



Telephone 0117 3772198

email: [info@waycroftacademy.com](mailto:info@waycroftacademy.com)

website: [www.waycroftacademy.com](http://www.waycroftacademy.com)

Dear Mothers, Fathers and Carers

**Welcome back to Waycroft** for the 2017-18 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 enjoying some fantastic activities. We will be posting photographs on our website shortly.

**Tulip Photography** - The individual and sibling photographs will be taken on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure clean uniforms and smiles are at the ready! Please can 'end of the week' nursery children come in on this day at 8:30am if you would like a photograph.



**Secondary School Applications** – Following the letter that went home via parentmail to all Year 6 parents earlier this week, just another reminder that you need to apply online by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 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 2018, parents and carers need to apply online using the same link as above. However, the deadline for these applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. We have an open day for any prospective parents that would like to view the school on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please book a place with our office staff if you would like to attend. We will be doing three separate tours of the school at 9am, 11am and 2pm. There will be crèche facilities available in the library as the tour is not appropriate for children. These tours are also for those parents who would like to view our nursery facilities for our September 2018 intake.



### Welcome message from our new Executive Headteacher, Tracy French



– I am proud to tell you that since beginning to get to know the Academies at the end of last term, I have learned that each setting is a uniquely creative learning community where all learners feel valued, safe and happy. Teaching and learning is at the heart of everything we do within the Waycroft MAT - it was great to work with all staff during the training day looking at the rich curriculum we offer your children.

I am a mother of 3 sons and a daughter who have all grown up and enjoyed and benefited from a good education, part of my job is to ensure your children have the same positive experiences.

We want our children to embrace opportunities to fulfil their potential and to become responsible citizens of the future. When school and home work together we can ensure they will become independent life-long learners, able to adapt to changes and challenges they may face.

I look forward to meeting you as the terms progress.

**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>

**Waycroft Academy uses Building Learning Power to give children the skills to become excellent learners.**

**What is Building Learning Power?** Building Learning Power or 'BLP' is based on the work of Professor Guy Claxton. Firmly rooted in science and research it suggests that there are several broad dispositions that we need to develop in order to become successful lifelong learners. We need to provide our children with the capacity to meet the unknown challenges of the twenty first century. The notion of giving them 'portable learning power' so that they are able to rise to these challenges is at the heart of BLP. In some of our newsletters we will be setting a family BLP 'challenge' linked to one of our BLP muscles to help families familiarise themselves with the terminology and engage in learning to learn activities together. For more information on BLP, please visit our website.

**BLP Focus – Imagining (Linked to Resourcefulness)**

This means you use your imagination to picture how things might look, feel, sound and be. Over the next two weeks can you use imagining when carrying out a task at home by:

- Finding an object at home and discuss what it could be used for. What happens if you add another object, can you use them together to do something creative?
- Writing an opening line to a short story. Pass the paper on and get a family member to write the next line. Keep passing the paper until the story is finished.
- Creating a play to act out as a family.

Let us know what you have done as a family, you could blog about it (don't forget to tag it BLP) or send us a picture!



**Learning Heroes – Each week in our Achievement Assemblies we will be celebrating children's use of BLP.**

A child from each class will be nominated as a 'learning hero' (when it is not their focus assembly). For the assembly that took place on 8<sup>th</sup> September, the following children were

nominated as our Learning Heroes

Yr 3; Abi and Cherubin

Yr 4; Isaac and Amelie

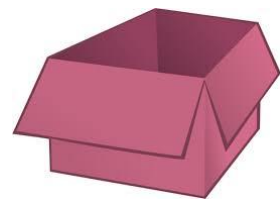
Yr 5; Josh K and Lily

Yr 6; Callum, Andy & Seth

Well done to all our children for showing their use of 'building learning power'.



**Pink Box** – Some of you may have noticed a large pink box on the desk in the foyer. This box is for you to return any reply slips, letters and notes to teachers/the office when you do not need to speak to someone. Please do not leave any money in the box for any of the paid clubs or music lessons. The box is to try and reduce the amount of parents queuing at the hatch each morning and will help us help you sooner.



**Uniform** – It has been lovely to see the children returning to school this term in full, smart uniform. Just a reminder that all children should be wearing **plain** black shoes to school. Separate footwear **must** be provided for PE lessons. For a full list of uniform requirements, please visit our website.



Just a reminder that besides Play to Learn and third party club payments, we are a cashless school. Therefore for those parents that do not have access to online facilities and are unable to use their parentpay account, we can issue you with a paypoint card and/or barcoded letter 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 & Nursery 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 second group of new nursery parents to create their accounts too. You will be sent a registration email over the coming days (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.



Yours sincerely  
Lisa Craig, Head of School