



Temple Meadow
Primary School
Growing together, learning together

Temple Meadow Primary School

Wrights Lane
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
B64 6RH

Tel: 01384 569021

Web: www.templemeadow.com

Email: tm.admin@meadow.sandwell.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms C. Walsh

Our Ref: CW/CH

Friday 3rd May 2024

Water Bottle Changes (Whole School)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Starting from Monday, we are changing our approach for those pupils that do not have a water bottle in school. Let me start by saying thank you to the vast majority of Parents/Carers that ensure their child always has an appropriate, named water bottle in school. This is so important as it means your child can access water throughout the day and can replenish their water from our expanded number of water fountains in and around school.

However, unfortunately we have an intractable problem whereby a small number of Parents/Carers do neglect to provide their child with a water bottle on a regular basis i.e. they rarely, if ever, have one in school. Our practice, which is always focused on pupil welfare; has up to now been to issue your child with a new Temple Meadow water bottle (labelled); we then apply a minimal charge to Parent Pay. This practice facilitated a brand-new opportunity for that Parent/Carer to use the new water bottle to ensure their child had a bottle in school that they could then send daily. We chose to do this as we cannot have dehydrated children in school but also, as an Eco school, we cannot have unlimited plastic cups and/or cardboard cup waste. Unfortunately, the problem of some children, rarely if ever having a water bottle, has not improved. For some families, we have issued countless bottles (none of which have been paid for).

Therefore starting next week we will be changing our approach. When a child does not have a labelled water bottle in school, we will utilise a plastic, re-useable and washable cup within the classroom (each room will have a few cups for class use). This will ensure on the rare occasions you forget to provide your child with a water bottle, they can still independently access water in school. We will though ensure we log, in our holistic way, the safeguarding element, whereby we consider persistent lack of provision as indicative of neglect; so that this can be picked up sensitively and addressed as to why the Parent/Carer is unable to support this pupil need.

Operationally, this new practice limits the disruption to the Office Team when asking for disposable cups and also ensures all hydration needs are met within the classroom. Anyone using an open cup rather than a bottle will need to do so in a managed way as again, we cannot have exercise books damaged by cups being over turned.

So in summary from Tuesday 7th May 2024:

- Named water bottles back and forth from home as normal – pupils can replenish in school from our water fountains.
- On the odd day you forget, a reusable/washable cup is available in class (this should be rare)
- For those that rarely or never have, a bottle reusable/washable cups are available in class; but we will monitor and note any concerns we have regarding neglect of meeting your child's need.



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Please note any outstanding debt linked to the many water bottles we have issued will be part of an overall amnesty – we will no longer be chasing that debt.

I'm hoping with our new approach that everyone can ensure we support pupil need for hydration during the school day; especially in the summer term. Hydration is essential for learning; brains do not function well when dehydrated so it so important we are all committed to ensuring that Parents/Carers do provide daily water bottles and that collectively we work together to meet this essential pupil need.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'C Walsh'.

Ms Walsh
Headteacher