



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

For every child, a chance to shine

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

31 January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't believe it's the end of January already – how time flies! We might have had to brave some rotten weather but it hasn't stopped lots of activity going on around school, a flavour of which is included below. Please also take the time to read the 'housekeeping' notices at the end in case any of our routine procedures have changed or been updated.

AROUND SCHOOL

Parent Questionnaire

Following the questionnaire sent home last term, we are focussing on the 3 areas which you wanted more information: mathematics, e-safety and spelling.

Mrs Green, our mathematics leader, is sending home a short survey this week, to ask you which areas in maths you would like us to focus on. Please could you fill it in and return to the school office (see later section).

Mr Emsley, our computing leader, is currently organising an e-safety session for parents - more details to follow. The current class assemblies have been focussed on e-safety which have been superb, well done Year 3 and Year 6M.

Miss Worsley, our literacy leader, has been looking at spelling across the school and will be providing parents and carers with information on how you can help your child at home, with fun spelling activities.

Painting

As part of a 12 week programme, we are currently giving all the corridors and hall a lick of paint. The work is being carried out at weekends so as not to disturb the running of the school. The school already looks a lot fresher. 😊

Choir/Little Voices

For the first time ever, the Choir and Little Voices will be putting on a production of 'Wind in the Willows' in June. It will mean lots of hard work, but we are all very excited about it. More details will follow in due course – watch this space!

Class 2 Assembly

We were presented with a fantastic assembly from Class 2 which was a celebration of different faiths from around the world. There was some confident speaking, fantastic singing and music and as well as being so entertaining, it also taught us all a lot about faith around the world – well done everyone!

Class 3 Assembly

Class 3's assembly was all about internet safety! Our super SMART heroes taught us all about how to stay safe online and what actions to take. They taught us that you should not give out your personal information to anyone and always tell an adult! All the children were superb, organised and supported one another. Their acting was fantastic! We were very proud of them all.

Class 6M Assembly

Thank you to Year 6M who performed a spectacular assembly all about how to keep safe online. The children demonstrated how their digital footprint can follow them throughout their life. Following a list of their top tips for a tip top digital footprint, the children performed the catchy song: 'Who you share your details with?' Well done, 6M for giving us an enjoyable, as well as informative, assembly.



Year 4 Drums Showcase

The sound of drums have been drifting out of the hall every Friday afternoon since September. Staff, visitors and children have all been spotted peeping through the hall doors to find out what Year 4W have actually been up to! On Friday, the children, staff and parents got to experience Year 4W's Djembe drumming showcase and nobody was disappointed!



Paul and Kirsty from Derbyshire Wider Opportunities have delivered whole class weekly instrumental teaching sessions to Year 4W, undertaking a range of creative musical skills, participating in rhythm games, learning African songs and learning to play the Djembe African Drums. In the whole school performance, the children played and sang African songs such as, Nanuma, Senua, Funga Alafia and Kye Kye Kule.



Well Done Year 4W, you wowed everybody with your fabulous skills. Now it is Year 4F's turn to learn the Djembe drums! Starting this Friday!

Y5 Trip to Manchester Mosque



Year 5 had a brilliant time at Manchester Central Mosque this month. The children were lucky enough to have a tour of the mosque, observed the noon prayer, as well as having the opportunity to learn about how Muslim's wash before prayer! Two very lucky children even had a go at doing this in the wash area!



It was a fascinating and informative visit, enjoyed by all!

Chess Tournament v Chinley School



Last week, we hosted a chess tournament where 12 of our Y6 pupils played matches against 12 pupils from Chinley School. There were some good games played, and the teams shared tips on how to win games and improve their skills. All children participated in a sportsmanlike manner, and we are looking forward to a return match at Chinley School sometime later in the year.

Y6 WW2/VE Day – A report by Amelia & Esme

On Wednesday 13 January it was Yr6's WW2/VE Day. We all dressed up in WW2 outfits.

During the day we worked in 3 groups: 1 group did Dancing with Mrs Chadwick; 1 was with Mrs Green making medals out of clay; and 1 with Miss Mansfield, making different food and drinks.

The dances we did were "The Lambeth Walk", "The Charleston" and "The Waltz".

In cooking with Miss Mansfield, we made carrot cookies, jam tarts and still lemonade.

With Mrs Green, we designed and made our own clay medals – similar to those from WW2 – which dried in air.



At the end of the day, we had a big 'street' party where we danced the dances we had learnt, ate the food that we had cooked and sung some songs from WW2 that we knew.



Millie commented: "WW2 day was AMAZING!"

By Amelia & Esme (Yr6)



Maths questionnaire

In an effort to support parents/carers when helping your children with their maths homework and to have a better understanding of the curriculum, a questionnaire devised by Mrs Green, will be coming home, hopefully by the end of this week. We wish to ascertain your views on what help you would like, how you would like it presented and when. So if we could ask you all to complete these questionnaires for us and return them to school **as quickly as possible**, it would really help us to put together a programme to give you the tools you have been asking for to help your children develop their maths skills.

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 97.1% - Woo hoo!

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.

Pupil Admission Number

In September 2017, our PAN, Pupil Admission Number, has been reduced to 30. This means that the Reception intake will be capped at 30 children, unless a child has SEND or is a Looked After Child. This will mean that over the next few years the school will eventually become a one form entry, meaning 7 classes from Reception to Year 6, plus our Enhanced Resource. This academic year we are running at a 9 class school and next year we will be an 8 class school. Details of the class structure will be shared with you all during the summer term, when details have been finalised.

Inset Days – 2018/19

Please note that Inset days for the next academic year will be as follows:

- Monday 3 September 2018
- Tuesday 4 September 2018
- Thursday 20 December 2018
- Friday 21 December 2018
- Monday 22 July 2019

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.

Holiday Club will be available from **Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February**. 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!

Vacancy – The ASC are looking for a **Cook** – in brief they require a person to prepare meals 3-4 evenings per week. Please see the ASC Facebook page for more information on the position. Thank you.

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 –February/March/April 2018

FEBRUARY 2018		
2.2.18	Friday	Class 1T Assembly
4.2.18	Sunday	Willow sheep-making in environmental area (Miss Farrell)
9.2.18	Friday	Class 6G Assembly
9.2.18	Friday	Class 3 trip to Buxton Buddhist Centre
15.2.18	Thursday	PTA School Discos – Theme 'Friendship'
16.2.18	Friday	Safer Internet Assembly
16.2.18	Friday	Break up for Half-Term – 3.30 pm
26.2.28	Monday	School re-opens – 8.55 am
MARCH 2018		
2.3.18	Friday	World Book Day
9.3.18	Friday	Class 5L Assembly
16.3.18	Friday	Class 4F Assembly
19.3.18	Monday	Y6 Fire Safety talks
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
24.4.18	Tuesday	Class photographs

Thank you for your continued support and as the mornings and nights get lighter, it looks like Spring might be on its way!

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher