

Headteacher Round-up

I often refer to school as 'family' and that is what makes working in a school so special. Although I've only been in post for 6 weeks I already feel part of the Horsell School family and I've enjoyed meeting the children and getting to know the staff and parents.

There have been many highlights this half term: the Year 6 production, our many sporting successes, sports day, a music concert given by the pupils of our music tutor, and, of course, the Year 3 camp. But, in many ways, my own highlights have been the smaller things: the children greeting me with a friendly 'hello' on the gate, our site manager's cheerful whistle at the end of the day, the shy child coming to my office bursting with pride over a piece of work, the energy on the field at playtime, and also those children who have made mistakes, apologised, learnt some lessons, and moved on.

Over the past few weeks the school has been thinking about where we will be going next and our vision for the next few years. I will be writing up our school development plan over the summer holidays and this will be shared with all parents so that you too are aware of our priorities over the coming months. There will be one or two early changes, which I will outline below.

Start of the day

The most important one for you to note is that we will be asking children to go straight to their classrooms when they arrive at school. **This means that all classrooms will be open from 8 30am and children should go straight to class when they arrive at school in the morning.** This will give the teachers and TAs time to register the children and complete early morning learning activities before our collective worship at the start of the day.

School Uniform

School uniform is just one way that we demonstrate our high expectations. The end of term is a good time for me to remind parents of our school uniform policy. Shoes should be black and trainers are not permitted. Boys' haircuts should not be so short that the scalp can be seen and girls' hair should be tied back with blue or black bands. I would also like to encourage parents to purchase the school fleece which can be purchased from Valentinos in Knaphill. A blue school rucksack will also be available to order from Valentinos and these will be ready for collection before the start of the school term. **School rucksacks will be compulsory from September 2020 so I would encourage parents to purchase one of these now in preparation for this.**

From September, items of school uniform will no longer be available to order from the school office. Parents are able to order uniform online directly from our stockists in Knaphill or visit the store in person. The internet address for online ordering is: <https://valentinoschoolwear.com/>.

Skills afternoons

From September we are changing how we deliver our skills timetable. Over the course of one year the children will complete one half term of cookery, one half term of forest school, PE,

Art and a term of swimming. Year 3 will have their skills afternoons every Monday, Year 4 will have their skills afternoon every Tuesday, Year 6 will have their skills afternoon every Thursday and Year 5 will have their skills afternoon every Friday.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
Any class one	PE all afternoon	Forest School (15 children) Cookery (15 children)	Swimming/Art (3 groups)*	Swimming/Art (3 groups)*	Forest School (15 children) Cookery (15 children)	PE all afternoon
Any class two	Forest School (15 children) Cookery (15 children)	PE all afternoon	Forest School (15 children) Cookery (15 children)	PE all afternoon	Swimming/Art (3 groups)*	Swimming/Art (3 groups)*
Any class three	Swimming/Art (3 groups)*	Swimming/Art (3 groups)*	PE all afternoon	Forest School (15 children) Cookery (15 children)	PE all afternoon	Forest School (15 children) Cookery (15 children)

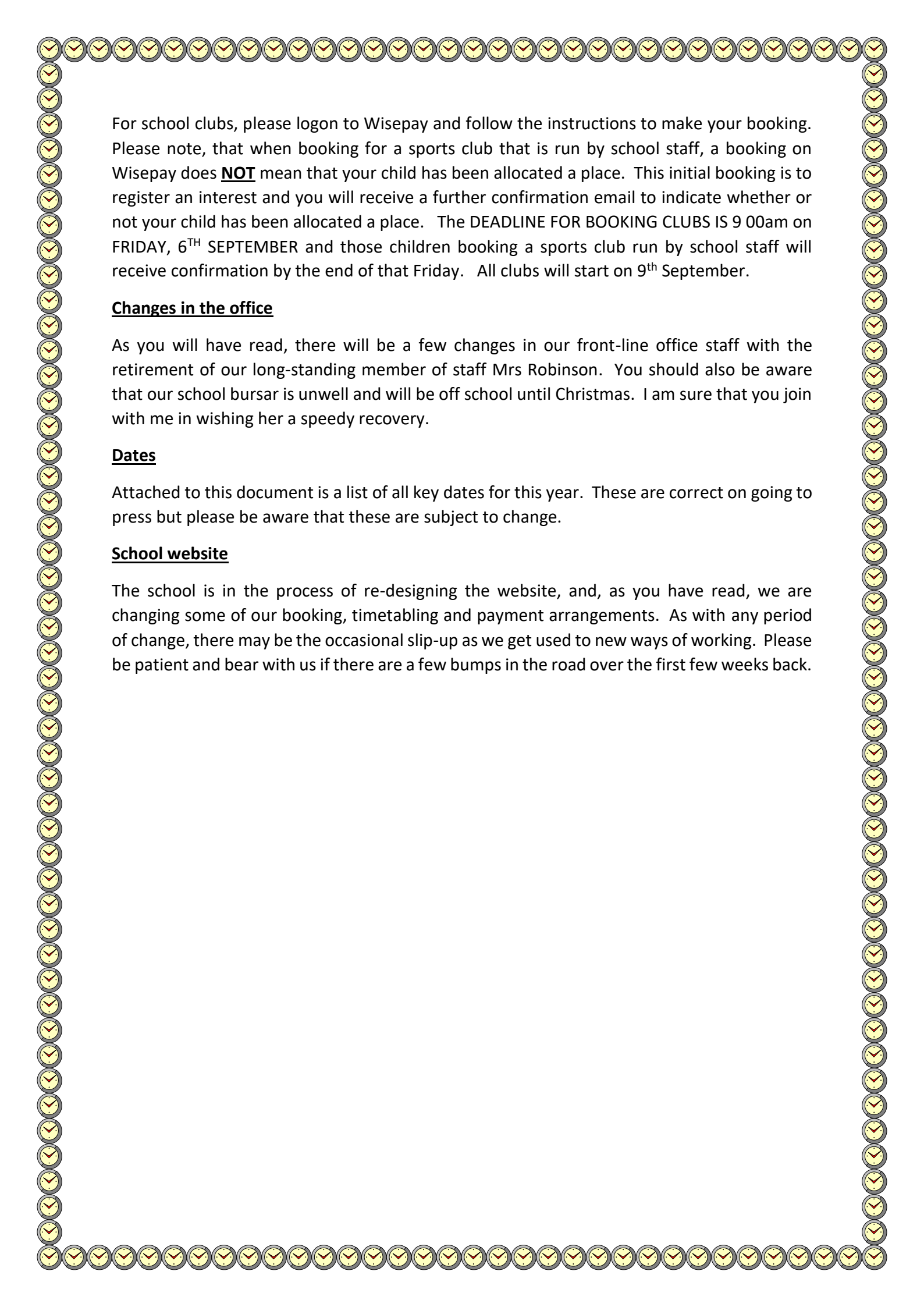
In the past we have asked for a parental contribution for our skills provision. To help us to cover the costs of offering our skills provision this year we are asking for a contribution of £45 to cover the cost of swimming, cookery and forest school for the entire year. This can either be paid as a one-off payment of £45 or 5 instalments of £10 X4 and £5 X1. Payment should be made via Wisepay, which can be found under the parents tab on the website. We want all of our children to access our varied curriculum so please get in touch with Mrs Wand if you are experiencing any difficulties in making this payment.

We are very grateful for any assistance with our skills afternoon and we need parent volunteers to help with forest school, cookery and swimming. Please email b.parsons@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk if you can help with forest school or swimming and please contact s.spiller@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk if you can assist with cookery. **You will shortly receive a separate email informing you of which skills subject your child is taking in the first half term of the school year.**

All information about the skills afternoon provision can be found under the curriculum tab on our website.

Clubs

Moving into the new academic year, we would like parents to book for all clubs run by the school on-line via Wisepay. **You will be able to do this from 1st August.** Details of all of the clubs that we offer are attached to this letter. A list of those clubs provided by external providers is also attached to this letter and clubs run by these providers should be contacted directly.



For school clubs, please logon to Wisepay and follow the instructions to make your booking. Please note, that when booking for a sports club that is run by school staff, a booking on Wisepay does **NOT** mean that your child has been allocated a place. This initial booking is to register an interest and you will receive a further confirmation email to indicate whether or not your child has been allocated a place. The DEADLINE FOR BOOKING CLUBS IS 9 00am on FRIDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER and those children booking a sports club run by school staff will receive confirmation by the end of that Friday. All clubs will start on 9th September.

Changes in the office

As you will have read, there will be a few changes in our front-line office staff with the retirement of our long-standing member of staff Mrs Robinson. You should also be aware that our school bursar is unwell and will be off school until Christmas. I am sure that you join with me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Dates

Attached to this document is a list of all key dates for this year. These are correct on going to press but please be aware that these are subject to change.

School website

The school is in the process of re-designing the website, and, as you have read, we are changing some of our booking, timetabling and payment arrangements. As with any period of change, there may be the occasional slip-up as we get used to new ways of working. Please be patient and bear with us if there are a few bumps in the road over the first few weeks back.