

27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **URGENT SQUID to PARENTPAY**

I recently informed you that our parent payment provider, SQuid, are pulling out of the UK market and ceasing all trading in the UK on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. We have been busy sourcing another provider and am pleased to advise you that we will be switching to ParentPay. This has been a very quick turnaround and I apologise for the disruption that this will cause. The following will now occur.

- From Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February all parents that have a sQuid account will receive an email from ParentPay, please access this email as soon as you can and set up your account. The email will contain details of how to register. Opening balances will be £0 and will stay like this until the switch occurs.
- You will still need to continue to put money on your child's sQuid account for the time being.
- Cunningham's, the company behind the software that our till in the canteen run on, will at some point before 14<sup>th</sup> March start to migrate each account from SQuid to ParentPay. This may take some time as literally hundreds of thousands of accounts up and down the country are being transferred.
- At some point between now and the 14<sup>th</sup> March any funds in your SQuid account will be transferred to ParentPay and once operational please start to use ParentPay and not sQuid.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school, but please do allow until at least the middle of next week before you do so.

## **Ramadan**

I would like share my very best wishes to all members of our community that will be observing Ramadan over the next four weeks.

We will be doubling our prayer area throughout the duration of Ramadan, so that the Drama Theatre will also be in use along with the Dance Studio. Students wishing to pray therefore at lunch time will have ample opportunity to do so.

Our canteen provider, Innovate, will also be producing Ramadan Grab Bags this year, specifically designed for students to take home for Iftar. These will cost £2.70, the same price as a Free School Meal. Children on Free School Meals can collect these or continue to purchase items at lunchtime to take home with them as they have done in previous years.

Please note that throughout Ramadan, PE lessons continue as normal. Students must still bring their full PE and get changed for their PE lessons. Teachers will adapt lessons so that students are not asked to engage in high intensity exercise during Ramadan and rest breaks will also be allowed, at the teacher's discretion.

### **Non-Uniform Day – World Book Day**

The school will be holding a non-uniform day on World Book Day, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. At the current time our School Council are still choosing which charity to donate funds to. Students wishing to take part and wear non uniform to school must bring £1. There is of course no charge for students attending in full school uniform.

### **Start of the School Day**

The school day starts at 8.40am. Students should be onsite before this time. Being punctual means the day starts positive. The most common reason given for lateness is traffic problems. I urge you, wherever possible, to encourage your child walk or cycle to school. This will help them be healthier, improve our environment and reduce traffic problems. Students should not be on site before 8.00am. Can I also remind some of our parents that do drive to school NOT to block local residents' driveways and please do not park on pavements, cycle lanes and grass verges. I have had my first complaint from Wexham Court Parish Council which is disappointing regarding parents parking on verges adjacent to Church Lane and using Churchgrove and Grangewood, which is residents only parking. Please be respectful of our neighbours.

### **Attendance**

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's educational progress and success. It not only allows them to fully engage in the learning process but also fosters a sense of routine and responsibility that will benefit them in the long run. At Wexham, an attendance rate of 95% and above is considered acceptable.

What you can do to help:

- Avoid scheduling holidays when school is in session. They are considered unauthorised absences and will result in a fine.
- Build regular routines for bedtime and the morning.
- Avoid medical appointments when school is in session.

We want to ensure that all our students have the best possible educational experience, and this can only be achieved through regular attendance and a commitment to following government guidelines.

If you anticipate any absences due to exceptional circumstances, please contact the school in advance to discuss your situation. We will do our best to work with you to minimise any impact on your child's education. A reminder that term time holidays are not allowed, and parents will be fined for unauthorised absence.

### **Contacting Us**

If you need to contact us, please do so by telephone or email to [post@wexham.slough.sch.uk](mailto:post@wexham.slough.sch.uk) or follow the link on the website. Please remember that we are busy school where staff may be teaching or in meetings. We always try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith  
Headteacher

## Term and Important Dates 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Students first day of the term
	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Delayed start to the School Day due to Open Evening the night before. School will open at 9.30, registration will be at 9.40am
	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Academic Progress Day – ALL STUDENTS
	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Information Evening
	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	@Wexham Awards Evening – Invited guests only
	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Year 11 Parents' Evening 3.45pm – 6.45pm
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holiday	
Spring Term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Wexham's Got Talent
	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 8 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Change of Date Year 10 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	Year 7 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Easter Holiday	
Summer Term	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Year 9 Pathways Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Culture Day Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	@Wexham PE and Sport Awards Evening – Invited guests only
	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm