

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3 September

Autumn term begins

Thursday 12 September

Parents coffee afternoon 2pm

Wednesday 18 September

Year 6 residential

Thursday 26 September

Year 4 'Dream-catching' workshop

Tuesday 1 October

Careers fair

Friday 25 October

School closes for October half term

Monday 4 November

School re-opens after October half term

Thursday 19 December

Whole School Christingle Service

Friday 20 December

School closes for Christmas holidays

Monday 6 January

School re-opens after Christmas holidays

w/c Monday 12 May

KS2 SATs week

Monday 21 July

School closes for summer holidays



Winnie the Therapy Dog

I would like to introduce our new families and pupils to Winnie; our beloved therapy dog. She is very much a part of our wonderful team and is looking forward to meeting you in September! Therapy dogs have been active in schools for some time and the benefits of having them in school include:

- **Physical benefits.** Interaction with therapy dogs has been shown to reduce blood pressure, provide physical stimulation and assist with pain management
- **Social benefits.** A visiting therapy dog promotes greater self-esteem and focused interaction with other students and teachers
- **Cognitive benefits.** It has been empirically proven that therapy dogs stimulate memory and problem-solving skills
- **Emotional and mental health benefits.** A therapy dog can lift moods in the classroom, often provoking laughter. The therapy dog is also there to offer friendship and a shoulder to lean on for pupils



Worth Valley Primary School NEWSLETTER



1 September 2024

Headteacher's Message



I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer holiday.

This newsletter contains important information regarding the start of the new academic year on **Tuesday 3rd September***. However, if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact a senior member of staff using their email address below:

Member of staff	Area of responsibility	Email address
Ceinwen Lodge	Headteacher	c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk
Rachael Page	Deputy Headteacher and Joint SENCo	r.page@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk
Lisa Boothroyd	Assistant Headteacher and Key Stage 2 Leader	l.boothroyd@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk
Sarah Hiley	Key Stage 1 Leader	s.hiley@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk
Caroline Oram	Early Years Leader	c.oram@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk
Amy Waddington	Lead Teacher of Resourced Provision and Joint SENCo	a.waddington@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk

**parents and carers of pupils in Early Years will have received a separate letter detailing your child's start date or first session.*

Thank you so much for your lovely cards, notes, gifts and well wishes received by staff at the end of the year; I hope you know how much your kind words mean to us.

Overleaf you will find details of the start and end of day arrangements, as well as drop off and collection points for each class.

I would like to wish all our new starters a very warm welcome to Worth Valley Primary School and good luck to our Year 6 leavers who will be starting high school in September! We could not be prouder of the young adults you have become; you know you're always welcome to come back and visit us!



We look forward to seeing everyone on **Tuesday 3rd September.**



Start of day arrangements

Years 1-6

Our 8.35am-8.50am arrival slot will continue in September as we know that this enables children to arrive in school calmly and confidently, ready to get on with their learning straight away. Pupils in Years 1-6 will enter via the main gate between 8.35am-8.50am.

Early Years and Butterfly Class

Pupils (and parents) of Reception, Nursery, Pre-School and Butterfly Class will enter via the small gate between 8.35am-8.50am. Please follow the path round to Early Years or the Butterfly Room and drop your child off at their classroom. If you are new to school please don't panic — Early Years staff will be present at the gate and in the Early Years outdoor area to help!

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is open from 7.45am-8.15am and is free of charge for all pupils. Please enter the school grounds via the main gate, turn right and drop children off at the dining room door at the rear of school.

End of day arrangements

Gates will open at 3.20pm. The school day finishes at 3.20pm: please expect to collect your child from 3.20pm and not before.

Early Years and Butterfly Class: Parents will enter school via the small gate, follow the path round to the Early Years outdoor area and collect their children from classrooms.

Year 1: Children will be collected from the cloakroom door to the right of the climbing frame.

Year 2 and Butterfly Class: Year 2 children will be collected from the Year 2 external classroom door —please follow the path round to the rear of school behind Early Years. Butterfly Class pupils will be collected from their external door.

Years 3 to 6: Children will be collected from their class line in the Key Stage 2 playground.

Pupils in years 5 and 6 may walk home independently providing we have a signed permission form. These letters will be sent out at the beginning of the week.

Please note that additional staff will be present at the start and end of the school day to help direct parents and carers.

Parking

Please park carefully and considerately on Bracken Bank Crescent and avoid parking on the pavement. The two disabled parking spaces at the front of school are for the use of parents and carers of pupils with disabilities (or adults with disabilities) only. Thank you for your understanding.

Please can I ask parents and carers to NOT collect your child early from the school office unless in exceptional circumstances. Whilst I do appreciate that you may have a good reason to do this, it puts a huge strain on our staff. We are unable to let children walk to the office on their own and so we have to release a member of staff to accompany the child. As all staff are busy teaching or supporting children at this time, it does mean that this is interrupted, as well as the child's learning and education.

School Uniform

In order to maintain a strong sense of identity and belonging within our school, the school uniform consists of:

- Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with logo
- Royal blue polo shirt
- Grey tailored trousers – no jeans or leggings
- Grey skirt or pinafore (modest length)
- Black, flat, sensible, safe 'school' shoes (not canvas or 'ballet' style) **or** plain black trainers
- Plain black, grey or white tights, knee or ankle socks

In warmer weather:

- Grey or black tailored shorts (modest length) - no cycling shorts.
- Blue gingham dresses
- Cap or sunhat to protect from the sun

PE Kit

- White polo shirt
- Plain navy blue shorts or plain navy blue joggers
- Trainers for outdoor PE

All the items above (with the exception of items displaying the school logo) are readily available from most supermarkets or school uniform providers on the high street. If parents and carers find it difficult to obtain any item, please contact school. Our uniform has been kept simple and cost effective to avoid unnecessary expense. We expect all pupils to follow the dress code as written above.

If parents are unsure about any items of school uniform, they should contact the school for clarification.

Jewellery

Items of jewellery are not permitted at school. Should a pupil have pierced ears, only **plain studs** should only be worn and in order to comply with health and safety regulations, must be covered with a plaster during all PE activities. Sleepers, diamante and 'fashion' earrings are **not** permitted. Other body piercings are not allowed.

Please note that the school will be unable to take any responsibility for any jewellery that is lost, including watches. Watches may be worn to school, however, they must be removed and collected by the class teacher before any PE lessons.

Make-Up

No make-up, nail varnish or permanent or temporary tattoos are to be worn.

Hair

We recommend that hair should be neat and tidy and worn with no extremes of style or colour. Tramlines, mohicans, large spikes, shaved sides with longer middle strip, tails etc are not permitted. Long hair should be tied back for safety when possible and at all times for PE lessons. Should the Headteacher deem that the hairstyle does not fit in with our policy and ethos, parents will be contacted to discuss this.