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Headteacher Simon Pearson

Newsletter 2

Friday 8th September 2023

## Start to the School Day

Thank you so much for your support this week, we are delighted with the response we have received. The vast majority of pupils have been on time and this has meant that learning has started before 9:00am...which is wonderful.

We are aware that by today, a small number were getting onto the school grounds after 8:50am. If this was you, please ensure that you address your morning routines, so that this does not become a pattern. Thank you.

## New to the Office!

If you have had to visit the office this term you will have noticed we have a new member to our team, Mrs Fox.

I am sure you will make her feel welcomed.



## Child Protection

At Wembrook we take our role of ensuring that all children are safe in school very seriously. The school regularly reviews procedures and policies to ensure that while in our care we are able to minimise any situation where a child could feel vulnerable or even get hurt. No systems are infallible, but we do endeavour to make Wembrook as safe as possible.

In addition, it is our statutory duty to support any child that we believe might be in a vulnerable position outside of the school day. We have a responsibility to report any concerns or disclosures that a child makes to Social Care (Social Services) and let them carry out a thorough investigation. **On occasion, this can lead to difficult conversations between school and home. We do believe however, that it is always better to carry out a referral and to discover that it was unnecessary, rather than not informing relative agencies, only to later discover that a child was indeed in a vulnerable position.**

The schools Safe Guarding officers are Mr Pearson, Miss Bayliss, Mrs Chard, Miss Eli Williams and Mrs Katrina Hall. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact them through the office.

**Believe and Achieve**

## **Playground Supervision Before School**

As all parents know, classroom doors open at 8:50am and lessons start shortly after. As always, it is imperative to be organised so that your child is not late for school.

For our younger pupils being supervised by their parents while they are waiting for the doors to open is the correct procedure. However, we are aware and understand that for our older pupils, predominately Year Five and Six, they may walk to school on their own and arrive before 8:50am.

### **So who is responsible for the children's safety before this time?**

At Wembrook we endeavour to have at least one member of Senior Management out walking the playgrounds by 8:40am but that does not mean that they will be at the right place, at the right time, if there is an emergency. If you know your child is arriving on their own before 8:50am, what confidence do you have that their safety is guaranteed? Would they be seen if they fell? Would they be protected if they were approached by a stranger?

The school has wrestled with the conundrum of keeping our pupils safe while being pragmatic about the beginning of the school day.

There will be a series of opportunities for the children to discuss keeping safe on the playground over the next few weeks. It would be wise to have the same conversations at home and reflect on your daily routines. Please reflect on the statements below:

- To guarantee the safety of children, they should be escorted to school by a responsible adult.
- Children should endeavour to arrive at school as near to 8:50am as possible, they should not be in school before 8:40am.
- If a child is coming to school on their own, consider pairing up with a friend and walking to school together.
- On arrival children should place themselves in the centre of the playgrounds and not seek areas where visibility is reduced.
- Pupils should never be playing games where an injury could take place.
- If a pupil has an accident or feels in danger they should knock on their, or a neighbouring, classroom door.
- In an emergency children should approach another parent that they know for advice or help.

The school will:

- Endeavour to have at least one member of Senior Management out walking the playgrounds by 8:40am, this is what we try to do, it is not a guarantee.
- Where possible monitor the CCTV cameras during the lead up to the school day.
- Regularly talk to pupils about what they should do and where should they go, if there is an incident.

**All parents should understand that the responsibility for their child remains with them until the child enters the school building at 8:50am.**

**Although often oversubscribed the school does have a before school provision that opens at 7:30am. If interested please collect a form from the office or ring Kids Club on 07752 153379**