



# Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

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Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new academic year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer break and you're ready for the term to begin. In this newsletter we have included some reminders about our classroom routines and general information to keep you informed about the term ahead. This year, we will be supported by Mrs Sadler. Miss Weston will be working with the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Miss Larcombe will be in class on Thursday and Friday.

Please see our Autumn Term curriculum map to find out about the topics and aspects of learning we will be covering in the first term. A copy of this will be sent to you separately and also available on the school website.

## Home Learning Book (Reading Record)

These books will be used to record daily home learning tasks, in particular the reading that your child does at home, as well as providing a quick line of communication direct to us in the classroom. If you have written a note for us, please ensure your child is made aware so that they can pass this on to us at the beginning of the day. The Home Learning Book will be checked every week on a **Monday**.

## Reading

Children should read from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books for at least 10 minutes at a time, allowing time for discussion, questions and answers. Year 5 children are required to read **at least 3 times a week**, to an adult, as part of their home learning. Please record the date and the time spent reading in their **Home Learning Book** and put a parental signature at the bottom of the page. We will check this has been completed each Monday.

## Additional Homework

Home learning is key to their progress, as it reinforces what we are teaching in class. It is important that children have a quiet time available to read and practise their spellings and times tables. Each week your child will be expected to complete reading, spelling and times tables activities.

In addition to this, the children are expected to complete one Maths activity and one English activity per week. The homework will be **set on a Wednesday** and the children will need to have them returned by the **following Monday**. The children will be provided with a book to record their Maths and English homework.



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## Times tables

Year 5 children are expected to practise their times tables weekly, as we will be completing their Cracking Times Tables every **Friday**. They can do this in any way they feel will help them, focusing on appropriate times tables. They could play games, use the computer, random table challenge, work with a parent etc.

The date and time they have spent on this practice needs to be recorded and signed (by an adult) in the **Home Learning book**.

## Spellings

A new set of spellings will be allocated to children every Friday. The children will be expected to write spelling sentences for each word in their Spelling book. The spellings will be available on Spelling Shed each week for children to practise in this way if they choose. There will also be a copy of the spellings on the school website.

The first set of spellings will be set on **Friday 13th September**. The children will be tested on their spellings every **Thursday** following this.

## PE days

On the days that your child has PE, they will need to come to school wearing their kit for the whole day. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit on a **Tuesday (outdoor PE) and a Friday (indoor PE)**. PE kit consists of:

- Black shorts, skort, jogging bottoms or leggings (with or without school logo\*)
- White T-shirt (with or without school logo\*)
- Royal Blue PE Hoodie (with W.E. logo\*)
- Sports socks
- Black or white trainers

## Please Note:

Swimming will **not** be taking place in the Autumn term but will begin in **January**.

## Morning break

It is important that you send a snack for your children. This must be a piece of fruit/vegetable. This will help the children to focus in lessons, as it boosts their energy levels.

## General

- Please keep us up to date with any medical issues / needs your child may have.
- Shoulder length and longer hair must be tied up. Hair-bands must be blue, black or white.



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- Please name all your child's clothes, it helps us to return them promptly to the right owner!
- A reminder that children are not allowed to bring toys/personal items into school as this can cause distraction and upset.
- School starts at the new **earlier time of 8:45am** and finishes at **3:15pm**
- Please inform the school office by **8.30 am** if your child is not going to be in school that day.
- Please ensure that your child is provided with a packed lunch or that you have ordered their lunch through the Kids Lunch Company, at the latest by midday of the Friday the week beforehand.

## Equipment needed

All stationery required is featured on our website under the 'stationery requirements' page.

Additionally, children in Years 5 will need an **apron** for Art/DT/experiments and would benefit from having a **pocket-sized dictionary** to support their work.

All items will need to be replenished on an 'as and when needed' basis. We have some equipment for sale at school via the School Stationery Shop. The price list can be found on the school website, under 'school shop'. Please ensure the children bring the correct change into school, in a named envelope, or you pay in advance via ParentPay. We ask that 'Smiggle' pencil cases and related novelty products are not brought into school.

We look forward to seeing you all at some point this week.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Weston and Miss Larcombe