



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

Thursday 7th September, 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome back to all returning children and a welcome to everyone who is new to WBPS. I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday. It is lovely to see how smart the children look in their school uniforms and how excited they were to see their friends. They have all grown so much over the holidays!

New Office

Before the summer I had mentioned about our relocation of the admin office. It is now been successfully located downstairs into the main entrance. This will make it so much easier for parents and children to visit the office without coming up the stairs! It may take us some time to get used to the new location! Please may I request that all parents, carers and visitors to the school enter and exit via the main entrance and refrain from using the other doors. This is so we can safeguard the children and know exactly who is in our school building by having just one entrance for visitors. I appreciate your co-operation with this.

Extra-curricular activities

A letter outlining all the clubs we will be offering this half term will be given out over the next week, more information to follow. The clubs will start the week beginning 18th September.

Healthy snacks

Last year, the children were incredibly successful at choosing the right healthy snack for break times. I was very impressed with them – I too have been bringing in healthier snacks! ☺ Please can we continue to provide children with healthy snacks and water in their drink bottles.

Free School Meals – Pupil Premium

If you receive benefits, your child will be eligible for free school meals and the additional funding called the 'Pupil Premium'. This money is sent to schools to use for a range of activities that can help to raise attainment, such as learning enhancement groups, educational trips, learning to play a musical instrument and after school clubs – your child will continue to receive this funding for up to six years.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 already receive a free school meal which is separate to Pupil Premium funding. But your child could be entitled to a free school meal in years 3, 4, 5 or 6 if you access the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

- Universal Credit

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are **not** allowed in school.

Other letters to be sent home this week:

- **The Home-School agreement** is a lovely way for each of us committing to supporting each other for the benefit of the children. Please can this be shared with your child/ren and then signed and returned to school.
- Each class has sent out a **class letter** with lots of useful information regarding the smooth running of the year group.

Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday 12th September, there will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teaching team and to find out about their new year group. The evening will be made up of two presentations from the teacher; one at 6pm and one at 6:45pm, this is to allow for parents to visit more than one year group. There will be a crèche available in the hall if needed. Please text school with crèche yes and how many children so we can ensure it is appropriately staffed.

Professor Lightbulb

Our Year 3 and 4s have the opportunity to go to Buxton Opera House to watch a fantastic play called – "Professor Lightbulb." The children will have an early lunch and will be leaving school by coach at 12:15pm and returning to school at 2:30pm. I can't wait to find out what they have learned about their inner chimp!

Earrings

Any children with pierced ears should wear studs only in school. They must be removed by the child (unfortunately staff are not able to remove earrings for children) or covered with a plaster for any sporting activities, including after school clubs. Ms Ellis and Mrs Goodall have requested that earrings **MUST** be removed for swimming sessions.

Children's Safeguarding Committee

Our children's Safeguarding Committee will be up and running again this year. We look forward to listening to children's thoughts and ideas about how to keep safe in and out of school.

Staffing

We have appointed a new class teacher to cover Mrs Wilson's maternity leave. We welcome Miss Carter to our staff team who will begin after the half term. We have also appointed a new MDA Miss Bloor.

We are currently advertising for Mrs Thirsk's maternity cover - we will keep you updated.

This week we are interviewing for a swimming teacher to cover Mrs Goodall's maternity cover.

Communication

If you are new to the school and would like to receive copies of letters by email rather than a paper copy, then please let the team in the office know. Please ensure the office has your most up to date contact information, including your email address.

Teachers/Teaching Assistants are available in the mornings when your child is lining up for a quick chat to pass on any messages. From time to time you may want to touch base with the class teacher about an issue; this can be done by: making an appointment directly with the teacher or by phoning/emailing/texting school to make an appointment. If more convenient to discuss matters over the phone, then the class teacher will call you during a break time/after school.

I am available in the school playground most mornings if you need a quick chat or want to say hello!

Our school website is also a good source of information. There you will find updates on exciting events at school, the school calendar, inset dates, medicine and leave of absence forms etc.

www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

All of our policies are on the website under the tab "School information."

Unauthorised absence

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 and schools have to ensure national targets are met. If your child's attendance is below 90% or is causing us concern, we need to work together to help parents improve attendance, sometimes this will include an Educational Welfare Officer.

Punctuality

We can all have bad days where the car breaks down, or someone is ill and arriving to school on time seems like an impossible task, usually these are one off occasions and rarely happen! Schools do have to monitor punctuality as well as absence. If a child arrives at school between 9:00 and 9:15am we will be recording those children as late. If your child is late after the register is closed: 9:15am and 1:30pm, it is deemed as an unauthorised absence. The parent/carer will need to sign in the children. If you have problems getting your child/ren to school on time every day, please do come and speak with me to see if I can help.

Lining up in the mornings

In the mornings as the children are lining up beautifully ready to start the day, may I request that as soon as the whistle goes, that is your cue to leave so that the children can go quickly into the building ready for their day. This helps with their independence.

Admissions

It may seem like a long way off, but it's time to start thinking about applying for Reception and Year 7 places for September 2018! Many secondary schools will be offering open days for Years 5 and 6, please look out for flyers.

Applying for a Reception place

If your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 they will be eligible to start school in September 2018. You will be able to make your application from 13th November either online at:

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions> or by phone: 01629 537479

Applying for a Secondary place

If your child was born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007 and is in their last year of primary school you should apply for their secondary school place by 31 October 2017. You will be able to make your application either online at: <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions> or by phone: 01629 537479

Here's to an exciting and no doubt busy month!

Thank you for your support

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher