

Dear Parents and carers,

Our Opening Week was such a success!



7th September 2015 was an amazing day for The Wren School when our first 73 students started their learning journey with us. The staff have been so impressed with their positive attitudes and determination to succeed. They appear to be a happy and polite bunch of young people too – prepared to learn and aim high.

Having started so well, we all wondered whether our official opening event could be a success too. We were not disappointed. Indeed, we feel privileged that so many



representatives of our local community turned out to wish us well. Alok Sharma, Wren School patron and local MP, spoke warmly about the school and cut the ribbon to declare that The Wren School was officially open. The Right Worshipful Mayor of Reading, Councillor Sarah Hacker, cut the cake and was watched over greedily by our first school ambassadors, who had presented a wonderful summary of their reasons for choosing The Wren, the



highlights of their first week and their hopes for the future. I was very proud of their achievement and the confidence that they displayed.

Visits from Year 5 and 6 students and their parents/carers – [reply requested.](#)

The Wren School will open its doors to prospective students in years 5 and 6, and their parents and carers on four dates as below.

1. Friday 25th September from 9:15am.

Visitors will be able to meet the Headteacher, Mrs. J Broadhead, and will be able to see the school in action, visiting lessons to see our student learning. Visitors will be shown around by members of our team of Student Ambassadors. Attendance at this open event is by appointment only. If you know anyone who would like to attend this event, please ask them to contact Mrs Smith to make an appointment by calling 0118 9585128 or emailing admin@wrenschoo.org.

2. Tuesday 29th September from 4pm to 7pm.

Visitors will be able to view a presentation from Mrs. Broadhead, Headteacher at 4:45. The presentation will be repeated at 5:30 and 6:15. Visitors will be able to tour the school and see displays and exhibits of learning at The Wren School. No appointment is needed to attend this.

There will be no after school clubs on this day, and thus no charges for clubs. However, we would like all the students to remain in school to act as guides and representatives for visitors. **If you are willing for your child to stay for this, please complete the reply slip in this newsletter and return to your child's form tutor by Monday 21st September.**

3. Saturday 3rd October from 10am to 12:00noon.

Arrangements for this event are the same as on Tuesday 29th September.

We would very much like students to be present to represent the school to prospective students and their parents/carers. **If you are willing for your child to help the school during this event please complete the reply slip in this newsletter and return to your child's form tutor by Monday 21st September.**

4. Monday 5th October from 9:15.a.m.

Arrangements for this event are the same as on Friday 25th September.

A gift to the school

The beautiful glass wren illustrated here is a gift to the school from AccessArt as part of their #ShareaBird project. We are one of only 150 schools across the UK to receive one of these gifts of artwork, which will serve as a stimulus for our own Wren artwork. We hope that it will inspire our students to create our own flock of wrens somewhere in our community.



School attendance

The first week's attendance figures are really high – with Form 7.2 reaching the highest figure of 98.5%. It would be amazing if we could maintain this high standard throughout the year. There is a direct link between school attendance and academic success, so please encourage your child to attend school and to be punctual. However, if for some reason your child is unwell, then please call the school office first thing in the morning so that we can let staff know. You can help us by not allowing your child to bring prescription or over-the-counter medicines to school and to keep them in their bag. If your child does need to take any medication during the day, please ask them to leave it at the school office in a labelled bag and to return there to take it when required.

Uniform update

I have been really pleased with the appearance of our students so far. Everyone looks really smart in their Wren uniforms. Following a student request, the governors met yesterday morning to consider whether or not our uniform policy should be updated to include the wearing of earrings. With immediate effect, it was agreed that students may wear one pair of stud earrings only in the ear lobe. Earrings must be small and unobtrusive and gold or silver in colour. They must be taped or removed for PE and Games lessons or if requested by a member of staff.

From the beginning of November, the Games lessons will focus on Football. Mr Zell has asked me to say that the wearing of football boots is strongly advised; however students may wear trainers if they do not possess football boots. It is likely that footwear will get muddy during these lessons. In addition, students should have shin pads for football lessons; in fact, if they already have these, then they would be useful for the current Games lessons which focus on hockey. If the weather is extremely bad and the pitches at Prospect Park are not available for use, then the lessons will be moved to the netball courts. Students who forget their kit will still be expected to travel with their group to the park where they will be given a relevant role, for example refereeing. If a child is unable to participate in PE or Games for health reasons, please send a note to Mr Zell.

Tuck shop

This is proving to be really popular with our students. It would be much appreciated if small change could be brought to purchase these items. Students should bring a small amount of money each day, rather than to bring an amount for the week.

Payment for Hot meals and After school clubs

All clubs have started this week, with the exception of street dance (due to insufficient student interest, but we hope to be able to offer this club again in the future). If your child would still like to attend a club, please ask him/her to see Mr Zell to arrange this. It is possible for students to stay occasionally for extended learning and social time; please write a note to this effect in their planner.

We will send an invoice to parents/carers at the start of each month for the previous month's attendance at after school club and for hot meals ordered. Therefore, you should expect to receive your first invoice in the first week of

October for September's hot meals and after school clubs. There will be a period of 14 days to make the payment either by direct debit or by cheque.

School photographs

During the morning of Wednesday 23rd September we are going to have our first ever set of school photographs taken. As always, please ensure that your child is wearing correct school uniform that day. Weather permitting, we will have a whole school photograph taken against a backdrop of some of the magnificent trees on the site. This will be followed by tutor group photographs as well as individual ones. Of course, there will be an opportunity for you to purchase your own copies of these, which would make excellent gifts for doting relatives!

Parent governors

We were delighted to receive four nominations for our two parent governor vacancies. Jackie John, our Returning Officer, has written to you with details of the forthcoming election, which closes on Tuesday 29th September at 4pm. Please see our website (wrenschoo.org) for details. Ballot papers will be issued next week and the result will be announced on Wednesday 30th September.

Thank you once again for all of your support and the trust that you have put in The Wren School. We believe that the future is looking very bright indeed.

Best wishes



Mrs J Broadhead, Headteacher

Reply Slip

Please complete and return to your child's form tutor by Monday 21st September

Student Name _____

Form number /Tutor name _____



I give my permission for my child to attend;

1. The open event on Tuesday 29th September from 4pm -----

Please state at what time you would like your child to leave or be collected, up to 7pm.

There will be no after school clubs on this day.

2. The open event on Saturday 3rd October from 10am to 12:00noon -----

Signed _____ Parent/Carer Date _____