



Watchorn Christian School
Derby Road
Alfreton
Derbyshire
DE55 7AQ

www.watchornchristianschool.uk

04/09/2021

Watchorn School

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and enjoyed the English weather. The days have flown by and it is September already, we are very much looking forward to some normality after a very strange year and are excited to see what God has in store.

It is set to be a busy term, there is a calendar of the various events we are planning listed at the end of the letter. I do hope you will be able to join us for some of them. Please ask one of the team if you have any questions. Some of the events are to be confirmed and we will keep you up to date with any changes.

Staffing

We are thrilled that our school is growing and that we are now taking Year 3 and 4 pupils. We put out an advert before the summer for a class teacher and we are excited to welcome Mrs Pointon to our team. Mrs Pointon has been teaching for many years and has lots of experience with Key Stage 2. We know that she will be a wonderful addition to our staff team and the children will be blessed by her.

P.E

We have decided that the children will continue to come dressed in P.E clothes on the day that they have P.E. We feel that this raises the profile of P.E in our school as well as maximises the time to get active as we are spending less time getting changed.

Please note that the children in Year 1,2,3 and 4 have P.E on Fridays.

Children in nursery (afternoon) and Reception have P.E on Wednesdays.

At present we do not have a P.E uniform, we just ask that clothes are comfortable and appropriate for exercising and that proper trainers (not plimsolls) are worn.

Uniform

Thank you for continuing to uphold such high uniform standards. This year please can your child bring a note if for some reason they are not able to wear their uniform/school shoes, until the situation is rectified. Thank you for your support.

Attendance

Last year our attendance figures were very good, despite a national pandemic. God really blessed us with good health, allowing the children to be in school as much as possible and make excellent progress. We continue to ask that family holidays are only taken during the school breaks. In exceptional circumstances where holidays are taken during the school term, families are required to fill out a holiday request form for the governors to approve.

Harvest

The days are getting shorter and the nights longer as we move into the season of Autumn and prepare for our Harvest celebration. Due to our very small school, we feel that it is safe to invite you to join us to watch the assembly in the church. It will be a very informal celebration where the children will sing and lead our

thanksgiving for all the food and gifts God provides. If you would like to bring in some food items, we will be donating them to the local food bank.

Books and breakfast

We would like to invite you in to school for our 'books and breakfast' morning. We are having a morning of croissants and stories to encourage a love of reading. You are invited to join your child's class and share books together whilst enjoying a fresh baked breakfast. This event will hopefully take place in the church to allow for social distancing, details to follow on timings.

Oral Health

As part of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum there is an added welfare requirement where settings are now required to promote the "good oral health of children." This has been introduced following research by Public Health England that suggests that 1 in 5 children aged 5, have experienced tooth decay. For this reason, we will regularly add suggestions and ideas on our termly newsletter to help maintain children's oral health. We are having a visit from a dental nurse in September to talk to the children about brushing their teeth twice a day. We kindly now ask that drink bottles at school only contain water to reduce sugar intake. We understand that some children may struggle with this transition and we don't want any children to be dehydrated so we recommend sugar free flavoured water as an alternative. Please make sure that your child is registered with a dentist and visits twice a year.



After School Club

After school club will begin on the 16th September, the club will be an art/craft club this half term and the day has changed to Thursday. It will finish at 4pm and cost £12 for the 6 weeks. Please Mr Ozenbrook know if your child is going to attend and pay the £12 by the 16th.

Parents Meetings

We like to keep you informed about your child's progress and development. As part of this, we would like to invite you to a meeting with your child's teacher on the week beginning Monday 11th October. You will be given a letter with a time in the next few weeks. If this time is not convenient, please get in touch and we will do our best to rearrange the appointment to another time.

Parent Help Group

Due to Covid-19, we have missed holding social events such as our Summer Fair and pancake party. These events are a chance for the school community to come together and have fun. We would love to hold a Christmas Fair event on Friday 17th December. We are looking for parents/grandparents/carers to come on board to help us plan little stalls and activities for the fair. Please see Mrs Ozenbrook if you would like to be involved.

Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Officers at Watchorn School are Shani and Mark Ozenbrook, with Kathryn Holmes as the deputy. If you have a safeguarding concern, please report this to the designated safeguarding officers, who will take all concerns seriously.

Dates

There are other events planned for the term a list can be found at the end of the letter. Some of these are only provisional and more information will be given nearer the time, dependent on the Covid situation.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Every Blessing

Shani Ozenbrook

Mark Ozenbrook

Date	Event
Monday 6th September	School starts for all children
Friday 17 th September	Visit from dental nurse, oral health.
Thursday 22 nd September	Stars and Rockets visit Chesterfield Museum- Romans (TBC)
Tuesday 28 th September	Books and breakfast. Time to be confirmed.
Friday 1 st October	Harvest Festival assembly and donation to foodbank. 11.15am
Monday 4 th October	Black History month- visitor. Cook African meal.
Monday 11 th October (week beginning)	Parent settling in consultations
Tuesday 19 th October	Photographs all children (TBC)
Wednesday 20 th October	Autumn walk Rainbows
Friday 22 nd October	Autumn walk Stars and Rockets
22 nd October	<i>Break up half term</i>
Monday 1st November	School re-opens
Thursday 11 th November	Stars and Rockets walk to memorial
Monday 15 th November	Anti-bullying week- wear odd socks
Thursday 9 th December	Christmas film night after school
Wednesday 15 th December	School carols Stars and Rockets
Thursday 16 th December	School carols Rainbows
Friday 17 th December	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 21st December	Christmas party School breaks up for Christmas
Monday 10th January	School re-opens for new year