February 2021)

What is the COVID Winter Grant?

The government has allocated £170 million to the national COVID Winter Grant Scheme shared amongst local authorities to provide targeted financial support for those in need over the winter months. The scheme supports families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals to ensure that people have the support they need to afford food, energy, water bills and associated costs. More information is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-winter-grant-scheme

How is the scheme being distributed in Warwickshire?

Warwickshire County Council distributes its COVID Winter Grant Scheme allocation via the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme. With the support of schools, the council has proactively identified vulnerable families with children eligible for benefits related free school meals who automatically qualify for support during school holidays. This cohort was supported to buy food over the school Christmas break and will receive help again during half-term. These families will automatically receive a supermarket voucher for food to cover 7 days away from school during the February half term school holiday period (15th to 21st February). The grant will provide similar support again during the Easter school holidays. Other vulnerable residents who are struggling financially can apply for support from the scheme or other sources by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448. For further information please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

Will children at college, pre-school and alternative education settings be automatically eligible for the COVID Winter Grant in the same way that children at school are?

Warwickshire County Council has contacted colleges, and early years and alternative education providers to request help to encourage families and individuals in the following groups to apply for food support by calling the Local Welfare Scheme between 10th February and the 19th February.

- Siblings of children who are eligible for benefits related free school meals but who are not yet attending school.
- Children in early years settings who are eligible for benefits related free school meals
- Children (post 16) who attend college and are eligible for benefits related free school meals

Will you be supporting children eligible for benefits related free school meals but not on a school roll?

Children eligible for benefits related free school meals but not on a school roll have been proactively identified and will automatically receive a food support voucher for February half term.

What about parents whose children are not eligible for benefits related free school meals?

Warwickshire residents who are struggling financially may be eligible for support under the Local Welfare Scheme. Anyone in this position is encouraged to call the scheme on 0800

4081448 and speak to an experienced advisor who will be able to inform them about the most appropriate support for their circumstances and signpost to other sources of advice.

How will parents/carers receive their vouchers?

Parents/carers will be sent an SMS text message (or email) from our voucher scheme provider Huggg, with a message from Warwickshire County Council that will have a link to a supermarket voucher.

How do parents/carers activate their voucher?

Voucher activation doesn't require setting up an account or password. The process is as follows:

- click on the link received by SMS (from Huggg) or email (from hello@huggg.me),
- click 'Tell me more' followed by 'I'm ready to claim',
- select the supermarket from Morrisons, Aldi, Asda, Iceland, Sainsbury's, Tesco or Waitrose,
- select 'Claim now' and
- hit 'Click for your voucher'.

Where can parents/carers get help to redeem their voucher links from Huggg?

If parents/carers have a problem activating their voucher, they can use the Huggg FAQs Guide online at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme> or use the Chat facility on the Huggg website <https://www.huggg.me/>

Where can the Huggg supermarket vouchers be redeemed?

The supermarkets parents can choose from are Morrisons, Aldi, Asda, Iceland, Sainsbury's, Tesco or Waitrose. They can all be used in store and vouchers from Asda, Sainsbury's and Waitrose can also be used online.

What if the supermarket options are not local to families or they can't get an online delivery?

If families cannot use the supermarket voucher because a supermarket from the options listed is not easily accessible or an online delivery is not possible, the Local Welfare Scheme will support these families to ensure they still receive food support.

What if a parent/carer does not have mobile phone number or smartphone?

If a parent/carer does not have a mobile phone number, we will use their email address to send a link or post a voucher to their home address.

When are the vouchers for the February half term being sent out?

The automatic SMS text supermarket voucher links will start being issued to parents/carers from the 10th February. If a parent/carer has not received an SMS text (or email voucher) link for their child or children by Monday 15th February 2021, they can call the Local Welfare Team any time during the week and will still receive the full voucher value.

Do the vouchers have an expiration date?

Each voucher link is valid for a period of 20 days and cannot be redeemed after the expiry date. Once the voucher has been redeemed via the link, each supermarket voucher will have an expiration date according to the supermarket terms and conditions.

Do the vouchers have to be printed?

No. After the parent/carer has clicked for their voucher, the voucher for their chosen supermarket will be revealed and this is the screen they will need to pay for their shopping.

Does the full voucher value have to be used in one transaction?

No it can be used as payment for one or more transaction up to its value. Details on how to find out the remaining balance is dependent on the supermarket and details can be found in the Huggg FAQs Guide on <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

What happens if a parent/carer does have a smartphone, but no data when they are out and about?

In those circumstances, all they need to do is to grab the voucher when they are on WiFi and then go to the supermarket with it on screen. To be extra certain, they can take a screen grab of the voucher's contents and it will still scan at the checkout.

What about parents who are eligible for benefits related free school meal support but have not yet applied?

Families can make an application at any time if they have a change to their circumstances. Further information can be found here <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

Once the application has been approved, parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Local Welfare Scheme and if this is before the 19th February, they will be eligible for the full 7 day financial support payment for food.

Further support on using Huggg vouchers is available online:

Please use the Huggg FAQs Guide <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme> and if this doesn't answer your question use the Chat facility on the Huggg website <https://huggg.me>