

WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher
Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

Wednesday 3 May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after our Easter break and Bank Holiday weekend – hope you all had a fantastic holiday and are raring to go as we head into the summer term. This newsletter will be a bit shorter than the last one as we haven't been back long, but there is still a lot of important information for you!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The latest calendar is now accessible on the school website, and includes the inset days scheduled for next year. We hope this will help you to plan childcare and any holidays in the summer, and may I also reiterate that family holidays should not be taken during term-time. However, if you need to take your child out of school for any other reason, a Leave of Absence form must be completed in advance of the date(s) being requested. Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated as all absences need to be accounted for to DCC on a regular basis.

VISIT FROM OUR MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

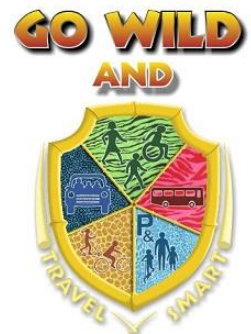
On Friday 28 April, our MP, Andrew Bingham, came into school to have a question and answer session with Miss Farrell's Year 5 class. The main topic under debate was the government's policy on grammar schools and the pros & cons of a grammar school system, but there were also open & apologetic discussions about other current issues. The children really enjoyed the session, were focused and involved, and here are some of the words they used to describe Mr Bingham: "sociable", "positive", "good at explaining", "considerate", "patient", and their afternoon: "interactive", "interesting", "unbiased". They all extend their thanks to him for taking time out of his busy schedule to give a rare insight into 'a day in the life' of an MP.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Whole class photographs will be taking place on Tuesday 23 May 2017. As you can imagine, this is quite an undertaking and we have a schedule to which we have to adhere, so may we request that a special effort be made by everyone to be in school and on time to avoid the disappointment of not being included with their class.

TRAVELSMART

Once again, we will be participating in Travel Smart week from **15-19 May 2017**, and this year's campaign is safari themed. We hope our pupils will be 'Going Wild' for active and environmentally friendly travel to school, so we would like to see as many of you as possible being Striders – walking/cycling/scooting to school for all or part of your journey. If that's not possible, maybe you could be Riders and organise car-shares or come by bus instead of car. As part of the campaign, pupils will be encouraged to record how they travel, following in the footsteps of the African wildebeest to complete a mini migration as part of their journey to school. Leaflets for children to complete (one per family) are being sent home this week.



Pupils can also share how they Go Wild to school by sending a photo or drawing to the Derbyshire Sustainable Travel website by email: sustainable.travel@derbyshire.gov.uk or by asking an adult to share it with them on [Twitter \(opens in a new window\)](#) using the hashtag #Striders, #Riders or #Rollers.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

It has been brought to our attention by the County Safeguarding team that a popular app, Musically, is rated as one of the most popular for online predators. We have spoken to the children in Years 5 & 6 about this site, and about being careful when posting pictures or videos on any of the popular apps. Please can we ask that you continue to monitor your children's online activity to ensure they are using age-appropriate sites in a safe and responsible manner. More details of how to keep your child safe online are on the website under Safeguarding.

OFFICE NOTICES

Safety & good practice

As you are all aware, we now operate a policy of locking the main school premises during the school day in order to be able to better monitor who is entering the school at any time. We understand that this can be frustrating sometimes, for staff as well as parents, but it is in the best interests of the children's safety and security to operate in this way, especially as we do not have the luxury of a Reception on the ground floor. However, this does mean that sometimes it is also trickier to leave the school premises if visitors use the wrong door and end up in the playground eg after class assemblies or when unfamiliar with the school layout. Should this happen, could we ask that you simply buzz the main door to be let back into the school so that you can exit through the side door.

WELCOME ...

... to our three new staff this term – **Mrs Joanna Baxby**, who is doing maternity cover for Reception H and our TAs, **Mrs Lucy George** and **Mr Jordan Cooper**. We hope they will enjoy their time with us.

SUMMER TERM DATES 2017

MAY		
8.5.17 – 10.5.17	Monday-Wednesday	Year 5 residential – Losehill Hall
8.5.17 – 12.5.17	Monday-Thursday	SATS Week
12.5.17	Friday	Year 1 class assembly @ 9.00 am
12.5.17	Friday	PTA Curry & Quiz Night
15.5.17 – 19.5.17	Monday-Friday	Travel Smart week
19.5.17	Friday	Reception J/B class assembly @ 9.00 am
24.5.17	Wednesday	Y6 First Aid training
26.5.17	Friday	Reception H class assembly @ 9.00 am
26.5.17	Friday	School closes for half-term at 3:30 pm
JUNE		
5.6.17	Monday	School re-opens – children in
9.6.17	Friday	Year 5 class assembly @ 9.00 am
12.6.17 – 16.6.17	Monday – Friday	Y1 Phonics Screening Week
16.6.17	Friday	Non-uniform day – sweets - Kaiden
17.6.17	Saturday	Bio Blitz Day
19.6.17	Monday	New Reception parents' evening – 6.00 pm
19.6.17 – 23.6.17	Monday – Friday	Year 6 residential - Lakeside
27.6.17	Tuesday	9.30-11.30: KS1 Sports Day 1.30-3.30: KS2 Sports Day
JULY		
4.7.17	Tuesday	Class moving up day
7.7.17	Friday	Reports to parents
12.7.17	Wednesday	Y5 swim assessments at New Mills pool
21.7.17	Friday	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
21.7.17	Friday	Break up for the Summer hols – 3.30 pm ☺

FAREWELL ...

... to **Mr Steve Hepworth**, who is retiring on 23rd May 2017 after 24 years of teaching at Whaley Bridge Primary School. We would like to thank our 'IT guru' for his years of service and wish him well with whatever he chooses to do with his new-found leisure time!

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher