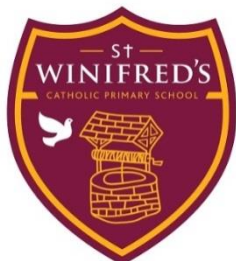


— St —  
**WINIFRED'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Committed to Safeguarding**

**Newsletter No 1**

**Nursery through to Year 6**  
Newstead Road,  
Lee,  
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SE12 0SJ

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8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

It has been fantastic to welcome all the children back to school this week. I hope that you all had a fantastic summer. The children have been busy getting back into school life. Like the beginning of every school year, the children are having to adapt to a new teacher, a new classroom, new expectations and new routines. The children have been brilliant so far and I am sure this will continue.

A warm welcome to Mrs deCordova, our new Year 2 teacher and Mr Dickerson our PPA teacher. We hope that they will be very happy here at St Winifred's. Many of you may have noticed that Mr

IT'S A  
BOY!

Dickerson has not started this week, this is because he is now on paternity leave. Mr & Mrs Dickerson welcomed their baby boy on Sunday. Mum and baby are doing very well. We wish them all the very best at this happy time.

**School Office:**

As you all know, Jill Hunt, left the school in the summer term. I ask that you all be patient with the office team, as we adapt to all the changes to roles and responsibilities. We have also recruited a new School Business Manager, Alisha Francis, who will be starting in a few weeks' time.

The office is open from 8am – 4pm, calls will not be answered before or after this time. Please leave a message on the answer phone any other time. The contact details for the office are at the top of this letter.

Please **email** the office or use the **ScholarPack App**, for any of the following reasons:

- To report a child's absence, an exact reason is required.
- To update contact numbers and address if these have changed recently.
- To inform the office of any medical appointments, which would result in the child missing a part of the school day.

Please **call** the office as soon as you can, for any of the following reasons:

- If another adult is picking your child up, giving their name.
- If you are going to be late to collect your child.

If you arrive once the main gate has closed, please escort your child to the office to sign them in and to give a reason for lateness. It is incredibly important that all the children arrive to school on time, to ensure that no valuable learning time is missed.

**September:**

- 14<sup>th</sup>: Fire Safety Workshops Yr 2 & 5
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Instrumental lessons start this week
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Meet the teaching team 3:30pm or 5pm
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Year 6 trip to High Elms Country Park

**October:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: St Veronica trip to St Paul's Cathedral
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: St James trip to St Paul's Cathedral
- 5<sup>th</sup>: National Poetry Day
- 6<sup>th</sup>: School Photographer – Individuals
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Harvest Festival

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>: Half Term**



### InVentry – Sign in System

Over the summer we have installed a digital sign in system. If your child is late, the adult dropping them off will have to sign the child in using the screen in the reception area. Children will not be allowed to sign themselves in. You will also need to sign your child out using this system, if you are signing your child out of school early, or if you collect them late.

