



The Thursday Green 'Un

Autumn 1 September 2024

Welcome Back

Well, here we are at the beginning of our 17th year at WCM. We welcome everyone back to Watercliffe Meadow after the long summer holidays. We would also like to welcome any new families to the school, if there is anything you need to know, just ask, staff will always be happy to help.

It has been so lovely in school over the last few days. Having all the children back and listening to the fantastic times they have shared with families and friends has been a delight. We have had quite a number of the Summer Reading challenges back that were recorded in the children's journals. If you have not yet completed it you have until Friday 13th September; 30 reads will earn you a Reading Robot badge!

This year we will have welcomed Helen Harrison and Sharon Pearson, who are joining us as teaching assistants in F2 and Y1, along with three new Teaching Assistant apprentices: Kayleigh Bernard, Georgia Dyson and Millie White.

We want to make WCM the best place possible for your children to attend but we can only do that with your help and support. If you think we are doing something wrong, come and see us with a better idea. Together we can sort anything!

Communication

Communication is very important to us. We need you to feel confident in us as your child's school and listened to if you have any worries.

If you need to talk to anyone in school, please choose 1 of the following routes:

- email office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk
- phone 01142326603
- in person via a member of the office team, there will be someone on the door in a morning
- a pre-arranged meeting with your child's class teacher
- for a quick question/chat see a member of staff from your child's class every morning or evening on the door.

Don't forget to check out our website for any information. www.watercliffemeadow.com

The website was relaunched last year after feedback from families. The new version is much

more up to date for you and has lots of information that you may need on a daily basis.

Schoolcomms and School Gateway App

Please remember that we are now using Schoolcomms, an online payment system which will allow you to download the FREE School Gateway app; thank you if you have already done it.

The School Gateway app will be the one place you can pay and sign up for visits, after school clubs, school meals, breakfast club and milk, in addition to receiving all school texts and emails.

By downloading the School Gateway app, you will be helping us to save money as it will reduce the amount of text messages we have to pay for.

What do I do next?

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone. Go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked, then say yes to 'Allow Push Notifications'
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, enter your email address and scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Don't have an account?' You then need to enter your mobile number, agree to the privacy notice and terms and conditions and click on send PIN.
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal.

If you experience problems, it could be that the mobile phone number or email address isn't the same as what is recorded in school.

If you are having any issues, please email office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk or call in and see us. We will be more than happy to help.

School Streets

Further to our letter we shared with families in July, we expect the School Streets initiative to start in the next few weeks. We will of course keep you posted. Please follow this link to see the letter: <https://watercliffmeadow.ovw5.devwebsite.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=230&type=pdf>

In the meantime, we appreciate your support by parking legally and considerately around school grounds and the surrounding roads.

School Meals

Further to our letter in August, just a reminder that the cost of a school meal for years 3 to 6 will rise to £2.60, and for Nursery to £2.30. This increase will take effect at the start of the Autumn Term. The Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) project is still in place, and this means that all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 can be provided with a school meal free of charge. As well as hot meals, our school meal provision also includes a sandwich option (pick and mix) and is a great solution for those who would normally bring a packed lunch. The UIFSM is not means tested and is for every child in Reception, Y1 and Y2.

If your child is in Y3 to Y6 they can also have a free school meal if you are in receipt of certain allowances. You can apply for free school meals here:

https://forms.sheffield.gov.uk/form/auto/apply_school_meals

Please contact the school office for help in completing forms or for more information.

Applying for a Secondary School Place

If your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 they will transfer to secondary school in September 2025. You are now invited to apply for a secondary school place for your child. You must do so by 31 October 2024. You will have already been sent information about how to apply. For more information follow this link:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

For your application you will need your child's unique reference number, which is on the letter you should have received from Sheffield City Council back in July. For an online application, you will also need a current email address.

Applications close at the end of October. You will be informed of your child's allocated place at the beginning of **March 2025**. If you have any questions about this or would like help with making an application then speak to one of the Y6 team.

Reception (F2) 2025/25

A letter from the Primary Admissions Team at Sheffield City Council will be going out to families this week, advising them about the need to apply for a school place in the 2025/26 Reception (F2) year group. These are parents of children born between 1st September 2020 and the

31st August 2021. Parents are advised to make their applications online at:

www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare

Please note that even if your child attends our nursery, you will still need to apply for a school place for your child. Places are allocated based on where you live, not which nursery setting your child attends.

Please refer to the letter for more information or ask a member of the Nursery Team.

Nursery Places

We currently have spaces in our nursery for children to start straight away. If you know someone who has a child who is 3, please get them to contact us for an application form. Email office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk if you would like an application form sending out.

Holidays

Please do not book term time holidays. Children have missed so much time in school that they really do not need to be having time out again, especially in the autumn term. Check out the holiday dates to see when you can go away without affecting your child's education. The LA have returned to fining for absence in term time.

SATs for Y6 children are the week beginning 12th May. Please ensure this week is kept free to ensure your child gets the results they deserve to take onto Secondary School with them. SATs for Y2s will run across the month of May, please talk to the Y2 staff if you have any questions about this.

Breakfast Clubs

Breakfast Club will continue using a pre booking system at a fixed cost of £1.00 a day. To book a place and for information on payments please email office@watercliffe.sheffield.sch.uk

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 25th September - Individual Photos
Friday 4th October - Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th October - Parents Evenings
Friday 25th October - Spooky Dress Up Day & Cosy Read
Friday 25th October - Break up for half term
Monday 4th November - Children back at school
Wednesday 27th November - Training Day 2
School closed to children
Monday 2nd December - Step into Christmas parent craft event
Wednesday 4th December - Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Dinner & Cosy Read

Friday 20th December - Break Up

Monday 6th January - Spring Term starts
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school-information-term-dates>