

23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Here is a reminder of key dates for this next week:

	Talbot	St. Peter's
Monday 26th February	WRAP AROUND CARE	WRAP AROUND CARE
Tuesday 27 th February	WRAP AROUND CARE	WRAP AROUND CARE
Wednesday 28 th February	WRAP AROUND CARE	WRAP AROUND CARE
Thursday 29th February	WRAP AROUND CARE	WRAP AROUND CARE
Friday 1 st March	DEVA Roman Experience for Years 3 and 4	DEVA Roman Experience for Years 3 and 4 WRAP AROUND CARE

Key dates for your diary

	Talbot	St. Peter's
4 th March		PARENTS' EVENING
6 th March	Non-Uniform for TSA chocolate tombola	
7 th March	WORLD BOOK DAY TSA Bakes and Books	WORLD BOOK DAY PARENTS' EVENING
8 th March	Mothers/Nans craft afternoon from 1.15pm Mother's Day Assembly at 2.30pm	Mother's Day Assembly at 9.15am FOMS Mother's day Market 2pm - 3.15pm
11 th March	WARWICK CASTLE Trip PARENTS' EVENING	WARWICK CASTLE Trip
14 th March	PARENTS' EVENING	Easter Church Service at 2pm
22nd March	TSA Easter Parade and chocolate tombola at 2.45pm	Easter Bonnet Parade at 9.15am
W/C 25 th March	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday
8 th April 2024	INSET - School Closed	INSET - School Closed

21 st May	INSPIRE Trip for Years 3 and 4	INSPIRE Trip for Years 3 and 4
W/C 27 th May	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
22 nd July 2024	INSET - School Closed	INSET - School Closed

Special Notes:

- I will always try to see you at short notice if at all possible. If your issue is urgent and I am unavailable, I will ensure that another senior member of staff is made available to you. For non-urgent meetings, you are welcome to telephone the School Office. Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Delaney-Lewis manage my diary and will be more than happy to make you an appointment at a mutually convenient time or you can always drop me an email (jfarrington@woodlandsfederation.staffs.sch.uk). Alternatively, you can catch me on the school gate where we can easily make an arrangement to meet.
- My weekly newsletter is accessible via Dojo and is uploaded to the school website. If you would prefer an email version, you can log on to the school website (following the NEWS AND EVENTS tab and then NEWS/LETTERS) and enter your email address to sign up. In the same way, if you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the School Office know.
- Please note that OFFICE HOURS are 8am - 4pm.

The weather yesterday was atrocious and unfortunately Marchington was hit badly with flooding. I am sorry that we had to make the decision to close St. Peter's in the afternoon but the information that we were given from the Flood warden by 11am, coupled with a forecast of heavy rain for the afternoon, posed a real threat to parents travelling into Marchington and the children getting home safely. Thank you for collecting them so promptly. We managed to evacuate all the staff and get them over to Talbot where the land was a little drier! Local sources tell me that we have never experienced such bad flooding in both Marchington and Kingstone until this last year - I must have brought the bad weather with me!

- Look carefully at the **Key Dates** because more dates have crept into the calendar and we have had to change the Talbot own clothes day to raise chocolate for the tombola because it clashed with one of our trips!

- A reminder that next Friday, Years 2, 3 and 4 will be out of school on the DIVA ROMAN EXPERIENCE in Chester. It promises to be a very exciting day! Children must wear **full school uniform** with sensible footwear and have a waterproof coat for the trip as the forecast currently looks very unsettled. They must not bring money or any electronic devices. Packed lunches should not contain nuts, fizzy drinks or glass bottles. Children need to be at Talbot **by 8.15am for a prompt departure at 8.30am**. Children need to be at St. Peter's **by 8.30am for a prompt departure at 8.45am**. We have an extremely busy day planned and this is an expensive trip where we want to make the most of every minute, so unfortunately we will be unable to wait for any latecomers. A big THANK YOU to Miss Vickers for organising this amazing learning experience for our older children!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

This week I have been conducting lesson observations of our amazing Teaching Assistants, accompanied by Miss Beynon. These observations will continue into next week. This is part of our monitoring programme to ensure that your children are receiving good quality teaching. THANK YOU to all the Teaching Assistants for welcoming us into your teaching sessions.

Also, from next week, we are implementing Professional Development Training sessions for all Teaching Assistants in both schools. All TAs will meet via a TEAMS link and will receive training linked to our School Improvement Plan.

- The after school club activities at Talbot are as follows:

Monday	Craft Night!
Tuesday	Talbot Choir
Wednesday	Gym Club using the apparatus
Thursday	Multi Sports with Jack

- The after school club activities at St. Peter's are as follows:

Monday	Construction
Tuesday	Sports with Jack
Wednesday	Crafty Club!

Thursday	Singing Hands
Friday	Yoga and Mindfulness

For those that have already booked Wraparound Care, there is no need to book into these clubs as they form part of our Wraparound Care. If you have not already booked in and would like your child to take part in these clubs then book in the usual way via the school office. **Don't forget - under the new WAC terms and conditions, there will be a charge applied for late bookings.**

- In June of last year, we were told that the school meal price would be frozen until April 2024. However, the cost of food and distribution inflation and fair pay awards has led to an inevitable increase in costs. The meal price from April 2024 will increase from £2.83p to £2.95p per meal.

EXCITING NEWS!

From next week, BIRTHDAYS will be celebrated in our Celebration Assemblies! Anyone (staff included!) who has celebrated a birthday during that week will be wished a Happy Birthday by the whole school so be sure to wear your birthday badge with pride on that Friday!

- Don't forget - If you haven't already booked an appointment to see your child's class teacher, there is still time to do so. It is a good opportunity to come along and discuss your child's progress and to talk about how together we can support your child to ensure that by the end of the summer, they have met their end of year expectations. **Please remember that each appointment is limited to 10 minutes** to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to talk to their child's teacher. Please be mindful of this in order to avoid keeping other parents waiting. If you feel that you have issues or concerns that will need a longer discussion, the class teachers will always be happy to make you an appointment on an alternative date.

Please check your PARENTPAY account and make sure that you are up to date with your payments. A new DEBT POLICY has been approved by our Board of Governors which will enable us to recover outstanding balances and possibly restrict services where money is owed. If you have a balance which you are finding unmanageable, please speak

to Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Delaney-Lewis or myself and we will help you to resolve the issue. We fully appreciate that most of us are having to juggle finances to manage the cost-of-living crisis and we are here to help you and support you.

- Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with their water bottle. Water bottles are kept in the classroom and the children are able to freely access them as they wish.

STAFFING UPDATE

I am pleased to report that Miss Allen has returned to school this week on a phased return basis. It is lovely to have her back looking so much better. Mrs. Lovat is teaching Maple Class for the duration of the phased return, supported by Miss Allen and Mrs. Chatfield.

Mrs. Holden remains absent from school. Miss Davies continues to cover the class, supported by Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Morgan.

GET INTO SCHOOL ON TIME AND BEAT THE LATE GATE!

Some interesting facts:

Being 5 minutes late every day for a year adds up to the equivalent of 3 days missed.

Being 10 minutes late every day for a year adds up to the equivalent of 6 days missed.

REMEMBER - Being late can:

Cause embarrassment for your child.

Make it harder for them to settle.

Cause disruption to the class.

- We all recognise and understand that children end up with lumps, bumps and injuries whilst playing at home! If your child has suffered an **out-of-school**

injury, please be sure to let a member of staff know when they are dropped off in a morning.

- **HOMEWORK** is an important aspect of school life. It provides the opportunity to apply and consolidate learning that has already taken place. Please support your child to complete these weekly tasks in order to give them the best chance of success.
- March creeps into our calendar at the end of next week! Although we are moving nicely towards Spring, March can bring some wintry weather. To ensure that we are all prepared, please be clear on our snow procedure:

In the event of **SNOW**, school will remain open wherever possible. Closure will be a last resort and will depend on a number of factors:

- ❖ The availability of meals for the children
- ❖ The temperature in school
- ❖ The condition of roads and pavements on route to and from school
- ❖ The availability of staff.

In the event of necessary closure due to snow during the day, a message will be sent to you via Dojo asking you to make your way to school as safely as possible to pick up your child. In the event of heavy snow overnight, a decision will be made as early as possible on the following morning and a message will be sent out to you on Dojo. The closure will also be posted on our school website. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE UP TO DATE and that we have more than one contact for you.**

PLEASE REMEMBER that we are a NUT-FREE SCHOOL. Nut products coming into school poses a real risk to the children that we have who suffer from NUT ALLERGIES. Please check that any food sent into school adheres to our NUT-FREE policy.

- Please help us to remain smart by keeping to our agreed uniform standards. If for some reason, your child is not able to come to school in the expected uniform, they will be challenged by Staff unless you have already made us aware of the reason. Please remember that if earrings are worn, this should be a small, plain stud. Please remember to remove earrings on PE days. Don't forget that we are not allowed to remove earrings for safeguarding reasons and our policy does not allow covering pierced ears with plasters. **PLEASE REMEMBER - If**

you are considering having your youngster's ears pierced, please consider that this is done in the summer holiday as earrings cannot be removed from newly pierced ears for at least 6 weeks and this will result in them having to miss at least 12 PE lessons. In the same way, in line with our uniform policy, hair must be tied back and no jewellery is permitted.

READING AT HOME - Please try to read with your child every day. When you read with your child, please write in the reading diary or for the older children, support them in writing in the diary themselves. Please ensure that your child's reading book and diary is in school every day. Reading every day makes a REAL DIFFERENCE!

Don't forget that our TALBOT TODDLERS group runs on a Wednesday morning in the school hall. Come and take a break for a couple of hours and enjoy a chat and a cuppa!

Kingstone Toddler Group
AT TALBOT FIRST SCHOOL
Wednesday 9-11am (Term Time Only)

A friendly group for children aged 0-4 years and their carers.
Come and join us for a chat and play!
Plenty of toys, activities and crafts.

£2 per session: includes squash and snack for children
plus tea/coffee and biscuits for adults

For more information please contact:
Jordanne - 07940252543 or
Talbot First School - 01889 500273

- St. Peter's - Please remember that gates will close **promptly at 8.30am** each morning to safeguard all children. No vehicles will be permitted to enter/leave

the carpark during the period of 8.30am - 9.10am. PLEASE NOTE that the carpark is intended for **STAFF use only**. Could I please ask that Parents/Carers do not use the carpark - your vehicle will not be insured if a bump takes place on this carpark.

- Talbot - Please don't park on the zigzag lines outside of school when dropping off in the morning - the road can become very congested and emergency vehicles would not be able to make their through if needed.

You will see from the key dates that both FOMS and the TSA are busy organising some really exciting Easter events for our children. Please remember that both FOMS and the TSA are a very small group of volunteers who work really hard to raise money in order to provide additional experiences for our children. These special events don't just happen and their fun events and financial contributions would be very much missed by all of the school community. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers involved. **FOMS and TSA are in REAL NEED of some new volunteers to join the group or simply to help out at some events.** If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to Mrs. Hill or Mrs. Delaney-Lewis in the School Office who will be happy to pass on your details! Please try and help out if you can - sometimes it's just some extra energy that's needed for a particular event!

Also just a polite request - we can't always all agree on something and it may well be that on occasions, an event is planned by FOMS or the TSA that you are disappointed in or feel that it could have been organised differently. Please remember that these events are organised by VOLUNTEERS who do what many of us have not got the time to do or are willing to do. Without them, these events would not happen. I am sure that both FOMS and the TSA welcome feedback on their events in order to plan further events in the future but please remain respectful at all times and follow our Parent Code of Conduct.

This week's ROLL OF HONOUR for certificate winners is as follows:

<u>The Woodlands Federation Certificate Winners</u>				
Certificate:	Talbot:		St Peter's:	
Pen Licence				
Presentation Award	Willow:		Ash:	Raija
	Maple:		Birch:	Annie
Maths Award:	Willow:	Isabella	Ash:	Lauren B.
	Maple:	Xander	Birch:	Elsie H.
English Award:	Willow:	Poppy	Ash:	Fred
	Maple:	George	Birch:	Georgia
Star of the week:	Willow:	Zac	Ash:	Ivy
	Maple:	Kyryl	Birch:	James B.
Golden rules/value award:	Willow:	Olivia	Ash:	Cal
	Maple:	Hollie	Birch:	Aimee
Headteacher award:	Willow:		Ash:	
	Maple:		Birch:	
Out of School Achievements:				
Talbot:			St Peter's:	

	Football - Elsie H, Eliza, Nancy Swimming (Duckling Award) - Ava Swimming (Silver Award) - Elsie P
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WELL DONE to all these children!

I hope that you all have a relaxing weekend - Let's hope for some sunshine!

W.J. Farrington