

The Winchcombe School

News Bulletin

Number 1: Autumn Term

www.winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk

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Issued every 3 weeks (holidays excepted)

Welcome back everyone to the new school year, and a special welcome to our new children. I so hope that you and your families are still all well during these ongoing, uncertain times. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their patience and co-operation with the extra measures we have had to put in place to keep everyone safe this term

Neil Pilsworth

- ∞ **Flu Vaccination:** on **Wednesday 14th October**, the school nurse team will be in school to deliver the annual flu nasal vaccine to children in years Reception to 6. This year there is an on-line consent form for parents to complete, details of which have been emailed to parents and carers. Please ensure you complete it by going to <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> . Insert The Winchcombe School's unique code: BK135079 by 14 October 2020. If you are unable to do this, please call the Immunisation team on 0300 3650077, Option 3 who can help you. If the form has not been completed, your child will be unable to have the vaccine.
- ∞ **Virtual Reality workshops:** We have a company coming into school to deliver exciting topic-based VR workshops to Years 3, 4 and 5 in the week commencing 5th October. Letters have come home and the link for payment on Schoolmoney has been sent out. Please pay/consent by Wednesday 30th September.
- ∞ **Y4 Trip:** during the week commencing 5th October, the classes will take it in turns to visit Silchester Roman Village as part of their "I am Warrior" topic. There is no charge for this trip. We are using the school minibuses for transport, and the children will be back in school for lunch time. We need your consent for the trip, by Wednesday 30th September.
- ∞ **Y6 Swimming:** Lessons were due to start on Tuesday 29th September at Northcroft. However, sadly the local authority has postponed all swimming until further notice due to the current Covid situation.
- ∞ **Steel Pans:** The Year 6 Gifted and Talented group have started their early morning lessons every Wednesday. Year 5 are also having lessons during the morning.
- ∞ **School Photographer:** We have a new photographic company, "Creative Klick" taking our pupil photos on **Monday 19th October**. Due to the restrictions on large groups, we are not able to accommodate family photos as we would usually do. The photographer will still take family photos of sibling groups who are all at this school.
- ∞ **Greatwood Horsepower Course:** A small group of children will be taken by minibus to Greatwood near Marlborough for six hands on sessions on the farm and in the stables. The first visit is Wednesday 30th September. Those going must bring packed lunches, coats and wellies.
- ∞ **Prospective Parent Show Rounds:** We are offering visits to parents of those children due to start school in September 2021. Each session lasts half an hour and is limited to 4 adults maximum (No children please). If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them to call the office or email office@winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk to book a visit. Dates are 5th, 6th and 7th October, and 12th, 13th and 14th October between 9 am and 1.15 pm.
- ∞ **Year R "First Class" Photograph:** The Newbury Weekly News produces a supplement in late October with photos of local schools' new Reception year intake. The photographer is coming on Friday 2nd October to take a group photo outdoors. Please make sure your children come to school in uniform on that day! If you do NOT wish your child to be included in the photo, please let the office know.

- ∞ **Illness/Absence:** If your child is expected in to any of the bubbles, but you are keeping him or her off because of illness or family isolation or shielding, please ring and leave a message on the absence line with the reason for absence by 10am latest, for our records. Please leave an update on a daily basis.
- ∞ **Parking:** We understand that parking near to school is always an issue. Shaw Social club has very kindly allowed us to have temporary use of their car park during parent drop off and pick up times. This will be reviewed at the end of term. Please observe their one-way system, the entrance being nearest the Care home and exit by the Dingley Promise playgroup.
- ∞ **School Lunches:** We are serving lunches in the classroom bubbles instead of the dining hall until restrictions are lifted. The cost of a lunch for years 3 to 6 is now **£2.40**. Please order and pay on Schoolmoney. The menu has been restricted to two options per day due to the extra work involved in preparation and delivery of the meals.
- ∞ **Birthday Treats:** With the current restrictions in place, we politely ask parents not to bring sweets, cakes etc. in for classes to share when their child has a birthday.
- ∞ **See, Hear, Respond Support Hub:** The following link offers some very useful information, resources & tools - from practical advice on how to talk to your children about the pandemic, to tips on managing anxiety and much more. <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond-support-hub>

Dates for 2020-21	
September	
Wednesday 30th	First Greatwood group session.
October	
Friday 2nd	NWN Photographer group photo of Seedlings & Saplings
Monday 5th	Y4 Chestnut class trip to Silchester
Monday 5th	Prospective parent show-round sessions
Tuesday 6th	Y4 Virtual Reality Workshop
Tuesday 6th	Prospective parent show-round sessions
Wednesday 7th	Y3 and Y5 Virtual Reality Workshops
Wednesday 7th	Prospective parent show-round sessions
Thursday 8th	Y4 Redwood class trip to Silchester
Friday 9th	Y4 Rowan class trip to Silchester
Monday 12th	Prospective parent show-round sessions
Tuesday 13th	Prospective parent show-round sessions
Wednesday 14th	Prospective parent show-round sessions
Wednesday 14th	Flu Nasal Vaccine – Years R to 6
Monday 19th	Individual/Sibling photographs
Wednesday 21st	Second Greatwood group session
HALF TERM – Friday 23rd October – Friday 30th October Inclusive	
December	
Friday 18th	Last Day of Autumn Term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January 2021 Inclusive	