



*'working and growing together'*

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a lovely summer and that you managed to stay safe and well. It was lovely to see the children return to school yesterday and refreshing to see them coming back into a school that more closely resembles the one that was in place back in March 2020. Whilst certain things still remain such as hand sanitiser stations, dividing lines on the corridors and an increased cleaning regime inside school, the children were visibly excited to go back to sitting at their tables with more of their friends, playing outside when other classes were also outside and all arriving and leaving school together. Let's hope that this now becomes what everyone gets used to again, along with a greater awareness of how to keep one another safe. I know that many parents will be relieved that some of the procedures that we had in place are now no longer necessary but I would please ask everyone to respect anyone that does not feel as comfortable with the measures. We know that some people are more vulnerable than others, so please be considerate around others who continue to wear masks and distance from others – they will be trying to keep you safe as much as they are themselves.

One apology I would like to offer is regarding school dinners on the first day back. I am aware that children did not receive their lunch until much later than they would normally have and this affected Upper Foundation Stage in particular as they were due to be collected at 1pm. We were in the unfortunate position of not having the dinners because a problem with the delivery of them to school resulted in them arriving almost an hour late. There was very little we could do until the dinners did actually arrive but I can assure you that it was 'all hands on deck' to then get all of the children in and through to have their lunch, albeit a little later than usual. I would like to thank the Upper Foundation parents who were affected for their patience and also take the opportunity to thank the staff who all took on different roles to make sure the dinners were served as quickly as possible. Both our school and the Multi-Academy-Trust have contacted the provider to express our dissatisfaction and have been assured that this will not happen again.

I can confirm that dinners did arrive on time today and, despite so many younger pupils never experiencing dinners in the main school gym, everyone was incredibly sensible and lunchtime ran far more smoothly.

#### **PARKING NEAR SCHOOL**

Please can I remind parents and carers to be mindful of our school neighbours when parking cars.

There are clear markings on the roads close to school where parking is prohibited and, if caught parking there, tickets could be issued by the police. Parking here can end up blocking neighbours from leaving their own premises and could put the children entering and leaving school in an unsafe situation. Two neighbours explained some of the difficulties this causes including congestion and I agree with them that people could be more considerate towards them, their property and the safety of the children.



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### NEW TEACHERS

I would like to officially welcome our three new teachers to Fitzwilliam Primary School. Miss Khan, who teaches Upper Foundation Stage, Miss Race, who teaches Year 4 and Miss Muldoon, who teaches Year 5, have all been brilliant this week and worked extremely hard to help the children settle into their new class whilst settling into a new school themselves. I know they will each be an asset to our school and we are very lucky to have them. We all hope that this is the start of three long and successful teaching careers.

### YEAR 5 SWIMMING

Year 5 will begin their PE swimming session this week. Please ensure they come dressed in their swimming kit under their uniform and that they bring a towel, clean underwear and bag.

### TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

This week, we have again received some requests for, or been informed of, some potential upcoming holidays that have been booked in term time. Please remember that, as is MAT and School policy (agreed by the Local Governing Body), all holidays in term time are unauthorised. If your child is absent for a period of 5 days or more and is in the term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, you will receive a letter notifying you about a fixed-term penalty notice.

### Attendance – Autumn 1 – Week 1

Year Group	Attendance (%)
UFS	98.3%
1	91.7%
2	100.0%
3	96.0%
4	100.0%
5	91.4%
6	100.0%
School Average	96.7%

This week we have to say well done to **Years 2, 4 and 6** who were our attendance champions with an excellent 100%.

Primary attendance in Wakefield has been 94% this week.



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## STANDARD ITEMS

### Free School Meals Information

You can apply for income-related free school meals on the Wakefield local authority website:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals>

You are now able to complete the form online so it really has never been easier:

<https://forms.wakefield.gov.uk/Forms/schools/freeschoolmeals.aspx>

If your child is in UFS, Y1 or Y2, they are eligible for Universal FSM but you can still apply if you think you are eligible for income-related free school meals. If your child is in Year 2 and receiving universal free school meals, please remember that this will stop when they move into Year 3 (**if your child has just moved into Year 3, this means that unless you are entitled to FSM, they will no longer received free school meals**), so please ensure you have applied if you think you eligible.

School receives additional funding for the number of pupils in receipt of free school meals and it has never been as important as it is now to try to provide crucial interventions to help pupils catch up – any additional funding will help us to achieve this goal.

## SAFEGUARDING

Please be aware of how long children spend on devices and monitor their use.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/need-help>

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

## ICON

Unfortunately, Wakefield has experienced recent baby deaths here in the district as a result of overlay, unsafe sleeping and shaken babies. The ICON program can help to prevent this with the support it provides:

I – Infant crying is normal;

C – Comforting methods can help;



O – It's OK to walk away;  
N – Never, ever shake a baby

[Wakefield safeguarding children partnership \(wakefieldscop.org.uk\)](http://wakefieldscop.org.uk) – info for staff and parents, including the safer sleeping standard information.

[The Lullaby Trust - Safer sleep for babies, Support for families](#) – info for staff and parents.

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<https://parentinfo.org> - resources and guidance for parents on a wealth of subjects

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/> - guidance about popular apps, games and networks children may be accessing

<https://www.starwakefield.org.uk/> - resources and support to help deal with bereavement

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/> - resources to help with mental health and wellbeing

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> - Young Minds

<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/> - Online resources for children and young people in Wakefield with mental health and wellbeing

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> - NSPCC

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/> - website for safer sleep for babies

[www.iconcope.org](http://www.iconcope.org) – website offering support around normal infant crying and how to cope / manage this

#### Useful Numbers

**YOUNG MINDS PARENTS HELPLINE:** 0808 8025544

**CHILD LINE** - Help for adults concerned about a child call us on 0808 800 5000

**CHILD LINE** - Help for children and young people call Childline on 0800 1111

**NHS** - For urgent medical help – use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online.

**NHS** - For life-threatening emergencies – call 999 for an ambulance.

**POLICE** – 101 for non-emergencies or 999 in an emergency

**REFUGE** – Call 0808 2000 247 for support from the National Domestic Abuse Helpline

**NORMANTON FOOD BANK** - 01924 895634 or 07307 189851