



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

Friday 16th October, 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

This term is simply whizzing by! I'm enjoying eating my lunch with the children as they chat about their upcoming production, what they've been learning in class and what they get up to at the weekend! It's lovely to see how happy and settled they all are, especially all the reception children - what super stars!

I hope that you all managed to come along to parents evening this week and that you found it useful. The teachers will have given you a blue pupil update form to complete/check. If you didn't receive one, please could you contact the ladies in the office.

Thank you for coming along to the annual meet the teacher evening. This was a fantastic opportunity to hear about what your child/ren will be getting up to this year, what the expectations are and how you can help and support your child at home. The teachers spend a great deal of time organising this event and it's a good way to meet the staff who will be working with your children and to ask any questions. We hope to offer a maths evening next term, so watch this space!

Recent tournaments

Last week the chess team played against New Mills Primary School and won their games spectacularly! A big well done to Tristan Liddle, Justin Campbell, Jess Ward, Nate Ward, Sam Blackburn, Gabriel Mooney, Luke Fairs and Kieran Hewitt! They are looking forward to the return match.

The Year 5 and 6 football teams went to Chapel high School to play in their first tournament against other local primaries. Both teams came 3rd overall which is fantastic! The lead goal scorers being Luke Simms for the boys and Grace Dickinson for girls. Well done to everybody. ☺ This week it was the turn of the Year 3 and 4 football teams. Both showed excellent team spirit, with the Year 4's winning the tournament! All children played well, but a special shout out goes to the top goal scorer Fraser Holt who scored 17 goals! What a fantastic start to the season!

Sports Mark

Hurray - We have been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Silver Mark! Miss Owen recently submitted our application which outlined the number of children who have taken part in school and local competitions last year as well as those who take part in school extra-curricular clubs. A huge well done to all the children who helped us gain this prestigious award and a thank you to those staff who run the clubs. We are excitedly awaiting our pennant and certificate!

Mathletics

As you know we are no longer subscribing to mymaths but are trialling Mathletics. Mathletics is an online maths resource which supports children's understanding of maths, providing the perfect link between school and home. So far it has been well received by the children and we hope to fully introduce it across the school very soon.

Healthy snacks

During an assembly I spoke to the children about making healthy food choices, as some children were bringing in big bags of Haribo sweets and sharing them amongst their friends. As a school we do teach the children about the importance of a balanced diet, eating your 5 a day and how to keep fit and healthy. After Christmas, we are looking to update our policy on snacks/lunchboxes in line with the new Children's Food Trust guidelines. Until then our policy has not changed. We will be looking to ask children and parents what their thoughts and ideas are to move towards an improved healthier school.

Travel smart week

As part of Travel Smart week 19-23 October, we would like to encourage pupils to travel to school by walking, cycling, scooting, car sharing, using public transport or to park & stride. As well as travelling to school sustainably we'd also like pupils to design and share their ideas for a "Do-you-think-they-saw-us"! This week the children will each receive an A5 leaflet with the details on.

After meeting recently with the Travel Smart team from Derbyshire County Council, it is clear that as a school we are well on our way to achieving the modeshift STARS bronze award which is a national scheme which recognises schools which have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. More news to follow shortly – so watch this space!

Attendance

Thank you for supporting the children getting into school on time, there has been a notable difference this half term. The government have recently announced that from September 2015 the persistent absence threshold will change from 85% to 90%. This means that any child who is persistently absent from school: e.g. illness, medical appointments, unauthorised absence, the school will contact parents/carers to explore the situation to see if support can be given to ensure that absence improves.

Admissions

- Applying for a Primary place

If your child was born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 they will be eligible to start school in September 2016. You should apply for their infant/primary school place by 15 January 2016. You will be able to make your application from 9am on 16 November 2015. Please visit <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education> for more information.

- Applying for a Secondary place

If your child was born between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2005 and is in their last year of primary school you should apply for their secondary school place by 31 October 2015.

Lot of dates for your diaries! – Please note that dates can be found on the calendar on our website ☺

- Tuesday 20th October - Christmas cards need to be returned to school
- 19th – 22nd October – Travel Smart Week
- Wednesday 21st October - Year 2's production of the Jungle Book@ 2pm and 6:30pm
- Thursday 22nd October – PTA Halloween Discos - £2.50 infants: 5:15-6:30pm juniors: 6:45-8pm
- Friday 23rd October – School closed – INSET day
- Half term: Friday 23rd October –Monday 2nd November
- Monday 2nd November – school re-opens, children back in
- Friday 6th November – Remembrance assembly 9am – all welcome
- Friday 13th November – Children in Need – school choir to sing at the Trafford Centre
- 16th – 20th November – Anti-Bullying Week
- Tuesday 8th December – Reception and Year 1's Nativity (details to follow)
- Thursday 10th December – Christmas Lunch
- Friday 11th December – School treat – Key Strings
- Monday 14th December – Whole school to see Aladdin at the Buxton Opera House
- Wednesday 16th December – WBPS Talent Show (details to follow)
- Thursday 17th December – Party Day – children can wear party clothes/Christmas jumpers ☺
- Friday 18th December – Whole school carol service at the Holy Trinity Church at 1:30pm – all welcome
- Friday 18th December – school closes for the Christmas holidays
- Monday 4th January – INSET – school closed
- Tuesday 5th January – school open – children in