



PROPRIETOR: LOUISE GEAR

Widford Lodge

HEAD TEACHER: MISS M. COLE

WIDFORD LODGE SCHOOL LTD, WIDFORD ROAD, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX CM2 9AN

7th September, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope the return to school this morning went well for you all, certainly the children have settled in brilliantly! Thank you for your support with all of the new routines. As a staff, we will of course review the procedures and particularly uniform and the end of day arrangements and will communicate any changes to you.

In advance of the first "From the Study" for this academic year, I would just like to outline a few key points. A full list of Form 6 positions of responsibility will be detailed in "From the Study" but I am sure you will join with me in congratulating our Head Girl Aster Samson-Conlon and Head Boy Johnny Goodson, as well as the Deputies, Annabel Morecroft and Max Gribben. We are all looking forward to working with Form 6 this year.

Clubs information and sign up options have already been sent out to you via SIMS Pay, with the deadline being tomorrow; clubs start next week.

This year we are introducing a new way for you to review and confirm the contact and medical details we have for your children. We are rolling out SIMS Parent Lite and will be sending you instructions by email on how you will be able to use this app, it should be straightforward. We will be contacting you about your photo consent as well and would ask that you consider carefully before saying "No" to any of the questions on the photo consent forms; names are never detailed and we often find that parents do want their child to be part of a celebratory team photograph or one capturing a special moment at school or on a trip but we have to exclude a child if their parent has not given permission. Clearly, this is your decision and we very much respect it, but do speak to myself or your child's form teacher if you would like to discuss this further.

Swimming at Riverside is likely to start on Tuesday 6th October with Forms 3 and 4 swimming this term. All children are required to wear the Widford Lodge swimwear from School Wear Plus. Children need a towel and for hair long enough to get in the eyes when wet, a swimming hat.

Teachers and subject leaders are working hard on making the final changes to the curriculum information booklets for each age group: once these are ready I will let you know so that you can access these from our website.

Each year we are required to update a number of our policies, so again I would direct you to our website where you can find these. In particular, our complaints policy and safeguarding policy, as well as a whole host of others which will have been updated by this Friday.

Children should bring in any named sports equipment they wish to e.g. tennis racket, hockey stick and leave these at school on their pegs.

Please can I remind all parents and carers to be both careful and considerate when parking outside the school. I have unfortunately already had a neighbour come to see me today about a parent who blocked their driveway this afternoon and who he felt was rude when he spoke to them: I have the car registration details so will be liaising with parents as necessary.

At our whole school staff training session this week, we reviewed and considered our school's aims and would remind you that these are: "To educate our pupils through a broad and balanced curriculum so that they can meet the challenges of the wider world. Children of all abilities are educated in a purposeful, safe and secure environment where emphasis is placed on the traditional values of honesty, courtesy and respect of self and others."

Thank you for all of your support over the last term and I look forward to an exciting year with us all working together. We are sending out tomorrow a bullet point document summarising the key arrangements for school and also the guidelines for the action to take if your child or anyone in the household is unwell. I am of course very willing to discuss concerns and positive comments whenever possible.

I would also like to remind you of the details of the Proprietor of the school, Louise Gear, who can be contacted at Oakleigh, Links Drive, Chelmsford, CM2 9AW, telephone 01245 250328.