

Wells Primary School

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Headteacher: Debbie Franklin



Monday 9th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2024

I hope that you have all had a good summer and that your child has settled well into their new class. A warm welcome to our new children and families joining us this term. I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in the playground. Please feel free to introduce yourself if you are new to the school.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Bristow began her maternity leave last week and I am delighted to inform you that Baby Bristow was born on Saturday; mother and baby are both now home and doing well.

As you may be aware, Miss Christodoulou took over the role of SENCo last year and therefore is no longer a class teacher. I would like to officially welcome Mrs Rowland (Class 1), Miss Wilkinson (Class 2), Mr Richardson (Class 4) and Miss Iqbal (Class 7) who have joined the Wells team this term.

Roofing Works Phase 3

The third phase of the roofing works has been taking place over the summer and work is currently anticipated to be completed by the end of September. Scaffolding is in place in some areas of the school but this does not impact the running of the school.

Timings of the school day

A reminder that gates will open each morning at **8:20am** and registration begins at **8:25am**.

Gates will close promptly at **8:35am**. The school day ends at **3pm** and gates will open at **2:55pm**. Gates will also be closed by **3:10pm** each afternoon.

Attendance updates

You will be aware that there have been some national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absences in term time. Please see the leaflet attached for more detailed information on this.

Parking

Please be aware that there are no parking facilities at the school or in Barclay Oval or Aldeburgh Place. We advise those who can, to walk to school. If you do need to drive we advise you to park a few roads away and walk. Please be aware that there are parking restrictions in place in many of the surrounding roads, so please allow plenty of time to arrive at school on time. Please also be considerate of local residents and do not block driveways.



School Streets Consultation

Redbridge Council is carrying out a public consultation on the introduction of School Streets at Wells Primary School to enhance the safety and well-being of pupils on their journey to and from school. The council would like to hear your views and information on how you can do this will follow separately.

Uniform

The pupils at Wells are encouraged to take pride in their school and their appearance and are therefore expected to wear the school uniform at all times. Please look at the school's website for further information on school uniform.

Universal Free School Meals

As you may be aware, all primary school pupils in London boroughs are eligible for free school meals. A copy of the school menu will be sent out separately. Your child is welcome to bring a healthy packed lunch if preferred but please remember that we are a nut-free school.

Reading

Reading is always the highest priority for learning since it opens the doors to almost all other subjects. Your child will receive a reading record with a reading book.

Your child should bring their book and reading record to school every day. I would urge you to read with your child at home as frequently as possible, even when they are in the older years; the benefits in terms of vocabulary enrichment and the pleasure of sharing stories are immeasurable. Please comment in your child's reading record so that we can work together and reward your child for reading at home. We are using Read, Write Inc. resources to teach the children to read and will be organising some reading workshops for parents and carers in the coming weeks.

Value of the Month

September's value of the month is Diligence, followed by Equality in October; we shall be exploring and considering the meaning of these concepts over the coming weeks.

Achievement Assemblies

We shall be holding our achievement assemblies on Fridays. Children will be nominated by their teachers for a certificate, which will be presented in a Friday morning assembly. Parents of children receiving awards will be invited to attend. The first assembly will be for KS2 children (Years 3-6) on Friday 20th September, followed by an assembly for Reception and KS1 children (Years 1 and 2) on Friday 27th October. Assemblies will start at 8:40 and usually last for approximately 20 minutes.

School Applications

Please note that the deadline for **secondary school applications for children in Year 6 is 31st October 2024**. To avoid disappointment, you must apply by this date. Online applications and further information can be found at: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/secondary-school-admissions/>

Redbridge Council will be hosting an online session to support parents who need to apply for a secondary school place to start in September 2025. The session will be hosted by Cllr Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council. He will be joined by Craig Wain – Head of Pupil Services and colleagues

who work in the admissions team and we will take parents through the process of applying for a school place, what they can expect, the key dates to remember, and other useful information on the process.

Date: 9 September 2024

Time: 6-7pm

Location: This will be an online session, held on MS Teams. A joining link is available on this page - <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/news/august-2024/school-admissions-online-session/>

The deadline for applications for **children entering Reception in September 2025 is 15th January 2025**. Please remember that a Nursery place does not guarantee a school place. Online applications and further information can be found at: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/primary-school-admissions/>

Nursery Places

We have some availability in our Nursery - including full time and part time places. For more information please contact the school office.

You will receive a curriculum letter this week from your child's phase leader, which will outline some key information relevant to your child's learning. If you have any concerns relating to your child, please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Please see attached some dates for your diary.

I hope you all have a good week.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Franklin
Head teacher

Autumn Term 2024 Diary Dates

Tuesday 24th September	Flu vaccinations for Pupils in Reception to Year 6 *
Friday 27th September	Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Afternoon for parents and carers from 1:45pm – 3pm.
Wednesday 9th October Thursday 10th October Friday 11th October	Book Fair 3:00 – 3:30 in the school hall.
Wednesday 9th October	Reading Workshop for parents of pupils in Years 1 and 2 2pm or 5pm *
Friday 11th October	Author Visit for pupils in Years 4,5,6
Wednesday 16th October	Reading Workshop for parents of pupils in Reception 2pm or 5pm *
Week beginning 7th October	Harvest Festival (All donations of non- perishable goods welcome – these will be donated to a local food bank).
Thursday 17th October	Individual photos for all pupils (including sibling photos)*
Week beginning Monday 21st October	Parent/Carer consultations (On-line) – More details to follow *
Friday 25th October	School closes for half term
Monday 4th November	Staff Training Day (school Closed to Pupils)
Tuesday 5th November	School reopens for pupils

*Further details for specific events will follow separately.



Important Update – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices

Information for Parents

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes came into effect on 19th August 2024.

The Government, School and the Local Authority's Pupil Welfare Service are working together to improve attendance. Parents and Carers must also work together with schools to promote high attendance.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution).
- Any further cases will be referred directly to Magistrates' Court for prosecution. Magistrates can impose a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Who is Liable for a Penalty Notice / Prosecution?

Penalty notices/prosecution are now issued/sought for each parent for each child (per parent, per child). Parent refers to anyone with parental responsibility and may include carers, step parents, grandparents or any other adult with parental responsibility

For Example: If a family with three children take term time leave of absence, each parent would receive three penalty notices of £160 for each child. This would amount to £960 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £480 if paid within 21 days.