



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

“Life in all its fullness” John 10:10



Tuesday 5th March, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Headteacher’s Update Letter 05.03.24

My journey to and from school has become more colourful, not least because dawn breaks a little earlier and the sun sets a little later each day. The increase in daylight has a profound effect on us and is really helpful in providing a sense of calm that can also lift our mood.

For me, I’m again noticing the colour changes in the trees and hedges, from winter browns back to the many shades of green that Spring always brings. Daffodils are out. Cherry blossom too. The effect of sunshine and daylight to nourish and nurture growth is an accepted truth, and also a necessity for all life.

It’s a tenuous link, but we’re constantly blessed at Wadham with daily examples of ‘sunshine’ that do much to lift our spirits and ensure that we continue to grow:

- It’s Presley and Corey, keeping me updated (every day!) with how well they are doing and how close they’re getting to their reward Mrs Mahoney has promised them.
- It’s Freya’s exceptional Science Homework on Mary Anning and Fossils – simply stunning.
- It’s the chocolate digestives that always seem to appear just before a long meeting!
- It’s Noah coming to tell me about his recent MFL Mock Speaking exam – knowing how stressful it can be to speak 1-1 in a foreign language, but not letting this be a barrier to what he can and will achieve – well done!
- It’s Mr Gillingham, who always finds time to stop and ask about how I am feeling. Thank you.
- And it’s Ruby, with the handshake that tells me everything is OK and life is good.

It’s these little but vital interactions each day that give me strength in knowing that as a community we continue to work together with the same, shared, common goal - and that we are never alone.

Dear God

As I journey through each day, thank you that you journey with me

As I face challenges, thank you that you are with me to support and encourage

As I experience joy, thank you that you are with me to share the exhilaration

When I get lost or don’t know what to do, thank you that you are with me to guide and to lead

When I can see the way ahead, thank you that you are with me and run beside me

Help me today to let go of those things that hold me back

Help me to see those things that I need to flourish

Help me, in response, to support and share with others as you support and share your love with me

Amen

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



Top Performing Students

Well done to everyone highlighted below – and great to see a strong Year 11 turnout! This very much reflects the positive attitude shown in recent mocks and attendance to revision and intervention sessions – superb work!

Week Commencing 26.02.24

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Rose-Ann C	Lucas L	Esme G	Frances E	Sophie D Cameron S Bradley E
2	Frankie A	Tom M	Owen J	Jaxon B	Jayden K Adam R Oliver W
3	Ellis R	Henry M	Emily H Harry T	Riley A	Sam H Rowan H

It's National Careers Week! (4th-9th March)

I am delighted to share the great work Beth Church (or Careers Advisor) has been doing to help students receive useful careers advice and guidance, as well as signposting you to some really useful resources.

- Last week we welcomed Yeovil College into Wadham who spoke to years 7-11 about the variety of options available to all our students after GCSEs.
- Year 10 have been busy contacting employers to secure their work experience placement in July.
- Year 11's have been having their College interviews this term and offers are flooding in daily.
- Year 9's will shortly be starting their GCSE options process.
- Next week we are looking forward to welcoming local employer – Branston's - in to talk to Year 9 about the vast array of job opportunities available within this local company.
- We are also welcoming Nikki from the ASK Apprenticeship service to work with our Year 11's who wish to progress on to Apprenticeships.
- Honeywell are coming in to talk to our Sixth Form about Degree Apprenticeships and the following week we have the University Centre Yeovil (UCY) coming in to also talk to our Sixth Form as well as offering a drop in session over lunch time for all pupils.

The Somerset Education Business partnership have developed a brilliant parent resource – called Parent Alert. If you have children aged 14 to 19, the Parent Alert is designed to help you access timely information on Somerset based opportunities for young people, exploring career choices and development opportunities - allowing you to feel more confident about having conversations with your children about future choices.



Sign up today to start receiving our Parent Alert directly to your inbox.

[Subscribe \(somerset-ebp.co.uk\)](https://www.somerset-ebp.co.uk)

National Careers Week also have a dedicated website where you can explore many careers topics and information - [Welcome - National Careers Week](#)

Take a Bow! - Addams Family Values

What a performance! I am sure you'd want to join me in saying a massive WELL DONE! and thank you to all cast and crew members involved in this year's production.

I am so pleased that we managed to partner with the Warehouse Theatre as this gave an authentic experience to all students involved, as well as providing you, the audience, with the best possible setting to showcase the amazing talent on display. I think we can safely say the bar has once again been raised and I'm looking forward to where Ms Middleton and her team will take us to with next year's production.

Back to the Future (the musical), anyone?



Bishop Michael to visit Wadham School!

I'm delighted to share that Bishop Michael will be visiting us on Monday 11th March. We're looking forward to hosting a range of activities in the afternoon to include:

- Observation of a Beliefs and World Views Lesson
- Lunch with Student Leaders
- A student led, question and answer session
- A blessing activity in school



Uniform Reminder

I'm pleased to say that on the whole, uniform is being worn correctly and families are proactive in working with us when there is a problem – broken shoes for example. Your support really does help make a positive start to the day and we are grateful for the notes and emails sent in, advising when uniform issues will be resolved.

Information about our School uniform and our uniform policy can be found on our website here: [Wadham School - School Uniform](#)

In the same way, I'd like to remind parents that the following requirements are expected:

- Socks must be plain black and long enough to cover the ankle.
- Tights must be in a good state of repair.
- Leggings or jeggings are not acceptable.
- Mobile phones and headphones/ear buds must be kept in students' bags. Although a student may be directed to put them away, staff are able to confiscate these items if seen, without the need to give a warning, placing them in the Pastoral Hub for collection at the end of the day.

Duty staff will be placing a specific focus on these key areas for the remainder of this term and your support to ensure these expectations are met is very much appreciated.

*The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.*
- Dr. Seuss



On World Book Day, **Thursday 7th March**, we will be launching a **Read for Good Readathon** and we'd love your child to join in. The readathon will run for just over 2 weeks, finishing on **Friday 22nd March**.

As a reward, any students taking part will be entered into a raffle to **win** one of two **£5 national book tokens**.

It's been proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives (OECD), to promote reading, across the 2 weeks students joining in the Readathon will be given opportunities to partake in additional reading sessions and there is a super comfy bean bag and sofa area in the library that can be utilised at break and lunch.

The charity **Read for Good** encourages children to read through its unique motivational approach inspiring reluctant readers to give reading a go, and keen readers to read more widely. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audio books to blogs - they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun. And, they are motivated to read because the money they raise in sponsorship helps to provide a regular supply of brand new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK.

All you have to do is:

1. **Take a look at what they plan to read**, or help them complete their list of books to read. Remember they can read whatever they want: books, e-books, poetry, comics – anything goes! Sharing books is fine too (in fact recommended!) as well as listening to audio books.
2. **Help your child find sponsors among family and friends**. The easiest way to sponsor a child is at <https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor> (which family and friends can use too) or return the sponsor card with a cheque(s) or cash sent to school.

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can.

They'll be helping kids in hospitals get books, as well as helping themselves.

...And our school receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total – so there really is something in it for everyone!

For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card and visit www.readforgood.org or email Mrs George at egeorge@wadhamschool.co.uk. Please return cash or cheques (payable to Read for Good) to the Finance Office by **Monday 25th March**.

**Thank you for your support – helping your child
to keep reading, raising
and being amazing!!**





Sponsor Form



Taking part in a Readathon[®] is a brilliant way to get reading and raising to help provide much-needed books and storytellers for your nearest major children's hospital. Visit **readforgood.org** to see how the money you raise really helps.

Name

School Class

Hand in completed sponsor cards and sponsor money by

STAY SAFE!
Never ask strangers to sponsor you



How to pay:

- Online:** Scan this QR code or visit: readforgood.org/sponsor
Cheque: Payable to 'Read for Good' (with sponsor's name & address on the back)
Cash: In an envelope with your name on - **check if your school accepts cash**



Please complete this form in full so we can claim Gift Aid

If you pay tax*, we can claim an extra 25% of your pledge (it won't cost you a penny). Complete **ALL** the details below and **tick the orange box**. Your personal details will not be used for anything other than claiming Gift Aid.

Initials	Last Name	Home address - including house name or number, street & town or city	Postcode	Total sponsored	Gift Aid	Paid cash or cheque	Paid online
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*If you expect to pay UK tax this financial year worth 25% of your donation



GRAND TOTAL!



Readathon[®] | Track My Read[®] | Brilliant Box of Books | Read for Good in hospitals

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