Tuesday 13th September, 2016

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. This is the first of my monthly newsletters where it gives me the opportunity to share information with you.

Firstly I must congratulate Mrs Heys (Miss Owen) and Mrs Wilson (Miss Kincey) who both got married over the holidays. They both looked beautiful and we wish them all the best.

Signing in and out

As part of our whole school plan to make the side door our main visitors’ entrance, we have added a new wooden fence during the holidays. New signage is on its way too! Please can all visitors to school continue to use the side entrance, buzz the office to let you in, then go up to the office to sign in where you can collect your visitor sticker. If you are in school helping with readers, art, swimming etc then please can you ensure that you sign in and out of the school building. Also, if you are coming to take your child for an appointment, please can you sign them in/out up in the school office.

Extra curricular activities

A letter outlining all the clubs we will be offering this half term will be given out by the end of today, please look out for it in book bags!

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 – if you want some ideas, please look on our school website for Year 6’s suggestions.

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:
Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not allowed in school. If you feel your child needs a mobile phone for a particular reason, please contact the office to speak to me on 01663 732354 before they bring it into school.

Recent letters

- 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.
- Permissions letter
- Extra-curricular letter

Meet the Teacher

On Wednesday 14th 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 6:40pm, this is to allow for parents to visit more than one year group. There will be refreshments in the hall, and possibly some biscuits! Mrs Walton and our Chair of Governors, Mrs Winter will be milling about if you would like to have a chat. To get the most out of your evening, we ask that children stay at home. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Earrings

Please can we remind parents and children about the current policy regarding earrings worn in school. This is effective from 5th September 2016 and overrides all previous policies / procedures. If you or your child have previously signed an earring agreement, this will no longer be valid.

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.
**Staffing**

Mr Hepworth will be teaching two days this year – he will be teaching Computing to Years 3-6 on Mondays and covering Year 6 on Tuesdays.

As you know, Mrs Murray will be teaching Year 3 and 4 until half term. We are currently advertising for a new teacher who will teach Year 3 and 4 for the remainder of the academic year. We will keep you updated.

We currently have two Midday Assistant posts available. If you are interested please contact the office.

**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.

Sometimes an issue may not be resolved and/or you wish to seek further advice; in this instance you make an appointment with the Key Stage Leaders:

Reception – Mrs Anna Berresford  
Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) – Mrs Alexandra Heys (Miss Owen)  
Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) – Mrs Sandra Green

I am available in the school playground most mornings if you need a quick chat or want to say hello! If you need to make an appointment please call/email/text the office.

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](http://www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk)

All of our policies are on the website under “General Information” for your 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 Mrs Ryder, our TA, 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 up in the office. 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.

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 2017! 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 2012 and 31 August 2013 they will be eligible to start school in September 2017. You should apply for their infant/primary school place by 13 January 2017. You will be able to make your application from 14th 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 2005 and 31 August 2006 and is in their last year of primary school you should apply for their secondary school place by 31 October 2016. You will be able to make your application either online at: http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions or by phone: 01629 537479

Important September dates

Wednesday 14th – Meet the teacher evening 6pm and 6:40pm
Friday 29th – European Day of Languages
Friday 30th – School photographs

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

Thank you for your support

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher