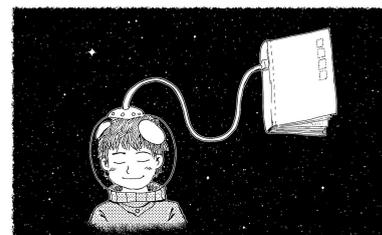




Wakefield Grammar Pre-Preparatory School Newsletter 4.5.21

PATRON OF READING - We are looking for a 'Patron of Reading' for our new school. This needs to be an author or illustrator who will work with our staff and children to promote a love of reading. We have some ideas already but if you know someone who you feel would support us in this endeavour, please get in touch with the school office at either school.



SKILLED AND PASSIONATE PARENTS - Over the next few weeks we will be sending out a parent/carer audit! We know we have many incredibly skilled and knowledgeable parents and we would like to keep a database in school of any additional skills or expertise within our school community. If you feel you have a passion, skill or specific job that you would like to share with the children, please ensure you add it to the audit.

WHERE BIG FUTURES START - In consultation with the Governing body we have changed our motto to 'where big futures start'. We feel this summarises the positive aspirations we have for our pupils and how our school will develop all of the building blocks our children need to go on to big futures with our junior and senior sections.

VISION, VALUES AND BEHAVIOUR - Our staff have been contributing to the vision, values and behaviour expectations for the school. We have established 3 key values which we will focus on: **Respect, Resilience** and **Kindness**.

Our core drivers for the school curriculum are: **Reading, High aspirations, Creativity** and **Child initiated/Play based learning**.

Our behaviour rules are simple for the children to remember and follow. We will focus on positive behaviours, ensuring the children are **Ready, Respectful** and **Safe**.

Please find attached our vision and values statement. We hope this gives you an understanding of the journey your children will experience at WGPPS. The senior leadership team are currently working on the school development plan to set out our high aspirations for the coming year.

CURRICULUM - We are currently evaluating our curriculum offer and spending time planning our curriculum for September. We will be able to share the topic overview with you before the end of the summer term. Centenary House currently runs an annual 'wow week' which is an engaging and immersive curriculum experience for the whole school. We are planning on continuing with these in our new school and we are currently collecting ideas for the focus of next year's adventure!

SCHOOL PLACES - If you know a family who is considering a school place with us, please let them know that school places are filling up quickly. While we do have spaces in some year groups (primarily FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 (Reception)), these are limited and we do not want anyone to be disappointed if they are not allocated a place for their child for September. Please do encourage them to get in touch sooner rather than later.

UNIFORM - There really is no expectation from the Foundation for any of our Y1 (Y2 in September) children having our WGPPS uniform as we understand the financial outlay this would incur. We will not be encouraging these parents to buy the new uniform - we do not see the point in this. We have stated

that there will be a transition year for other pupils and we will have to cope with a slight mismatch in uniforms as the children will grow at different rates.

The Y2 boys will be based in the Junior school in September so continuing the QEGS uniform for them is a much better option as they then look and feel like the other boys. For parents in Y1 (from Sep) they will get two years of wear so I understand that most parents will then want to buy new.

When we have looked at cost, the new uniform is comparable with current costs.

PUPIL VOICE - We are excited to be creating a team of pupil ambassadors in our new school. These pupils will take on leadership roles within the school. Pupils will have the opportunity to apply for these positions and be able to impact on school improvement.

House Captains and Deputies (Year 2)	Head Boy and Head Girl (Year 2)	Deputy Head Boy and Girl (Year 2)	Friendship buddies (FS2, Year 1 and 2)	Library Champions (Year 1 and 2)	Wellbeing Champions (Year 2)	Sport Ambassadors (FS2, Year 1 and Year 2)	Online safety champions (All years)	Reading Champions (Year 2)
At WGPSS we have 4 house teams. These are red, yellow, green and blue. There are 2 house captains in Year 2 for each house. The children stay in the same house throughout their school journey.	Our Head Boy and Girl put themselves forward for election. The staff then vote on which children they feel would best represent our school. We show visitors round school and regularly meet the head teacher to look at whole school improvement.	We work alongside the Head Boy and Head Girl and represent them in their absence. We show visitors round school and regularly meet the head teacher or deputy head to look at whole school improvement.	We work with other children to promote friendships, anti-bullying and respect throughout the school day but particularly at lunch and break times. We support the younger children in resolving friendship issues and learning the rules of the games.	We work with teachers and TAs to ensure the library is a magical place from which to borrow books. We maintain the library and also have the opportunity to purchase and recommend new books.	We ensure the school is doing all it can to ensure positive physical and mental health for all children (and staff!).	We work with the PE leads across the Foundation to ensure that we are offering a good range of sports extracurricular activities, resources are well cared for and appropriate and we are developing a love of sport.	We know how to help others keep safe online.	We work with Mrs Gill and Mrs Butler to decide on ways to praise and reward Reading for Pleasure and general reading in school.
School Council:	We represent our class as we applied for the role and were voted in by our class members. We represent FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 in school.							
Within all classes we also have:	Star of the week (line leader/hands out snacks/books etc.) Eco Champions – this role changes each term Classroom assistant – this role changes each term Other roles as designated by the class teacher or TAs							

FAQs

Please continue to send in your questions to school via the school office or you can email them directly to Mrs Gill on egill@wgsf.net. All of these questions are being discussed with Governors before responses are shared each week. We want to work closely with parents and carers and want to ease any concerns or anxieties prior to the summer holidays so please do continue to ask!

How will the children be assessed?

The children will be assessed in a number of ways, through informal and more formal assessments as they currently are. This will range from observations by the staff, reading 1:1 with a child, phonic assessments to more formal reading, maths and grammar assessments. We will support the children to

complete assessments as part of their ongoing journey through our school - these are not something to worry about! They will be used to enhance and tailor our teaching to ensure we meet the needs of all pupils. Any child coming into the Foundation will have a 1:1 assessment with the Head/Deputy head to ensure the school is the right place for each child (this process is no different from what currently takes place).

What is the extracurricular offer/curriculum offer?

We are aware that parents come to the school for smaller class sizes but also for the outstanding curriculum offer. There will be opportunities for the children to be taught in smaller groups during the day - for example in phonics. They will continue to have expert teachers for PE and music and we are ensuring the whole new curriculum offer meets the needs of the pupils. The extracurricular offer is also being reviewed and we want to make sure this is meeting the needs and interests of the pupils. We feel this is a very exciting time for the foundation and we very much want to work with current parents to ensure this is the best possible experience for your children.

How many teaching staff will be made redundant / contracts terminated / contracts not extended as a result of the changes within the school?

There is one member of staff who has not had their contract renewed. They are a temporary member of staff and there was never an expectation that this would be renewed.

Will 'WOW' weeks be part of the new school curriculum?

Absolutely! We love the idea of the 'wow' weeks and know that the boys look forward to this immersive experience each year. Mrs Butler and Mrs Gill are already in discussions about the theme for next year but as always this will be top secret, so the children (and parents) will have no idea when this will take place!