



Learning happily together

Lowe's Wong Infant School

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Head Teacher: Mrs A Speed BA(Hons)

Wednesday, 30 April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those parents and carers who submitted questions and came to the Parent Carer Forum before the Easter Holiday. You will find the notes from our Chair of Governors at the end of this newsletter.



Bank Holidays - Monday, 5 May

A reminder that school is closed to pupils on Monday (5th May) for the May Day Bank Holiday. We are open again as usual from Tuesday, 6 May.



Warm Weather

As the weather is getting warmer and sunnier, please will parents and carers make sure that their children have a water bottle in school every day. It would also be useful if the children could bring a sun hat to school to wear at playtimes, (also clearly labelled with their name!)

Children should come to school with sunscreen already applied, but parents and carers may send their child to school with a **named** bottle of sunscreen so that we can help the children reapply their sunscreen before the longer lunchtime play.



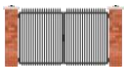
Y2 "Box Modelling"

Y2 will be making bridges in the next couple of weeks, so please could we ask parents and carers to bring in some cartons and boxes for "box modelling"? Please do not include any boxes which have contained medication, and due to allergies please avoid sending egg boxes or boxes which have contained nuts, thank you.



Sandals in School

In this warm weather, many children are choosing to wear sandals to school. This is absolutely fine, but please can parents and carers make sure that their children still wear socks with their sandals, thank you.



Car Park Gates

Please can I ask that pedestrians do not enter or leave the site via the car park gate, but use the pedestrian entrance at the top of the slope off Halam Road, or the small pedestrian gate from the footpath at the side of school, thank you.

Finally with this newsletter there is a flyer from Caunton Tennis Club about their Open Day on Saturday, 3 May.

Thank you for your continued support,

AE Speed

Aly Speed
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

Monday, 5 May	School closed for the May Bank Holiday	
Wednesday, 7 May	Country Dancing Club display at Holy Trinity Church	
Tuesday, 20 May	"World Bee Day"	
Friday, 23 May	Break up for the half term holiday	
Monday, 2 June	School closed to pupils for INSET	*new date
Tuesday, 3 June	School re-opens for pupils	*new date
Tuesday, 17 June	Class Photographs	*new date
Monday, 30 June	Transition Day	*new date
Thursday, 3 July	Red Room Residential Visit to Sherwood Forest	*new date
Thursday, 10 July	Violet Room Residential Visit to Sherwood Forest	*new date
Monday, 21 July	1.30pm Sports Day	*new date
Tuesday, 22 July	FS visit to Rand Farm Park	*new date
Wednesday, 23 July	9.30am Reserve Sports Day	*new date
Friday, 25 July	Pupils break up for the Summer Holidays	*new date
Monday, 28 July	School closed for INSET	*new date
Tuesday, 29 July	School closed for INSET	*new date



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
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Parent Carer Forum held on 2 April.

Attended by two parents, the headteacher, and 4 governors.

Two questions were submitted beforehand:

1. **School Uniform:** I note a few parents mentioned about improvements to the school uniform policy in the recent feedback, myself included, and you have responded to advise that there is no plan to change this at this time - I'd be keen to understand why and if this is something you plan to review in the future?
2. **Headteacher arrangements:** I know you are successfully managing both Lowe's Wong Infants and Halam but are there any plans for Halam to have their own HT again? It feels like a huge amount of pressure on you, especially with Lowe's Wong currently focusing on improving and responding to the recent Ofsted report. Please note that this is no criticism of you and your headship at Lowe's Wong.

A summary of the discussion at the Forum:

School Uniform

- The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is before Parliament which will limit the number of compulsory school uniform items any school may specify (likely to be three items only for primary schools). We do not want to review Lowe's Wong's school uniform until that Bill has become law. For us the three items are likely to be the polo shirt, the jumper or cardigan (counts as one item) and the bookbag.
- Even then, with the exception of the bookbag, we have not insisted on branded items as long as they are the light blue/burgundy colours.
- On PE kit specifically, there are a couple of factors in our decision to allow children to choose their own PE kit: 1. this means that we don't have 30 identical bits of PE kit circulating in school with the potential for loss, and 2. some children are much more comfortable (and engage/concentrate more) in their own choice of PE kit. There is also a cost factor which governors have discussed previously, while many families in Southwell can afford specific PE kit, in the right sizes, some can't and we don't want to create or increase another financial pressure on families. The children's (and parents') choice of PE kit is not without limit - it needs to be appropriate for school in any case - so no cropped vest tops please.
- The governors will discuss school uniform again once the new law is passed.

Headteacher arrangements

- Obviously we can't speak for Halam School in this forum.
- But for Lowe's Wong infants, Mrs Speed's time no longer includes any teaching and so the net reduction in her time being the headteacher is minimal. In fact, the cost of teaching cover to replace her former teaching time is slightly less than the cost of a headteacher and so we are marginally better off so able to afford other things (rising utility costs, classroom equipment, etc) as a result.
- The economics of 'small schools' is a factor too - government funding for small primary schools no longer realistically caters for a full-time non-teaching headteacher, and so the school (and the MITRE Trust) have had to think of ways to minimise the impact of that – at most local primary schools (for example Holy Trinity and Farnsfield Schools) the headteachers have other responsibilities of one form or another.
- The senior leadership team arrangements at Lowe's Wong means that even if Mrs Speed is elsewhere, there is a senior leader available, plus Halam school is only 7 minutes away. The governors continuously review and are satisfied that safeguarding and health & safety arrangements do not rely on the headteacher being on site.