



# Wantage CE Primary School

Newbury Street, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 8DJ



Excellence for All  
'Life in abundance'  
John 10:10

28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Attendance last week

1JG - 98.54%	4DG - 95.16%
1SD - 98.22%	4TL - 97.33%
2SMH - 97.03%	5NJ - 95.4%
2KV - 98.36%	5KH - 97.85%
3VL - 98.75%	6AD - 96.3%
3AW - 96.39%	6SC - 96.62%

Our whole school attendance stands at 97.5%, which is above our target this year which is 97% attendance. This is an excellent start to the year. Very well done to all those classes who have achieved 97% or higher last week.

Special congratulations to 3VL who become the proud winners of our new monthly attendance cup (plus packet of 'attendance biscuits'). Next month, the attendance cup will be awarded along with a second cup for the most improved class.

Attendance is a key priority this academic year. Please note that we will no longer be providing holiday request forms for parents/carers to complete. The September 2013 amendment to the 2006 Education Act has made it clear that head teachers can only grant leave of absence for pupils during term time in 'exceptional circumstances'. If you think that you may need to request a leave of absence for your son/daughter due to exceptional circumstances, please contact me via the school office.

## Thoughts on Kilvrough 2018

I hope that many parents/carers have taken the opportunity to have a look at the photos on the Kilvrough blog whether you have a child in Year 6 or not! (Just type 'kilvrough.wantagece.org' into Google.)



I would like to start by paying credit to the members of staff who accompanied Year 6 on our residential. I'm sure that Year 6 will agree that the staff were fabulous all week. They threw themselves into every activity, tied many bootlaces, located multiple items of outdoor gear, and lavished Year 6 with love, care, encouragement and enthusiasm.

Secondly I would like to say a huge well done to Year 6. They were a pleasure to be with, and I was so impressed with how well Year 6 settled into to an unfamiliar environment with a team of leaders that they had never met before. I think every Year 6 tried every activity, and however far each Year 6 made it up a cliff, down a cave, behind a waterfall, or along the crest of a wave, every Year 6 should feel proud of their effort, courage, determination and achievements.

I am delighted that I now know every Year 6 pupil's name and we have started to get to know each other well.



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## Parents/Carers entering school in the morning

Please can I remind parents that we would like parents/carers to say goodbye to their children on the playground and not to come with them into the school building. This is to allow staff to start the morning promptly once pupils have arrived in the classroom, and for safeguarding reasons, we can no longer provide open access to the school building.

If you have been unable to speak to a member of staff on the playground, please make your way to the school office and we are happy to either pass on a message or to arrange a time for you to meet your child's teacher/TA. As I wrote in my previous letter, the exception to this are Year 1 pupils who may need more settling at the start of the year.

## School play equipment

We would appreciate it if you could keep your children off the play equipment before and after school, because we can't be liable if something happens during these times.

## Mass Headteacher Action – 28 September 2018



Today, Friday 28 September, I will be joining hundreds of other Headteachers from across the country in support of a mass event intended to gain much improved funding for all schools taking place in Central London.

Headteachers have the full support of their Governing Bodies/Trusts as we continue to champion the best possible funding for all our schools. I/we will remain steadfastly determined, relentlessly reasonable and act without any political bias. These have been the hallmarks of our campaign work to date.

You will be aware of the challenges that schools up and down the country are facing. A mixture of rising costs and stresses on other support services has meant that for many years we have been being asked "to do more with less".

Under a challenging period of austerity for the Government we understand that there is not a bottomless pit of money. Accordingly, schools have played their part to work even harder and with greater efficiency on behalf of the children and families that we serve.

It is clear to all Headteachers, however, that matters are unsustainable. Frequently, we do not have enough money to meet the demands placed on our schools. On the ground, services and resources are cut to the bone and class sizes are increasing. At times, schools are even having to prop up our budgets with monies that should be targeted at those students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, or those that have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Under the umbrella of the campaign group 'Worth Less?', Headteachers have shone a light on the funding difficulties that we are facing. We acknowledge that the Government should be given credit for introducing a new National Funding Formula. Unfortunately, however, the formula itself is not adequately resourced/funded and therefore our budgets remain in an unacceptably poor state.



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In July, the Institute for Fiscal Studies echoed what we have been saying for a long time and confirmed that, in real terms, school budgets have been slashed by 8% since 2010. <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/13143>

It is simply not good enough for the Government to state that "more money is spent on schools than ever before", when independent evidence clearly states that in real terms, this is simply not the case.

Headteachers will gather at Downing Street to insist that the chancellor and his colleagues at the Department for Education use the upcoming autumn statement to invest properly in our schools and your child's education. Many of the real terms cuts to our budgets should be reversed and urgent investment is required for SEND and post-16 budgets.

The support that we have enjoyed from parents and carers has been very welcome and we will continue to update you on all of our forthcoming actions. We are determined to campaign until a much better and fairer settlement is reached in order to support your child/children and the future prosperity of the country as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Browne  
Headteacher



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