



# WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

Dear parents/Carers

Welcome to the first of my monthly newsletters where I will keep you updated on any recent events and notices. I hope that you are all well. It was lovely to see some of you at the fashion show!

### Environmental area



Our school environmental area has a new addition, a beautiful, carved owl. Isn't he lovely? May I say a huge thank you to the PTA for raising the funds. Each class spent time with the artist who spoke to them about wood carving and shared his other projects. The children asked him questions and were able to return later in the day to see the final result. It took the artist around 5 hours to carve our owl. Along with the butterfly meadow, Miss Farrell is encouraging more and more wildlife to our school for our children to enjoy and learn about. When the final touches are



completed, we will be organising a time for all parents and carers to come down to the environmental area to have a look at how the PTA money has been spent and to celebrate our beautiful space.

### Mr Baxter

Mr Baxter will be leaving us at the end of the summer term as he has secured another teaching post in Stockport which will start in September. I know that he has thoroughly enjoyed his 4 years at Whaley Bridge Primary and we wish him all the best in his new job.

### Swimming

Since the 1970's Whaley Bridge Primary School has been fortunate enough to have their own swimming pool. We have always needed the help and support of parents and carers to help the children get changed and to collect the groups from the classrooms. Forty years on and we have managed to keep our pool when other primaries have not. We are recognising that more and more families are working and some classes struggle some weeks for swimming helpers and therefore do not swim as a result. There is no statutory requirement that states that children must swim every week in every year group. The new National Curriculum states that schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or in key stage 2. But we recognise the huge benefits of swimming and ideally would love our children to swim regularly. Unfortunately, the school cannot fund additional support for this financial year. The majority of our teaching assistants are employed to support our children who have complex needs and therefore cannot assist with swimming as they could not supervise the other children safely. From September, there will be some flexibility for certain classes where the teaching assistant will be able to help. I am open to suggestions from parents and carers of how we can support those classes who need more regular swimming help. Ideas so far have been the suggestion of a pool of parent helpers who could help out on certain days, not necessarily with their own children's class or a more organised rota which is made in advance. If you have any other ideas, then please do let me know.

### Lost property

There has been an increase in lost property in this warmer weather where children are taking off their coats and then leaving them in the playground. We have monitors who return the named lost property to the children but unfortunately there are lots of items which have no names in them. Please can you ensure that all items of clothing is named, thank you.

### Parking

Please may I remind parents and carers that they are not to drive onto the school grounds to drop off and collect their children. I have given permission to some parents and carers to park in the car park or drop off on the turning circle.

If your child attends breakfast club and after school club, as the timings are different to the school day, the car park can be used to safely drop off and collect, walking with your child through the main car park gate to ensure they arrive safely at breakfast club.

Please let me know if you feel you have special circumstances where by you need to use the car park.

### Website

Our new website is now live! Please bear with us as we still have to train up the staff to add content, so it will look a little empty for a short time. Go and have a look! [www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### Annual triathlon

It's come round again! On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, we will be holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> triathlon. Key Stage 1 will run and bike/scoot (no swim) and key stage 2 will run, bike and swim! If your child/ren would like to take part, we are asking for a donation of £2 in which all money raised will go to the Oxfam Disaster Appeal so that we can support the people affected by the earthquake in Nepal.

### Table manners

Your child may have come home and told you about our new table manners guide. The children came up with the guide during assembly last week and this week we have been following them. They have been trying their best all week and there has been a huge difference in noise level and politeness. ☺

### Important dates for this month:

- Year 3 assembly 15<sup>th</sup> May
- Year 2/3 assembly 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- Half term 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- School re-opens 1<sup>st</sup> June

The summer term is our busiest time of year, with lots of events coming up. Please refer to the school calendar for dates, the calendar can also be found on our new website.

I am around most mornings in the playground so do come and say hello. Remember you can contact me via the office if you wish to make an appointment.

If you are not signed up to receive emails, please let the office know and they can add you to their system.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Fay Walton  
Headteacher

