Dear Mothers, Fathers and Carers

**Welcome back to Waycroft** for the 2016-17 academic year. The beginning of term is an exciting time and it is good to report that all classes are well settled and enjoying starting their new topics with their new teachers. One Year 6 group have already enjoyed an incredible week away at Simonsbath camp. Group two are there now having, enjoying some fantastic activities. We will be posting photographs on our website shortly.

For all those children who completed the **summer reading challenge** with one of the local Bristol libraries, please bring your medals into school on Friday 23rd September.

**Childline** have created the following webpage, which gives information for parents and children regarding ‘worries about the world’. Please do have a read if you feel this would be useful. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/>

**House Coloured P.E T-Shirts** are now available to order from our suppliers, Price and Buckland. They are £4.50 each and are under the tab ‘other products’. Please note, that the yellow t-shirt for Fry is listed separately from the other t-shirts as the embroidery is a different colour. These can be purchased and worn for P.E in addition to the white t- shirt or academy t-shirt detailed on our uniform list.

If you have a Twitter account please follow us @WaycroftAcademy. We post messages, news and photos and currently have 298 followers – we would love to increase this.

With the installation of our new transition areas, we are very keen to begin **Free Range Play** again this year. We want the children to enjoy their lunch times, using their imaginations to play creatively and actively. In order for the children to access the field and play areas as much as possible during even the wetter weather, we will be providing them with waterproof coats and trousers. However, if the children want to use the field they will also need a change of footwear. We are therefore asking that you send you child/ren to school with a named pair of wellies or trainers, in a named carrier bag, which you are happy for them to wear on these occasions. The footwear will stay in school but naming them is essential. We would be grateful if these could be sent in as soon as possible so that we are ready for any change in weather.

**Secondary School Applications –** Following the letter that went home via parentmail to all Year 6 parents last week, just another reminder that you need to apply online by 31st October 2016 for your child’s secondary school place. All the information you require can be found at [www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

**Primary School Applications** – For those children who will be starting Reception in September 2017, parents and carers need to apply online using the same link as above. However, the deadline for these applications is 15th January 2017. We have an open day for any prospective parents that would like to view the school on Friday 18th November. Please book a place with our office staff if you would like to attend. Please note, this is only for those parents who have children who would like to join us next September in either our Nursery or our Reception classes. Another open day will take place in January for our current parents and carers.

We really would like to become a **cashless school** this academic year. Therefore for those parents that do not have access to online facilities and are unable to use their parentpay account, we will be issuing you with paypoint cards and/or barcoded letters that will allow you to pay for items at a local paypoint store. If you need your password reset for your parentpay account, please speak to the office who will be able to reset it for you.

**Parentmail** – A huge thank you to all our new Reception parents who have created their parentmail accounts. This makes communicating with our parents a lot easier as well as reducing our paper and photocopying overheads. We will shortly be asking our nursery parents to create their accounts too. You will be sent a registration email next week (providing you gave us your email address on your child’s application form). Once registered, please download the parentmail pmx app which allows notifications to come straight through to your phone. For any existing parents that are not on parentmail, but would like to join, please do speak to a member of our office team who will be able to update your account.

**Theme Day** – Wednesday 21st September is ‘Nursery Rhyme Themed Lunch Day’. Menus have been emailed to parents and uploaded to our website under the catering tab. However, just a brief reminder that we will have on offer that day either Little Piggy Bacon and Tomato Pasta Bake or Humpty Dumpty Cheese and Potato Pie with a Baked Egg. For dessert, we will be offering Queen of Heart’s Jam Tarts.

**Free School Meals –** If you are on certain benefits, your child may be entitled to free school meals. If you have children in Years 3-6, you need to visit the following website and apply online. <https://efsm.bristol.gov.uk/pls/educa/f?p=106:101>: If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2, you can collect a form from the school office, complete the details and the office staff can complete the check for you online. Although these children are entitled to universal infant free school meals, your child will then be entitled to pupil premium funding. To find out more about pupil premium funding, please visit our school website: http://www.waycroftacademy.com/pupil-premium-report

**Clubs** – All clubs start next week (commencing 19th September). A great deal of time and effort was spent collating the reply slips and the office staff tried very hard to ensure that each child was offered at least one of their chosen clubs. Please do make sure that your child attends their club/s on a regular basis. Over half the clubs have waiting lists. Therefore if your child does not attend their club for two sessions without informing the club leader, they will be removed from the register and their place given to another child.

**Tuck** – The following items are now sold at tuck on a daily basis; juice, milk and fruit and each item costs 30p. The fruit varies from day to day. Please note, that all children in Reception receive free milk and all children in key stage one receive a free piece of fruit every break time.

**Key Dates for Terms 1 & 2:**

**6th October –** Parents e-safety talk at 3.30pm

**6th October** – Friends of Waycroft – AGM at 6.30pm

**7th October** – Yr 1 attending Bath Children’s Literature Festival

**10th October** – Year 4 – Hooke Court

**17th October** – Bristol Textiles Recycling

**18th October** – Individual and Sibling Photographs

**19th October** – ‘How are we doing?’ – Open Forum for parents

**20th October** – Friends of Waycroft – Fashion Show

**21st October** – Last Day of Term 1

**31st October** – Deadline for Secondary School Applications

**31st October** – INSET day

**1st November** – First day of Term 2 for children

**7th November** – Shakespeare Production at the Egg Theatre

**9th November** – Parents’ Evening (3.30pm – 6.30pm)

**10th November** – Parents’ Evening (3.30pm – 6.00pm)

**18th November** – Open day for Prospective Parents

**18th November** – Children in Need Day

**28th November** – Last week of clubs this week

**2nd December** – Christmas Themed Mufti Day

**9th December** – Friends of Waycroft Christmas Fayre

**14th December** – Interim Reports to go home

**15th December** – Last day of Term 2 for children

**16th December** – INSET day