### School Day:

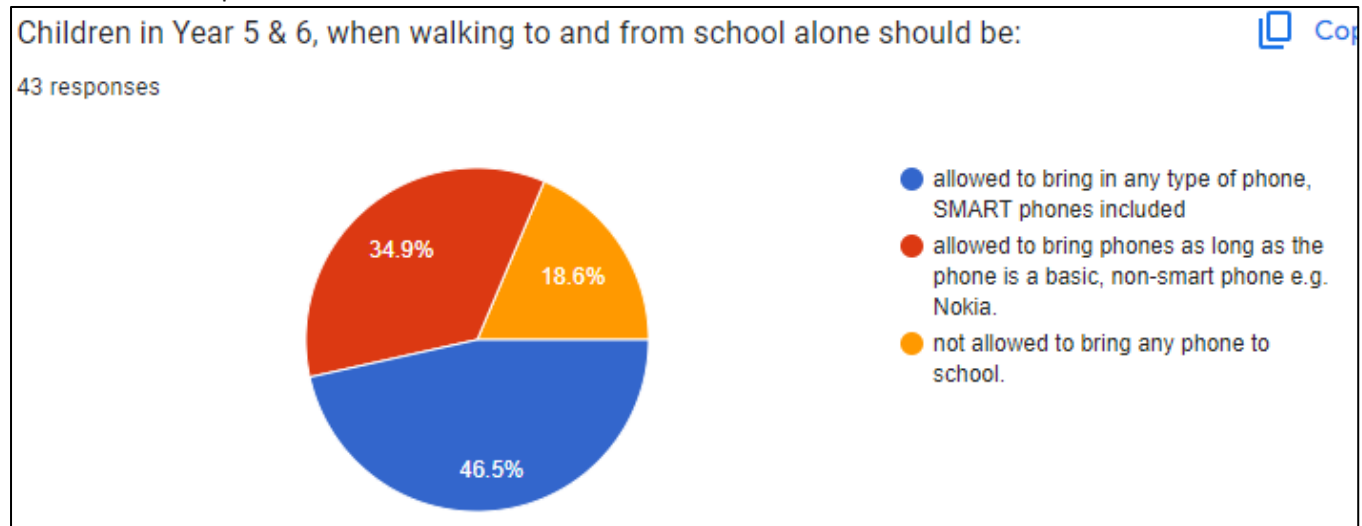
- 8:35 – Main Gate Opens.
- 8:40 - Early Years Door Opens.
- 8:45 – Registers close, anyone who arrives after this time will be marked late.
- 10:05-10:20 – Key Stage 1 Morning Play.
- 10:25-10:40 – Lower Key Stage 2 Morning Play.
- 10:45-11:00 – Upper Key Stage 2 Morning Play.
- 11:30 – 12:30 – First Lunchtime sitting.
- 12:30 – 1:30pm – Second Lunchtime Sitting.
- 3:05pm – Main Gate Opens.
- 3:15pm – End of school day – children released to parents.
- 3:30pm – Main Gate closed



### Mobile Phones Consultation

In the summer term we consulted parents, teachers and governors regarding the children in Year 5 & 6 and mobile phones. As a result of this, we will continue to allow the children to bring them and hand them in.

Parent Online Responses:



We also received a few paper responses. However, as you can see that it was almost 50% of parents wanted to continue to allow the smart phone.

Many parents stressed the positives that came from their child having a smart phone:

- *The benefit of smart phones is that there are tracking apps and you can see exactly where your child is while on its way to/from school.*
- *Our children are growing up in a world where smart devices are used for everything, rather than ban I think we need to trust and teach them to use them safely and responsibly.*
- *Oppressing does not mean eliminating a problem... It is a tool that sooner or later they will have to deal with and control. With trust and guidance, they can thrive.*
- *Technology should be embraced, not banned.*

Many parents also suggested the following:

- *Continuation of in class learning and support re appropriate use of phones reinforcing school policy*
- *Education and a supportive environment in which they can share their concerns, is what will keep them safe;*
- *Roles as parents is to educate their children about the huge benefits and potential dangers of these devices.*
- *There are parental locks on the phone preventing search of inappropriate content.*
- *Parents need to be responsible*

Over the course of the year we will of course continue to support the children and parents with online safety. We will be launching a new online safety policy this term to help us ensure that our children are safe online.

### **Cost of Living Crisis:**

If there are any families that find themselves struggling and would like support, please do come and talk to us. The school's budget is also under an incredible amount of strain and although will be unable to support financially, we will support you practically, in any way we can. I list here some of the established initiatives we have that may help:

#### **Pupil Premium Funding**

Please check to see if your eligible by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> If you are eligible, additional money is given to the school to improve the attainment of these pupils. This money would not only entitle the children to free school meals until Year 6, but it would also mean that one after school club a term, all trips and instrumental lessons would be paid for.

#### **Food Bank**

As you all know the school runs a foodbank for any family, who would like to access it. Please be reminded that the school's foodbank is open. If you would like to access it, please contact the school office. If you are able to donate to the foodbank, all donations will be greatly received.

#### **Uniform Swap Shop**

We have a great deal of nearly new uniform which has been donated to the school. Please feel free to ask in the office for uniform in your child's size. Also, when your child outgrows their uniform, if it is clean and in good condition, please donate it and we will add it to our stock. Not only does this save money, it is good for our environment too.

### **Secondary School Admissions (Year 6):**

You can apply for a secondary school place to start September 2024. The deadline for secondary school applications is Monday 31 October 2023. [Read about school admissions](#) on the Lewisham website.

### **School Meals**

Please let the school office know if you want your child to have school dinners. All school meals are free for all pupils from Reception to Year 6.

### **Packed lunches**

Please ensure that you follow our school '[Packed lunch policy](#)' when preparing your child's lunch.

### **Uniforms**

Thank you for sending the children into school this week looking so smart in their school uniforms. The pupils will continue to wear their PE kit to school on the days when they have a PE lesson. Please ensure that they wear correct kit as detailed on our [Uniform Policy](#).

On the other days, pupils must wear their school uniform, which must be in line with school policy. The children may wear plain black trainers if they wish with their school uniform. **Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled.**

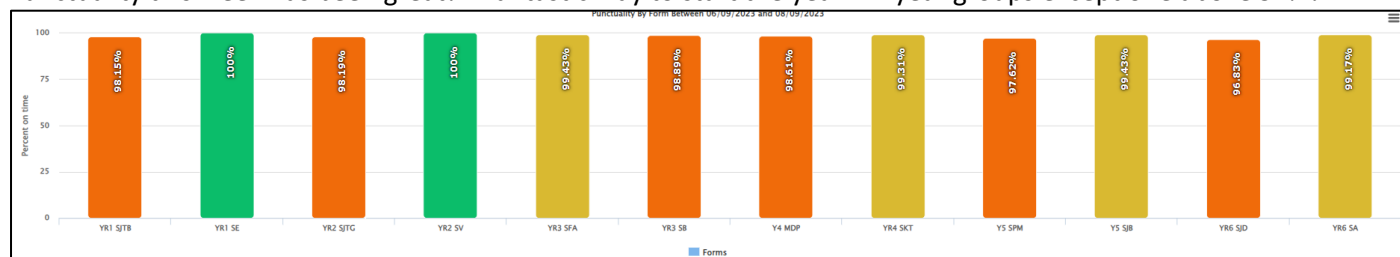
We have lots of spare uniform and will be happy to provide you with any items you need for free if we have them.

Could I also remind you that if your child has long hair that it needs to be tied back. Jewellery is not allowed except for a wrist watch and small plain stud earrings. Again, all details can be found in the uniform policy.

**SMART watches are not allowed.** We have seen an increase in the number of smart watches with call and messaging functionality, as well as cameras. Please do not bring these into school.

### **Punctuality:**

Punctuality this week has been great! A fantastic way to start the year. All year groups except one above 97%!



This week's winners are Saint Elizabeth and St Veronica classes – both with 100%!

### **Parent App:**

We sent an email today to all the parents who have not downloaded the ScholarPack App. Within the email is the code needed to access your child's information on the app. From the app you are able to access all the information we hold on your children. If you need any help with downloading it, please do not hesitate to ask us.



### **Our Lady of Lourdes: Parish News**

#### **Sunday Coffee Morning**

After having the summer break, our team of volunteers will be serving coffee, tea and biscuits etc. this Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> September) after 9am Mass in the church hall.

Please pop in and enjoy a drink, a chat and some fellowship time with your friends and others in our parish community.

#### **Community lunch – 17th September**

Just a reminder in case you do not yet have 17<sup>th</sup> September in your diary already, to please come along and join in and bring food to share, as your means allow. The lunch will follow the 11am mass on that Sunday and will be a great chance to meet together.

#### **LOL Community Chorus**

Our chorus rehearsals restart after the summer break on Monday 11th September at 8pm in the church. We will start preparing for our Christmas concert and this is always a great term for new members to start coming along. We also look forward to welcoming back present and past members.

#### **Wednesday Word**

Please see the [link](#) to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend.

#### **Social Media:**

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St\_winifreds\_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Claire Gillespie