Friday 22nd July, 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I must immediately apologise for the length of this newsletter, but there has been so much going on in school I simply had to share it all! It has been a busy year full of many wonderful memories. It has also been a difficult year with the sad loss of Kaiden.

I will miss our Year 6 children who will be off to continue their journey at various secondary schools. They have been a delightful class full of characters! Every teacher has enjoyed teaching them. I wish them all the best and to never stop shining.

Y6 Production – The Adventures of Super Stan the Superhero!

Wow! We have super stars in the making in Year 6! The fabulous acting, the outstanding singing and the superb comic timing – Whaley Bridge Primary School definitely has talent! The children have taken a wonderful script and turned it into something magical. They have thoroughly enjoyed performing in front of all the school and parents and it will go down in Whaley as one of the greats! Comments from parents: “Absolutely fantastic performance. The comedy timing, singing, dancing and acting were all first class.” “Totally entertaining! The best night out I’ve had in years!” “Each and every one of the children shone.” A huge well done to all the staff involved, especially Miss Chambers, Miss Kincey and Mrs Green.

Zoo Lab Visit

There is nothing better than bringing the rainforest into the classroom with real creatures! That’s right, Year 3/4 had some very exciting visitors in their classroom on Monday 11th July! The children got to meet Mildred the Millipede, Tyron the Bearded Dragon, cockroaches that hissed, a tarantula, Shelly the snail along with a frog, a rat and corn snake. The children and the adults all got the opportunity to handle some of these creatures. The children were able to show off their knowledge to Sophie the Ranger explaining the different levels of the rainforests and were able to deepen their knowledge and understanding around food webs and classification. What an exciting morning of learning!
Year 3/4 were given the opportunity to engage UKwide live science experiment to contribute to the RHS campaign for School Gardening’s knowledge of growing plants in space. This was also part of one of the school’s targets to help us gain the Silver ECO Award. After participating in a classroom experiment during May to June Year 3/4 asked entered their results in a bespoke microsite so that results from schools across the nation could be collated and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

The rocket seeds were held for about six months in microgravity and British ESA astronaut Tim Peake will took charge of the seeds while on the ISS for his Principia mission starting in December 2015. The seeds were then returned to Earth with astronaut Scott Kelly and we received 100 seeds that had been on the ISS and 100 seeds that had remained on earth. The seed packets were colour coded, however we weren’t told which packet contained which seeds. Year 3/4 thought the blue packet of seeds had been in space. Tim Peake revealed which packet of seeds had been into space once all of the schools had entered their data and it was the blue packet! We are looking forward to finding out about the data collected from schools and this will be shared in September.

Farewell

We will be saying farewell to some of our lovely staff on Tuesday;

Mr Emsley will be leaving us to teach at Disley Primary School, he has been a wonderful member of our team and will be sadly missed by all the children and staff. We wish him all the best and know that we will see him cycling around the High Peak.

Mrs Wilson will be leaving and enjoying her retirement to spend more time with her growing family and to enjoy trips to Wales in her caravan. She has been a teaching assistant at WBPS since 1992 - 24 years! Wow! She will be missed by so many children and staff. We wish her all the best!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Cass and Mrs Emmett, we wish them well wherever their future paths may lead them, they have been such valuable members of our team and we are so grateful for all of their contributions.

Mrs Jacobs is leaving us to pursue an exciting ceramic venture. Miss Hassall and Miss Whittaker will be joining our MDA team from September.

Every day matters, every lesson counts.

I know that every parent wants their child to achieve as well as they possibly can. However, if your child is not in school, on time, as often as possible they will be missing out on important parts of their education. I want every child to achieve at least the national average of 96% or higher attendance in order for the, to make the best progress possible.

Please As per my last newsletter, I discussed the importance of your child being in school. Holidays/day trips will not be authorised and fines will be issued. Attendance is carefully monitored by Ofsted and schools have to ensure national targets are met. This year our overall attendance is 96.9% which is just above National Average of 96.1%

90% attendance sounds quite good is actually the same as missing four full weeks every year – that's a lot of school time missed!

We have a number of children who attend school regularly but arrive late each day. Being late every day can add up to a lot of lost learning time. Please help your child to be punctual. If your child is late after the register is closed, 9.15am and 1.30pm, it is deemed as an unauthorised absence.

County policy is that any absence that is below 90% will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. A panel meeting will be set up to ensure parents and carers are supported in improving their child’s attendance and punctuality.

There are ways in which you can help:

- If at all possible, dental and medical appointments to be arranged out of school hours.
- A copy of medical appointment cards to be presented to school, either before/after appointments.
- Holidays not to be taken during term time.
- Children getting to school on time.

We know that from time to time, children can become ill and this cannot be helped. If you need any help or advice then please do let us know.
Office Hours

The school office will be open every day from 8.30 - 4pm parents/carers can always contact the office by phone, text or email. You are able to leave messages outside of office hours and Mrs Casey, Mrs Bingle or Miss Allen will get back to you. Please could you make sure that the office has:

- Up to date contact numbers for home/work/emergency contacts.
- Dinner money to be handed in on time
- An email address so letters and other communication can be sent home.

School Uniform

We want the children to look smart at school. Below is a list of what the school uniform consists of. Please ensure that uniform and PE kit reflect our school colours: navy, light blue, grey, black and white.

- Sweatshirts/cardigans: navy blue
- School trousers/skirts/shorts/pinafores: grey or black
- Polo shirts: white, light blue or navy
- Tights/socks: navy, grey or black
- Shoes: black

We ask that hair accessories are sensible and reflect the school colours, no big bows or tiaras! All hair which is long enough should always be tied back for school.

School uniform can be purchased from either Tesco or from Headmasters in New Mills [http://www.headmasters-schoolwear.co.uk/]

PE and Swimming kit

PE kits should be in school at all times and should only be taken home for washing during holidays. We have so many PE activities going on in school, you never know when your child may need it! The PE bag and contents should all be clearly labelled with your child’s name.

Every Whaley Bridge School PE kit must contain:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Navy/black shorts
- Black pumps (indoor use only)
- Trainers (outdoor use only)
- Plain tracksuit/jogging bottoms and long sleeved top (outdoor use)

Swimming kit:

- The kit should contain a one-piece swimming costume or trunks and a towel.
- Please ensure your child has the adequate kit on their specific day.

Any children with pierced ears should wear studs only in school. They must be removed by the child or covered with a plaster for any sporting activities, including after school clubs. Long hair must also be tied up for sport sessions.

And most importantly – PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING and encourage your child to bring in PE kits, swimming kits and musical instruments on the right days.
**Safeguarding**

The school website has a new safeguarding information section which includes all our policies and procedures. There’s lots of information and advice about online gaming and apps, including Pokemon Go! Please go to our website and click on: General Information – Safeguarding, including e-safety & antibullying.

We have new notice boards providing information about Safeguarding and Child Protection, including who our Safeguarding Lead is - Miss Berresford. If you have any concerns about a child please contact Miss Berresford or if it’s out of school hours, contact Starting Point for advice 01629 533535 or if you are concerned that a child is at risk call 01629 533190 immediately.

On Monday 5th September at 1pm there will be safeguarding training open to all the parents who support our children at school, whether that’s helping with swimming or listening to children read. If you are able to come along, please text the office to say that you can attend. It will last about two hours.

**Well Dressing 2016**

This year’s Well Dressing theme was Winnie Pooh to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first publication. A winner from each class had some of their design added to the final design. Every class had an opportunity to help place petals, stones and shells into the clay. The well dressing was revealed in the Well Dressing Blessing at the end of the week which Rev. Margaret led. Little Voices had also prepared the Winnie the Pooh theme song and sang it beautifully to the school. It wouldn’t have been a normal well dressing blessing either without a drop of rain or two either! A huge thank you to Mrs Bradley and Mrs Lawes who helped to organise, gather the resources, lead the task and ensure it was finished in time for Friday!

**Year 4 Walk and Sleepover**

Well Year 4 did it again and completed the Goyst Valley walk. The walk was around 8 miles and this year, it was in the pouring rain – the children did it in the true Whaley style though and were smiling throughout! Well done and thank you to the accompanying staff and parent helpers in making it a success.

**Class organisation**

Next year’s class organisation is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Berresford</td>
<td>Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Jacevicius</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Heys</td>
<td>Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Mansfield</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Thursk</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Wilson</td>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Murray</td>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Worsley</td>
<td>Year 4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Farrell</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Green</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Shone</td>
<td>ERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Hepworth</td>
<td>2 days – curriculum enhancement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transition**

The children have met their new teacher in their classrooms in preparation for a smooth transition. This includes nursery visits and secondary visits. Over the next few days children will be coming home laden with school books and works of art. Do not panic if your child doesn’t come home with a mathematics book as we will be keeping a selection of books for moderating purposes, they will be returned to the children later on in the year.

**Wedding Bells**

Both Miss Kinsey and Miss Owen will be getting married over the summer holidays. Miss Kinsey will become Mrs Wilson and Miss Owen will become Mrs Heys. We hope their special days are perfect and wish them lots of happiness.

**Baby news**

Mrs L. Chadwick gave birth to a beautiful boy called Teddy on 30th May. He has already met most of the children for cuddles! Huge congratulations to the Chadwick family!

**Outcomes for our children**

Our targets have been focussed around improving attainment and progress in writing and maths. After having writing as a whole school target for a few years now, it’s lovely to see the impact of all the good teaching and learning across the whole school. We know that the new mathematics curriculum and strategies we have in place to support it will take some time to embed which will in time further improve attainment.

I am happy to report some of our results across the key stages.
• In the EYFS, outcomes of Good Level of Development is 77.3% compared to last year’s result of 68% and is above national average of 66% (2015)
• In Year 1, 69% of children passed the Year 1 Phonics Test
• 94% passed the retake of the phonics test in Year 2.

Year 2 Results
Similar to Year 6, KS1 assessments are the first to assess the new curriculum. Results are no longer reported as levels. The children are either at the expected level or they are not. Results cannot be compared to previous years’ data. At the moment we have no national data to compare our results to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End of KS1 – Year 2</th>
<th>% of children who are at the expected level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAG</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 6 Results
The 2016 KS2 assessments are the first which assess the new, more challenging national curriculum which was introduced in 2014. Results are no longer reported as levels, but a scaled score. Therefore, figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years. The full provisional data will be published on 1st September 2016, revised figures in December 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End of KS2 – Year 6</th>
<th>All children</th>
<th>Nationally in July</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAG</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWM</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children who access the Pupil Premium Grant
• All 36 children have made progress this year, some outstandingly so.
• 3 are working within P Levels
• A large majority of the 36 children have Special Educational Needs
• 11 are at ARE (Age Related Expectations) in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
• Reading 18 children are at ARE
• Writing 13 children are at ARE
• Mathematics 16 children are at ARE
• All children have received either Wave 1, 2 or 3 support.

Inset days for 2015/16
Monday 5th September, 2016
Tuesday 6th September, 2016
Monday 19th December, 2016
Tuesday 20th December, 2016
Friday 7th April, 2017

School Holidays can be found on the Derbyshire website, please follow the link:
https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/term_dates_school_holidays/default.asp

Thank you to all the staff, parents and children for an exciting and successful year! I’m proud of the effort, enthusiasm and dedication that always goes into making WBPS the best it can be.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday!

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher