



8th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have only got two weeks of this half term left! These five weeks have flown by. The children have been working incredibly hard and have settled well into their new classes. Thank you for all the support you are providing them with their learning at home.

Yesterday we had our first assembly, we gathered for the first time in the school hall. Although gathering in assembly is new for many of our children, they were fantastic. It was so lovely to finally be able to gather as a school community, it was long overdue. We are now incredibly excited for our Harvest Festival next week.

This week, we also had the welcomed return of the school trip! Year 5 went to the Planetarium in Greenwich Park as part of their Science 'Space' topic. Year 3 learnt more about the Egyptians by visiting the Horniman's Museum today. The level of excitement this week due to the trips was incredible. Many children came back claiming they had the best trip ever! Trips are such an important way we enrich our school curriculum; the benefits are immeasurable. Here's to many more educational visits over the course of the year. Please remember to look on our social media platforms to see the photos of the children out and about.

Harvest Festival:

Thank you to all of you who have very kindly donated goods to our Harvest festival, which we will be celebrating on the 15th October with Fr Emeka. Next Friday I will share with you all photos from our special assembly. I do apologise for not inviting you to celebrate with us this time. I look forward to many future celebrations with you all.

We are collecting for the Manna Centre. Could we please ask you to bring in the following donations:

Nursery: Tinned vegetables

Reception: Tinned tomatoes

Year 1; Baked beans

Year 2: Pasta

Year 3: Breakfast cereals

Year 4: Rice

Year 5: Biscuits

Year 6: Sugar

October:

14th: Harvest Festival

19th & 21st: Parents' Evenings

20th: Friend's Meeting

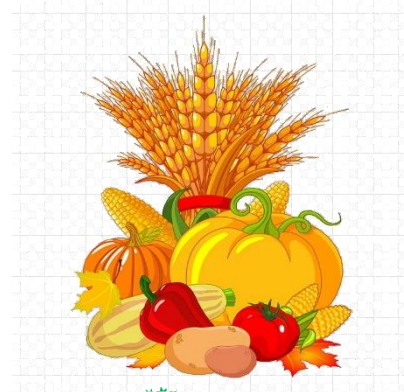
22nd: Last Day of Term

November:

1st November: children return

6th: Garden Volunteers

8th November: INSET day



Black History Month



I would like to thank you those of you who have generously donated to our Amazon wish-list, it's still not too late. We have already received some books this week. We have put together a list of books that we believe all children should have access to in their class libraries. If you are able to donate any amount to put towards the books we have chosen we would be tremendously grateful. Please click on this link to see the titles we've chosen and donate them to the children of the school. <https://amzn.eu/3TFk1Ja>

Parents' Evening:

This term teachers will be offering a 10-minute telephone / video catch-up to all parents/carers of pupils in their class. They will discuss the progress your child has made this term, how they have settled and their key targets for development. These calls will take place on the 19th and 21th October. Your child's teacher will be contacting you to arrange a mutually convenient time. It is incredibly important to attend this meeting

These meetings will take place remotely, via the phone or video. I have taken a very cautious return to school this half term as you know, and I want to keep everyone safe, which is why I decided to hold the meetings remotely this time. My hope is that in the Spring term, we will be able to hold the meetings in school.

Teachers will be contacting you directly and inviting you to book a 10-minute slot on these two evenings:

Tuesday 19 th October	4pm – 7pm
Thursday 21 st October	4pm – 6pm

If you are unable to make time on these two dates, I am sure that the teachers will find a mutually agreeable time to meet with you.

May I also take the opportunity to remind you that these meetings are strictly **10 minutes** long. If you feel that after your meeting you would like to meet with the teacher for a longer meeting, to discuss certain issues at length, this can be arranged. The teachers will have pre-booked appointments and will not be able to spend more than your allocated time with you. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Friends of St Winifred's:

This week I had the pleasure of meeting with Andrea and Michelle, the co-chairs of The Friends of St Winifred's. We are incredibly excited about the year ahead and want to re-assemble the 'Friends', after having to stop all activities due to the pandemic.

Anyone, who has a child at St Winifred's, is a 'Friend'! So, calling ALL friends, we need you! We would like to invite you all to a Zoom meeting, where you can find out about 'The Friends of St Winifred's'. This association is vital for the school. We want the school to thrive and be the heart of the community. The 'Friends' organise and host fundraising events, which then in turn the children benefit from. After the 18 months we have all had, wouldn't it be fantastic to start having the opportunity to have fun, whilst raising much needed money for the school.



Please join Andrea, Michelle and me for a meeting on Wednesday 20th October at 6pm on Zoom, to find out about all the ways you can support the school and this wonderful organisation.

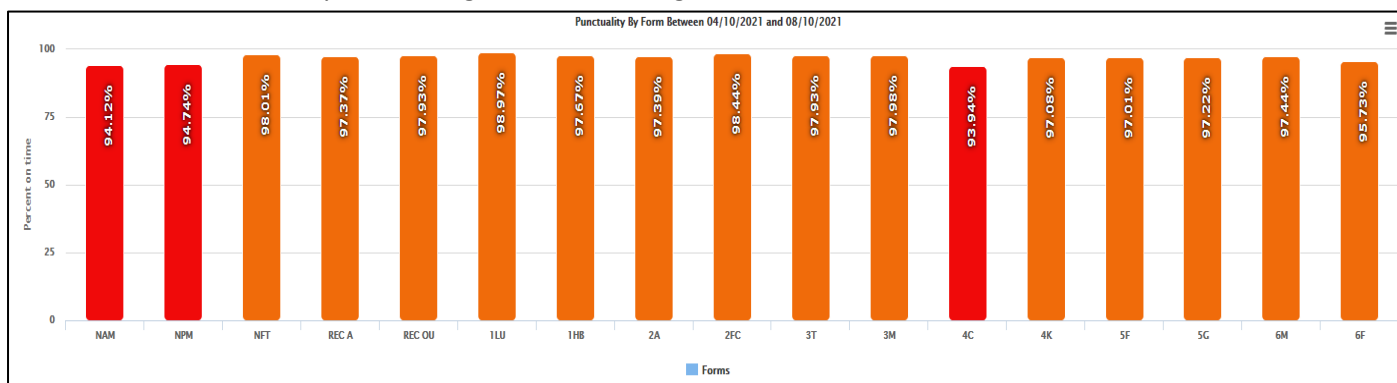
<https://zoom.us/j/96460919880?pwd=bnNURkNKepBUk1ISWZMVmQ0T0dsQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 6091 9880

Passcode: Gw4EKN

Punctuality:

I know that the gate closing has been received with mixed reviews. Many of you have said that you agree and that it has helped get the children moving in the morning. Others have voiced concern about it causing undue stress and upset. I understand that mornings are hectic and it is difficult to get children up, fed, washed and dressed on time, however, this is a life skill. When the children go to secondary school they will be given automatic detentions when late. As adults, we know how important it is to be punctual in all ways of life. I apologise if the gate closing at 8:45am is causing you and the children upset, but I will not be leaving the gate open for longer. Lessons begin at 8:45am and if the children are late, they are missing valuable learning time.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: **1LU!** Well done to 1LU! Let's see who can win it next week!

Parent App:



Today you should have all received an email telling you all about our parent app. With this App you will be able to check all of your contact details and update them at a click of a button. You will also be able to report absences. This is a very quick and easy way to communicate directly with the office. All you need to do is download the app and use the code included in the email. Any problems / queries please do contact the school office and we will help you with any issues arising.

Social Media:

As you all know, I have created a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account for the school. If you have not started following us, it's not too late to do so! I will be sharing this week's trips and many wonderful things during Black History Month.

I sent an opt-out letter three times. If you would rather your child **not** be included in photos and videos, please return the letter to the school. We will then know which children not to include in our posts.



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Lend a helping hand: Saturday 6th November

The school is creating a kitchen garden in the old caretaker garden. Last term parents helped build raised beds out of old pallets. They will be filled with soil and used by classes to grow fruit and vegetables. We have received a grant for tools, greenhouse and shed to complete it.

We have a few more raised beds to make, that will go around the rest of the school, so there are more growing areas.

Could you help us build the beds? We have the last session on Saturday 6th November between 9am and midday. If you can help, please come with protective gloves plus drills, saws or hammers. Refreshments are provided.



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. <https://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk/thewednesdaywordwebsite/>

Applying to start primary school 2022

Applications for Reception Class places for September 2022 can now be made on line. Please follow this link: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

Secondary Transfers etc

Many of our Year 6 pupils will be visiting secondary schools and sitting tests during the coming weeks. Please ensure that you inform the office if your child is going to visit a school or needs time to sit a test. In order to minimise disruption to their learning in class, please ensure that they are only absent for part of the school day on which the exam or visit takes place.

Link for applying for Lewisham secondary schools: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school/completing-an-application-form>

PLEASE NOTE THAT: you must apply online for a secondary school place by 11.59pm on 31 October 2021

Food Bank

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.

Lewisham Music

Please follow this link to access new music opportunities:

<https://mailchi.mp/3daffc5bad75/upcoming-projects-5379355?e=cd1b53fba5>

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, it really is very much appreciated,

Wishing you all a happy weekend,
Claire Gillespie