



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL



For every child, a chance to shine



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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

7 March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Apologies for the delay in sending this out, following our recent snowy weather! Welcome back after what I hope was a restful half-term for you. The days are definitely getting longer and we are looking forward to another action-packed term. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights from February, and please check the 'housekeeping' notices too for any updates on school policies or procedures.

AROUND SCHOOL

Parent Questionnaire – Mathematics

Thank you to those of you who have returned the questionnaires – if you haven't yet done so, please send them into school as soon as possible so that we can process the information. Mr Emsley, our computing leader, and Mrs Green, will be hosting a joint evening covering maths (how we approach reasoning and problem solving) and looking at e-safety. It is scheduled for **Monday 30th April** and more details will follow in due course.

Choir/Little Voices – Wind in the Willows

Rehearsals are going well and we are all very excited about it. Performances will be on **6th & 7th June** at 6.15 pm. More details nearer the time.

Chess Tournament

Miss Farrell is thrilled to announce that several children have qualified for the County Chess Megafinal. After a hard-fought, 7-round tournament, Stanley Trahar from Y5 was the champion, and he, along with Fraser Holt, Lewis Bradley, Sebastian Mooney, Rosie Hayden, Alfie Barrett and Charlie Garratt are now able to enter the next stage of this exciting tournament. Any other qualifiers will be announced soon. Well done to all who took part.

Class 6G Assembly

Mrs Green's class gave us a fantastic assembly on the theme of e-safety. They made up their own version of a popular song and presented three different scenarios to do with staying safe online – when gaming, in group chats and when posting photographs or comments (using a very entertaining Bake Off theme) and how to do so appropriately. Well done 6G for tackling these very important issues!

Class 1 Assembly

Mr Emsley and his class entertained the school with an extremely informative assembly all about earth and space. The children enjoyed performing songs to help them learn the names of the planets as well as showing off their marvellous alien paintings. They also performed an e-safety 'chicken clicking' song, which can be viewed on the safeguarding page of the school website – well worth watching!

Y3 Trip to Buxton Buddhist Centre

It might have been a chilly, damp day but it didn't dampen the spirits of Y3 as they made their way, by train, to Buxton to spend the morning at the Buddhist Centre. Year 3 had a fantastic time as they visited the meditation room, sang a prayer and even had the opportunity to try meditation. They said they felt relaxed and calm. The children learnt about Buddhists' main beliefs and how the Buddha wanted all suffering to end. The children's behaviour was outstanding and they asked insightful questions. We were very proud of them all!

Safer Internet Day - 6 February

All the teachers held a class assembly with the children, during which safe use of the internet was discussed and an age-relevant video was viewed, all about keeping safe online. It prompted lots of useful discussions which translated into further learning throughout the day within the classroom. Then, on the last day of term before the holidays, a whole-school assembly was held where all the children performed e-safety songs, which further underlined the need to be vigilant and aware when being online on their computers or tablets.

Safeguarding Sheriffs

Our Safeguarding Sheriffs – John Bates, Fraser Holt, Shay Doyle, Lucas Dean, Tessa Cooper, Evelyn Hayden, Adam Whittaker, Harry Hilditch, Kyran Downings, Emily Mayo, Gaby Blackburn, Izzy Ainsworth & Alice Wilson – remain in post and continue to undertake their roles helping to ensure everyone in school uses the internet safely. They do this by information sharing, producing displays, asking questions and they intend to produce a child-friendly, understandable policy document to which the whole school can adhere. If you don't know who they are, their photographs are on the school website, and will soon be displayed in the hall.

PTA Disco

Thanks once more to the PTA for organising KS1 and KS2 discos, this time on the theme of 'Friendship'. A great time was had by all, and some valuable funds raised to put toward the PTA's current projects.

Y6 – Talks on Smoking

Each Y6 class had an extremely informative session, delivered by local Community Nurses, on smoking and its effects on our bodies and our health. Below are some of the comments from the children themselves on what they learned

"It was a very interesting talk and it was full of amazing information." Holly K

"It was very educational." Aidan S

"It was very informative and it really opened my eyes about how bad smoking is." Seren A

Environmental Area



Thanks to all those willing volunteers who helped in the Environmental Area in the last few months – we are almost prepared for spring now! Our work culminated in the construction of 2 willow sheep. We are ever grateful to David Abbott who always helps with his expertise. Well done everyone! The area is looking great again, birds are beginning to nest and we recently discovered a badger footprint – hurrah!!



Saving postage stamps

RSPB Albatross Appeal – help us to save the Albatross! Please send any used stamps into school. The RSPB are collecting them to help save albatrosses. There is a collection box in the library where they can be posted – thank you in advance for your help.

Painting work

Apologies for the appearance of some areas of school – as you know, we are undergoing painting works at the weekends. It is progressing well, but does mean some noticeboards and displays have had to be removed to facilitate this. Thank you for your patience whilst the work is completed.

HOUSEKEEPING/NOTICES

Attendance

One of our key priorities is to improve attendance and punctuality for all children. Our whole school target is 97% and so far our overall attendance is at **96.4%** - illness at this time of year always plays a major role, and this is still above the national average, so keep it up and hopefully we will reach our target next time.

We continue to try and ensure that all children arrive to school on time, every day. If you are finding it tricky to get your children into school on time at 8:55am, please do come to us for help and guidance, we have lots of ideas and strategies to help make mornings a bit easier!



