

Newsletter No 1

9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



After the very sad news yesterday about Queen Elizabeth's death, the children in today's assembly reflected on her life and thanked God for years of service. In the class, the children have been learning about her life and creating their own tributes to the queen. We will be creating our own wall of condolence on the

playground to commemorate her life. I invite you all to come and spend time looking at the children's drawings and reading their prayers next week.

At the time of writing this newsletter, the date of the funeral had not been announced. Until we receive further guidance, school is open as usual.

It has been fantastic to welcome all the children back to school this week. The children have been busy getting back into school life. They are all settling into their new classes and getting to know their new teaching teams. 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 Ms Francis, our new Year 3 teacher. We hope that she will be very happy here at St Winifred's.

On Wednesday evening, many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils went to see The Lion King at The Lyceum Theatre. We were offered tickets at a very reduced rate and we jumped at the chance of taking the children. The children had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A big thank you to the members of staff, who accompanied the children and made the trip possible.

Football Talent:

A huge congratulations to Raffaella in Year 4, who has been re-signed for a second season with Arsenal Women's FC U10's. A fantastic achievement!

Meet the Teaching Team:

You should have all received a letter earlier today inviting you all to a Meet the Teaching Team meeting on Tuesday 20th September at 3:15pm or 5pm in your child's classroom. We are running the same session twice one just after home time and the other later in the evening, with the aim of trying to accommodate as many families as possible. Please do try to attend to get all the information regarding the routines and curriculum expectations for your child's year group. The home school agreement and new behaviour policy, will also be discussed.

September:

- 19th: Instrumental lessons start this week
- 20th: Meet the teaching team
3:15pm or 5pm
- 20th: Friends PTA AGM 5pm

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 we 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 you are 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.

School Day:

8:30 – Main Gate and 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.

2:50pm – Main Gate Opens.

3pm – End of school day – children released to parents.

3:15pm – Main Gate closed

Secondary School Admissions (Year 6):

You can apply for a secondary school place to start September 2023. The deadline for secondary school applications is Monday 31 October 2022. [Read about school admissions](#) on the Lewisham website and [sign up to receive weekly emails about applying for a secondary school place](#).

School Office:

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.

School Meals

Please let the school office know if you want your child to have school dinners. School meals are free for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and for all other pupils for whom the school receives Pupil Premium. You will know if this applies to your child.

School Meals Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

The cost of school meals for this half term is £80.50 (from 5/9/22 to 21/10/22) or £2.30 per day/£11.50 per week, payable via ParentPay. This is payable via ParentPay in advance half termly or weekly, but not in arrears. If you are experiencing difficulties please come and talk to us so we can support you.

Packed lunches

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

Water bottles:

The children are encouraged to bring in a labelled water bottle every day; may I remind you please that only water is allowed. Flavoured water / juice is **not** allowed.

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](#).

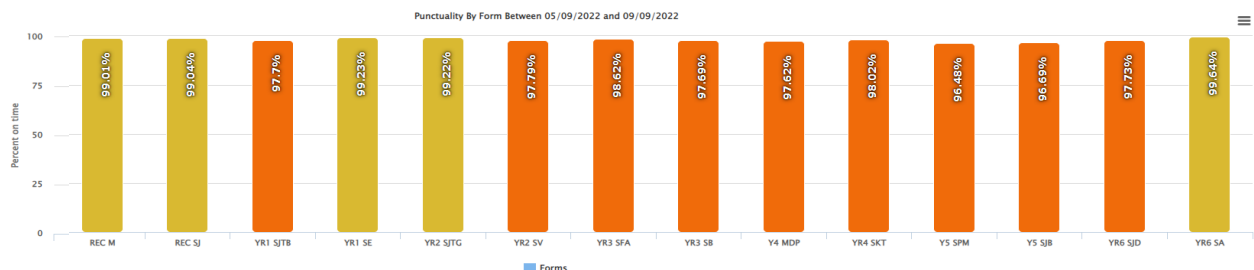
On the other days, pupils must wear their school uniform, which must be in line with school policy. The children may wear plain black trainers if they wish with their school uniform. **Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled.**

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.

Punctuality:

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



This week's winner is Saint Alphonsa class – Year 6 with 99.64%!

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.

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.



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