Friday 31 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

A quarter of the way through the year already – I can’t believe it! It’s lovely to see lighter mornings and evenings as the days get longer and hopefully the weather improves – all the better for enjoying some fresh air as we encourage as many of you as possible to start walking/cycling/scooting to and from school every day.

**YOUNG VOICES – Manchester Arena**

The choir performed with other schools once again at the Young Voices performance in February and not only sang beautifully but behaved beautifully too and were a credit to the school. We hope that any parents who went to the event also enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed taking part.

**WORLD BOOK DAY**

Thank you to everyone, including the staff, who took part in World Book Day and dressed up in some amazing costumes to celebrate the works of Roald Dahl, as well as your own favourite authors/characters. I had the unenviable task of picking winners from each class, which was really hard, but I’m sure you’ll agree the winners deserved the accolade. See if you can recognise the different characters in the picture. Well done to everyone!

**HARRY POTTER COMPETITION**

I challenged students in a Harry Potter Quiz a few weeks’ ago, expecting to emerge victorious; but the students had other ideas, and after a hard fought competition, Arnav Sinha in Year 6 won bragging rights by beating me by a whisker. Well done Arnav – a well-deserved victory!

**SCHOOL AID**

The school recently donated a large collection of reading scheme books, through a charity called School Aid, to be distributed to schools in East Africa. As the books were no longer needed by us, it is good to know that they can still be of use to children who do not have access to the wealth of materials that we sometimes take for granted. Thank you to Mrs Wilson & Mrs Arnfield for organising the donation.

**ICT SUITE UNDERWAY**

As you may have noticed, the ICT suite has a fab new look with new tables and chairs and a large flat screen TV. The room will hopefully be painted over the Easter holidays and be ready for business on our return. Thanks, again, to the PTA for their amazing contribution towards the re-fit.

**FIRE SAFETY TALKS**

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue service came into school last week to give their annual fire safety talks to our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils. These informative, interactive sessions aim to teach them about fire safety in the home and how to avoid accidental fires, and we hope they have shared some of what they learned with you at home.
SCIENCE WEEK

What a fantastic week!

We had scientific experiments and investigations happening across the school and some amazing (and sometimes very messy) demonstrations, kindly supported with the help of some of our parents as well as students from Chapel High School.

Also during Science week, Year 4/5 had the opportunity to have a question and answer video session based on their topic ‘Space’ with Astronomer, Dr Chris North. The children found out how astronauts sleep, eat and use the toilet in space along with what they need to work hard at in school should they want to become an astronaut. Thank you to all who took part and helped make it a ‘fizz bang pop’ of a week!

THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE SPACE!

Year 4/5 were true stars in their class assembly! They used a Newsround programme to report their astronaut training and a dance sequence based on a journey to the Moon to space themed music. The assembly was packed full of facts, jokes and the moon buggy parade was fabulous!

DIXIELAND STOMPERS

Year 4 had a fabulous time at the Dixieland Jazz Concert with Darren Lloyd and his Jazz Band – ‘Happy Valley Dixieland Stompers’! The Year 4 children, who took part in the event at Harpur Hill Primary School, thoroughly enjoyed listening to and playing the Jazz music. Some children even plucked up the courage to improvise in front of the huge audience and were amazing! The marvellous Year 4 musicians made Whaley Bridge Primary School proud.

DRAMATIC EXPERIENCE! – a report by Brandon Good, Y6

On Tuesday 28 March 2017, the bright, extraordinary pupils of Chapel-en-le-Frith High School performed an outstanding portrayal of South Pacific as a dress rehearsal. South Pacific, a major West End musical, finally made its way to the delightful county of Derbyshire when the attendants of Chapel high decided to perform South Pacific as their yearly show. The huge group of maids, nurses and sailors, who are completely jeopardised, crash land on a deserted island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. When a beautiful American lass and a handsome French man meet, it follows a tragic love story of secrets, danger, calamity and more! The rehearsal proved a big hit with the audience (local primary school children) and received applause on several occasions.
ART COMPETITION

Our Year 5 children were invited to take part in Stockport Grammar’s Year Five Art Competition. The competition is now in its fourth year and welcomed entries from 114 artists from primary schools in the local area. Whaley Bridge Primary School entered eight children into the competition: Declan Armett, Harry Baker, Alfie Barrett, Ben Ellis, Hugo Gray Nathan Look, Lola Stott and Alice Wilson and they all attended the presentation evening, taking part in extra art activities before the prize giving and getting the opportunity to see the exhibition which included clay, collage, mixed media as well as more traditional drawings and paintings. The Head of Art and Design, Mr Davies found the judging very difficult due to the high standard of pieces entered; however, Lola Stott gained runner up with her self-portrait in chalk and charcoal. What a fabulous achievement!

LET’S GET COOKING

Some of our Year 4/5 children enjoyed their 6 week block in the Let’s Get Cooking club. The children worked on increasing their confidence and skills through hands-on activities in the kitchen and learnt about making healthier food choices. Well done and happy cooking!

OFFICE NOTICES

Medicines

We ask that, where possible, medicines be administered at home. Where the dose is 4 times per day, and it is necessary for one dose to be given during the school day, please complete the required forms in the office. Staff can only administer prescribed medicine, clearly labelled by the Doctor/Pharmacist, supported by the signed forms.

Sickness absence & appointment absence

Thank you for continuing to support us in fighting the various bugs and infections which invariably go around during the winter months. In order to prevent further spread, children must remain absent from school for at least 48 hours after their last episode of either vomiting or diarrhoea. In an effort to control the spread of germs & infections, we regularly disinfect surfaces, handrails, door handles etc and instigated a ‘deep clean’ of the school a few weeks ago to further attempt to halt the spread of infections.

This link is very helpful for infection control measures:

http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/A2%20Schools%20poster_1.pdf

Also, can we please ask that each day your child is absent from school, you let the office staff know, not just the teacher, via text/e-mail/telephone so that we can log the reason for absence – we have a statutory duty to know where all our children are if they are not in school and your co-operation is appreciated and saves us sending you unnecessary texts.

The office is staffed between 8.30am and 4.00pm daily with the text service, email and answerphone being regularly checked.

The text service (07786 207779) and email (info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk) are often the easiest method to inform school if your child is absent from school, or to pass on messages regarding appointments, or end of day arrangements etc.

Money

Please ensure that payments for dinner money, trips and collections are sent in sealed and clearly labelled envelopes (child’s name, class, trip/dinner money etc). These can be handed in to the class teacher each morning, where class monitors then pass these directly to the office. We ask that cash is the correct amount please or cheques made payable to DCC (for dinners) or WBPS (for trips).
ATTENDANCE

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that consistent attendance at school is essential for your child to get the best from their education. We are legally obliged to monitor attendance and any child whose attendance drops below the 90% national average will receive a letter from school informing you of this and offering the opportunity to work with us to see how their attendance can be improved. If at all possible, medical appointments such as routine dental visits, should be scheduled for out of school hours. May I also clarify that for children to receive a 100% Attendance Award at the end of the year, that requires them to have been in school every day for a full day – lateness, medical appointments and illness all mean they are not in school for a period of time and therefore ineligible for the award.

CAR PARK

May I remind everyone that the school car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school during the school day only – staff have designated spaces, and spaces marked with a yellow V are for visitors only. Parents should not use the car park for dropping off children under any circumstances, as children should not be unsupervised in the car park. Please park on the road and walk your children into the school or watch them until you know they are safely on the playground. Should there be exceptional circumstances where you need to access school via the car park, please speak to me in advance. However, even under special circumstances, cars should never be parked in such a way as to impede access to the school for taxis/transport companies and emergency vehicles. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

SAFETY IN THE PLAYGROUND

We strive to encourage our children to behave responsibly and with consideration at all times, as expected in our school behaviour policy, and to take responsibility for their own actions. However, it has been brought to our attention that sometimes, when children are returning to class from swimming lessons, they race across the playground to see who can get back first to the main building. May we therefore ask that swimming helpers continue to stress to the children the importance of returning to the classroom in a careful and thoughtful manner – that way we can avoid any accidents or incidents. Thank you for your continued assistance.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – after Easter

Details of clubs and activities for next term are on the school website along with application forms where necessary. If you have difficulty printing them off, copies can be obtained from the school office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 3 April 2017 sees an all-day chess tournament, organised by Miss Farrell, for some of the KS2 children – time to see if we have any budding Kasparovs out there!

And don’t forget the Easter Bonnet Parade and Decorate an Egg competition on Thursday 6 April 2017. Please bring decorated eggs to school (library area) on Wednesday 5 April – bonnets to be brought in for assembly on Thursday 6 April. We always have some fantastic creations, so let your ‘Springy’ imaginations run wild, with lots of chocolate up for grabs.

On Saturday 17 June Miss Farrell is arranging a Bio Blitz at school to which everyone will be invited – more details will follow after Easter. However, if anyone is, or knows, a botanist or any other ‘bio specialists’ who may be able to help on 17 June, please contact Miss Farrell with details.

Also, Sunday 2 July will see a tidy-up of the nature area from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. Volunteers to help with this will be gratefully welcomed! Again, please contact Miss Farrell if you can help.

AND FINALLY …

May we welcome our two new Parent Governors to the School Board – Mrs Rebecca Simpson-Hargreaves and Mr Malcolm Johnson. Their term of office starts on 1st April 2017, and contact details for them can be found on the school website.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to send our best wishes to Mrs Heys, Reception teacher, who will be going on maternity leave at the end of term. We wish her all the best at this exciting time, and can’t wait to meet the new Miss/Master Heys when she/he decides to arrive in the world. Good luck from all of us at WBPS!
### SPRING/SUMMER TERM DATES 2017

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.4.17</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Chess Tournament – KS2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.4.17</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Easter bonnet parade and decorate an egg comp 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.4.17</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>School closes for Easter at 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.4.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>INSET – School closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.4.17</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School re-opens – children in</td>
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<tr>
<td>28.4.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 3/4L class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>28.4.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Bag-2-School collection</td>
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#### MAY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.5.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 2 class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.5.17-10.5.17</td>
<td>Monday-Wednesday</td>
<td>Year 5 residential – Losehill Hall</td>
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<td>12.5.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 1 class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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<td>19.5.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Reception J/B class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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<td>26.5.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Reception H class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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<td>26.5.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>School closes for half-term at 3:30 pm</td>
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#### JUNE

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<tr>
<td>5.6.17</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School re-opens – children in</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.6.17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 5 class assembly @ 9.00 am</td>
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Thank you for your continued support, and in advance, may I wish you all very a very happy, sunny and enjoyable Easter break.

Mrs Fay Walton  
Headteacher