Notifying us of Absence

The easiest and most convenient way to let us know of an absence is via the texting service as this can be done any time of day or night. Alternatively, you can always ring school (01663 732354) and leave a message on the answerphone or email us on info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk. May we ask that, even if you have let your child's teacher know if your child is not in school or is being collected at a particular time for an appointment, that you please inform the school office as well. **If your child has an appointment and is not going to be in school for half a day or more, we will require a Request for Absence form completing and/or a letter from the doctor/hospital etc for our files. Thank you for your co-operation.**

Payments for dinner money and school trips

DCC policy dictates that dinner money should be paid in advance, either weekly sent in on Mondays or the first day of the week should it be after a holiday, but preferably termly. Each child has an account on the system linked to their attendance, so any absences will be taken into account automatically and any overpayment will roll over to the following week. Reminders of outstanding balances are sent out weekly. Please follow this guide when sending money into school:

<i>Dinner Money</i>	Weekly or termly in advance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correct money• In a sealed envelope with your child's name, class, the amount enclosed written on it• State that it is for Dinner Money on the envelope• Cheques to be made payable to DCC• <u>Sealed</u> envelopes can be put in the post box in the school reception area
<i>Trips</i>	As requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correct money• In a sealed envelope with your child's name, class, the amount enclosed• State which trip it is for on the envelope• Cheques to be made payable to WBPS• <u>Sealed</u> envelopes can be put in the post box in the school reception area

NB: If paying by cheque, please do NOT pay for dinner money and trips on the same cheque – please send two separate cheques as the payees are different

Also, please note that **two weeks' notice**, requested via the school office, is required should your child wish to change from school lunches to sandwiches, or vice versa, **regardless** of whether they are eligible for FSM or UIFSM (key stage 1 free school meals).

Your co-operation in these matters is appreciated.

Sickness & Diarrhoea

In accordance with school policy, may we remind you that should your child suffer from either of these conditions, they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of illness. We need to adhere strictly to this in order to minimise the risk of spreading the illness further. Also, your child should not participate in swimming lessons for a period of 14 days after returning to school. Your co-operation in these matters is appreciated.

After School/Holiday Club

The ASC would like to refresh some of their equipment and so are planning to hold a few fundraising events for which they need your help.



If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts or items, they would love to have them. Particularly, they are looking for any unopened toiletries, photo frames, socks, scarfs, slippers, drink or food sets, jewellery etc. They are also looking for any unwanted baskets/hampers of any size. Please hand in any donations to Suzanna and thank you for your support.

Easter Holiday Club will be available from **Monday 26 March to Thursday 29 March** and then from **Tuesday 3 April to Friday 6 April**. Please contact Suzanna King on 07894 235778 or via email at asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk, or via the After School Club (ASC) page on the school website or on Facebook.



Also, the After School Club continues to welcome donations of good quality toys or games as they are always looking to refresh the great pile of toys and activities they have. They would particularly benefit from Scalextric, Lego, Wooden Train Track and Balance Bikes, so if you have any of these, or other items on your pile for the charity shop then please do let Suzanna know (on 07894 235778 or email asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk). They would be very grateful!

Contact details

It is essential that we have up-to-date details for your child in case of emergencies, club cancellations, bad weather arrangements etc, so as a reminder, should your mobile telephone number, email or home address ever change, please make sure you let the office know at the earliest opportunity so we can update your child's record. Thank you.

Is your child eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Registering for free meals can raise an extra £1,300 for our school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff and after-school activities.

1. Is your joint family income under £16,190 per year?
2. If not, are you in receipt of any of the benefits listed below:
 - Income support?
 - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance?
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance?
 - Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration/Asylum Act?
 - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit?
 - Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than **£16,190**?
 - Working Tax Credit run-on?
 - Universal Credit?

If you answered 'yes' to either of the above, then please come to us immediately. If you are eligible, rest assured that the information is confidential. We are very discrete – even your child will not know that you have registered – let alone anyone else. Help us to help your child – contact us if you believe you qualify.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –March/April/May/June 2018

MARCH 2018		
9.3.18	Friday	World Book Day
12.3.18-16.3.18	Monday-Friday	Science Week
16.3.18	Friday	Class 5L Assembly
19.3.18	Monday	Y6 Fire Safety talks
21.3.18	Wednesday	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Day
21.3.18	Wednesday	Y2 Fire Safety talk
23.3.18	Friday	Easter Bonnet Parade
23.3.18	Friday	Break up for Easter Holidays – 3.30 pm
APRIL 2018		
9.4.18	Monday	School re-opens – 8.55 am
11.4.18-13.4.18	Wednesday-Friday	Class 5 Residential to Losehill Hall
13.4.18	Friday	Interim Reports out
17.4.18	Tuesday	Parents' evening
19.4.18	Thursday	Parents' evening
24.4.18	Tuesday	Class photographs
MAY 2018		
1.5.18	Tuesday	Bag-2-School collection
7.5.18	Monday	School closed – BANK HOLIDAY
8.5.18	Tuesday	School re-opens – 8.55 am
25.5.18	Friday	Break up for Half Term – 3.30 pm
JUNE 2018		
4.6.18	Monday	School re-opens – 8.55 am
6.6.18 & 7.6.18	Wednesday & Thursday	Wind in the Willows (Choir & LV) – 6.15 pm
18.6.18-22.6.18	Monday-Friday	Year 6 Residential to Lakeside
26.6.18	Tuesday	Sports Day: 9.30 am KS1; 1.30 pm KS2

Thank you for your continued support as we head towards the brighter days of early spring!

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher