



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

Monday 14th September, 2015

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

Swimming

We are also welcoming back Mrs Goodall after returning from maternity leave. She will be working part time with Ms Ellis. Ms Ellis will be teaching Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Goodall will teach Thursdays and Fridays.

“Water Babies” will be running sessions every Monday afternoon from our pool. If you would like further details then please call 0161 928 6385 or visit <https://www.waterbabies.co.uk/> as sessions are booked directly with Water Babies and not with the school.

Recent letters

- **The Home-School agreement** is a lovely way of 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 Wednesday 16th 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, Mrs Chadwick, our SENCo, 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!

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.

Teachers 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 Laura Chadwick

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) – Miss Alexandra 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. The teachers have recently had training on uploading class information onto their page, please be patient as it may take a few days to appear!

www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

Tour of Britain



What an absolutely thrilling event! All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed cheering on the riders in the Tour of Britain. The children made and waved their flags with enthusiasm! Thank you to all parents who came along to help supervise the children.

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 by Ofsted and schools have to ensure national targets are met. If your child’s attendance is below 85% or is causing us concern, Educational Welfare will be involved.

Governments Fixed Penalty Notice

Penalties for unauthorised absence		
Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent	£60 per child = £120 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent	£120 per child = £240 per parent
After 28 days	You will be summoned to appear before the magistrates’ Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child’s regular attendance	You will be summoned to appear before the magistrates’ Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children’s regular attendance

www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence

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 8:55 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 the children in 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.

Signing in/out

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 and wear the visitor's sticker! Also, if you are coming to take your child for an appointment, please can you sign them in/out.

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 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 2016! Many secondary schools will be offering open days for Years 5 and 6, please look out for flyers.

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.

Good Behaviour

This year we have slightly tweaked our Behaviour Policy to reflect the children who are consistently good and well behaved. There will be a Super Pupil reward system. Once a week the class teacher will chose one child from their class to win this award. During celebration assembly, the child will receive a special sticker and card. The rewards are tiered going from bronze, silver and gold! ☺

Important September dates – please note that all dates can be found on the calendar on our website

Wednesday 16th – Meet the teacher evening 6pm

Friday 18th – Jeans for Genes day: children wear jeans on the bottoms and school uniform on the top: £1 donation

Saturday 19th – PTA & Miss Farrell - Whaley Wildlife Wander 2-4pm

Monday 21st – Oliver Twist play for KS1 and 2

Friday 25th – European Day of Languages

Thank you for your support

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher