



Wixams Tree
Primary

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Welcome to the May edition of our Newsletter which brings you important updates as we move steadily closer to opening in September. Time has flown quickly since joining the school in April and there has been much organisation and excitement as we get our school ready. We have made some outstanding appointments meaning your children will have the very best teaching and wrap around care facilities.

We also bring you practical information including our 2017/2018 term dates; further details about our induction day which will be held on Thursday 6 July and uniform updates.

Mary Langley, Headteacher

STAFF NEWS

I am delighted to inform you that we were very successful in appointing our first teachers to Wixams Tree Primary.



EARLY YEAR LEADER – HELEN LEACH

We are very pleased to welcome Helen Leach, our new Early Years Leader. Helen will be in charge of the Early Years foundation stage at Wixams Tree. She is a very experienced Early Years teacher who currently

works in a school in Cambridgeshire and we are very excited to have her on board.

Helen says: "I began my teaching career by graduating from The University of Winchester with a BA Hons Degree in Primary Education in 1996. I have taught in South and East London and for the past nine years I have worked in a Cambridgeshire primary school.

I am deeply passionate about the education of young children and believe my practise and teaching philosophy reflect the values of high quality early years education. I am thrilled to have been presented with the opportunity to join Wixams Tree Primary and I look forward to leading the development of provision in the early years. Shaping a creative learning environment that presents inspiring opportunities for young children to learn is something that I am hugely excited about.

As an experienced Early Years teacher I know that education in the foundation stage is as much about mastering basic skills as it is about developing positive attitudes and learning behaviours; nurturing creative and imaginative learners who grow into confident, responsible members of the community."



KEY STAGE ONE LEADER – KELLY PESTELL

We are also very pleased to welcome Kelly Pestell as our Key Stage One Leader. Kelly is also a very experienced teacher and currently works in a school in Bedfordshire, and we are equally excited to have her on board.

"I am excited to be joining the team at Wixams Tree Primary on the adventure of opening an amazing new school.

As a highly experienced senior Key Stage One teacher I have achieved end of Key Stage results well above the national average in all areas. I pride myself on exceptional teaching with every individual child in mind to guide them on the journey to achieve their full potential, as well as promoting values to develop essential qualities for life.

After successfully completing an Honours Degree in Primary Education I went on to teach in an outstanding primary school in Buckinghamshire in Key Stage One. After a break to bring up a family I went back into teaching. Since then I have achieved a Silver Primary Science Quality Mark, improved more able teaching and developed mastery in Mathematics to enhance teaching and learning across the school.

I am passionate about making education exciting for the children to develop a love of learning. My experience and love of music enables me to inspire children to enjoy music as much as I do. Along with other instruments I enjoy playing the flute and singing. Last year, I coached a school choir who successfully performed at the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama.

I am very proud to be appointed Key Stage One Lead teacher at Wixams Tree Primary and relish the opportunity to develop a new school community alongside the staff, parents, governors and the local community."

MEET THE TEACHER EVENT

We were very pleased to meet so many families at our 'Meet the Teachers' event on Thursday 11 May at Lakeview Village Hall. Parents and pupils had the opportunity to have an informal chat with our new teachers and catch up on the progress of the school. I look forward to meeting further families at future events.

WRAP AROUND CARE

We are pleased to announce that wrap around care will be available every day from 7:30am until 8:40am and 3:30pm until 6:00pm, provided by Ofsted Outstanding Dawn until Dusk. Please see the link to explore www.kidsdawnuntildusk.co.uk



BUILDING UPDATES

A recent tour of the school revealed great progress both inside and out. Decorating is beginning to take place. The Multi Use Games Area has been tarmacked and fenced, and the field marked out. I took a couple of pictures on my tour.



PUPIL INFORMATION SHEETS

We will shortly be sending out our pupil admissions forms. When you have received these we would appreciate if you could return them back to us ASAP so we can process them ready for pupils arriving in September.

INDUCTION DAY (SAVE THE DATE)

The induction morning for all our pupils will be held on Thursday 6 July at The Bedford Sixth Form on Bromham Road, Bedford. Families and children will be invited to come along and join us for a special production of the Frog Prince followed by a half hour workshop by Hobgoblin Theatre Company. On the morning you will have the opportunity to purchase and/or order uniform, meet teachers, staff and classmates. More information will be sent to parents nearer the time.

UNIFORM UPDATE

We are pleased to be working with Uniform Direct on the design of our school uniform. There have been sample items of clothing at all our information events and we have taken into consideration comments from parents and made some changes to our original designs. Cost and quality are forefront in our minds and we feel Uniform Direct will provide an excellent service at affordable prices. Uniform Direct will be in attendance at our induction morning on Thursday 6 July.

TERM DATES

We are pleased to publish our Term Dates for 2017/18 as follows:

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Wednesday 6 September – Tuesday 19 December 2017
(Half-term: commencing Monday 23 October)

Training days:

Friday 1 September 2017
Monday 4 September 2017
Tuesday 5 September 2017

SPRING TERM 2018

Wednesday 3 January – Thursday 29 March 2018
(Half-term: week commencing Monday 12 February)

Bank Holidays:

Monday 1 January 2018
Friday 30 March 2018
Monday 2 April 2018

Training day:

Tuesday 2 January 2018

SUMMER TERM 2018

Tuesday 17 April – Friday 20 July 2018
(Half-term: commencing Monday 28 May)

Bank Holidays:

Monday 7 May 2018
Monday 28 May 2018

Training day:

Monday 16 April 2018

On Monday 4 September and Tuesday 5 September we will be offering parents appointments to speak to the class teachers about their child's/children's educational needs – we intend to have appointments all day including after school for all parents to have the opportunity to attend.

The first two weeks of term will be very special and will include ample opportunities for children to settle in, as well as events to celebrate the historic opening of our new school. In the first week we are offering parents of reception children the option to attend mornings only with lunch to help them settle in. Parents will also have the option of children staying all day and accessing wrap around care if needed.