Dear Parents/Carers

How this term has flown – it’s the Easter holidays already! Yet again, it’s been a busy month and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the activities that have been going on around school. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful, enjoyable Easter Break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school ready for the Summer Term on 9 April 2018.

AROUND SCHOOL

**Year 4’s Endangered Species Exhibition**

Year 4 invited their parent(s)/carer(s) to their art based exhibition just before half term. The children had focused on reusing materials only to make their selected creature. After a visit to see Val Hunt’s exhibition at Buxton Gallery based on reusing materials and their topic ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’, they did a fabulous job! The children used bottle tops, wrapping paper, buttons, foam and plastic trifle dishes. The staff, parents and classes were incredibly impressed and inspired, and we hope to display some of these fabulous creatures in the main corridor once it has had a new lick of paint! Do come in and take a look once they are on display!

**Year 4’s Walk to Tesco**

To complete the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle topic, Year 4 walked to Tesco’s to find out how the supermarket supports recycling and reducing waste. We had a tour behind the scenes to find out what happens to all the packaging and we were even offered a drink in their staff café where we spotted recycling bins for staff to use! The children also undertook a task to find out what their pre-planned meal was packaged in and how many food miles it had travelled. The children spotted lots of produce from the UK and it was great to hear that Tesco hope to introduce paper bags rather than continuing to use plastic bags in the fruit and vegetable aisle!
**World Book Day 2018**

Well, Whaley Bridge Primary School did it again – with another ‘booktastic’ World Book Day. The delay, due to the snowy weather, certainly didn’t cool the children’s enthusiasm and ideas - the staff and children alike looked fabulous, and ‘thank you’ to all parents/carers who no doubt had a major hand in creating many of the outfits! A photographer came from the Buxton Advertiser, and you can see more of the photographs we took on the school website.

Our World Book Day costume winners were:

Rec/1: Eliza (Golden Snitch)
Year 1: Eric (Mr Tall)
Year 2: Iona (Moaning Myrtle)
Year 3: Joel (Tintin)
Year 4F: Georgina (Bellatrix Lestrange)
Year 4W: Ariane & Zack (Weasley twins)
Year 5: Alex (Hagrid)
Year 6G: Ben (Grandpa Simpson)
Year 6M: Seren (Hagrid)

We also had a Door Competition - every class decorated their door with the Harry Potter theme. The winning doors were:

Infants: Year 1 (Potions)
Lower Juniors: Year 4F & W (The Owlery)
Upper Juniors: Year 6G (The Common Room)

Within the classes, the children undertook tasks such as using the sorting hat to find out what house they were in, making breadstick and cheesestring broomsticks, creating a patronus and persuasive writing about which house they felt they should be in. What fun! A reminder too - don’t forget to use your World Book Day voucher that came home in your child’s reading folder – use between the dates of 26th February – 25th March and don’t forget to look at the school website for more pictures of our fantastic day!
**Science Week**

Science week 2018 here at WBPS started with an experiment-filled assembly full of ‘ooooos’ and ‘ahhhs’! Later in the week, the children took part in a Science afternoon during which they moved around the classrooms taking part in lots of different activities. Read on to find out about some of the fantastic things they got up to!

Katie Fairs and her Mum introduced their pet chinchilla, Cedric to Year 4. Mrs Fairs talked Year 4 through how to care for a chinchilla, their babies, chinchillas in their natural habitat and their predators. The children had the opportunity to stroke the Cedric and hear the sound he makes if he feels a little bit worried.

Year 6M explained how they made lava lamps with Mrs Green out of Alka-Seltzer, water, food colouring and oil, then astro nappies with Miss Lomas made from paper, cotton wool, cotton and a plastic bag! They then spent time in Miss Carter’s class doing a pepper (or cinnamon) and soap experiment, seeing how the pepper expanded on the surface of a bowl of water when touched by their fingers covered in soap – all connected to surface tension! In the year 4 classrooms, they did fire experiments with Miss Farrell, who showed them how a candle goes out when it runs out of oxygen. She also showed them how mixing baking soda and vinegar in the same jar as a candle also puts out the flame by releasing carbon dioxide. In Miss Worsley’s classroom, the children looked at objects under a microscope, with a quiz to try and guess what some of the objects were, having been given some clues that they were household objects, but they look very different under a microscope!

Finally, in Miss Mansfield’s classroom, they undertook a bubble investigation. After making shapes with pipe cleaners, they dipped them in a bubbly, watery mixture and made a bubble inside the pipe cleaner, before trying to put their full arms through the bubble!

As you can see, during the course of Science Week, we had many weird, wonderful, educational and fun activities taking place around school. May I take the opportunity to thank those parents who gave up their time to come into school to help with some of these activities!

**Spellodrome Club**

The lunchtime Spellodrome group are really enjoying accessing this spelling resource on the Thinkpads! The group have been engaged on a weekly basis exploring the array of activities, games and challenges – all powered by the word lists set by the teachers! There is a Word Detective game, Crossword task, a Word List Workout and Words in Pieces puzzle but the group’s favourite area is the fast, and furious...**LIVE Spellodrome**, a real-time race challenge where the children are matched and compete with friends in their school, or players in classrooms on the other side of the world! Superb Spelling!
**Y5 & Y6 Sports Hall Athletics**

Our Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics team came first in the Chapel-en-le-Frith competition back in February which meant that they qualified for the High Peak final which took place on Friday 16th March. The team performed fantastically and we were very proud of their sportsmanship. The team came a brilliant second overall. Well done to all involved!

**Fire Safety Talks**

Our annual Fire Safety Talks, given to Years 6 and 2, took place on 19 & 21 March. Given by the Fire Service, they explain to the children in an easy-to-understand, age-appropriate manner, the dangers of fire and how to stay safe.

**Class 5L Assembly**

Miss Lomas’s class did a highly entertaining assembly on the theme of e-safety in the form of a Quiz, pitting myself and some of the Y5 class against Miss Berresford and other Y5 pupils. We all learned a lot about staying safe online, having fun at the same time – well done to everyone!

**Bugsy Malone – Chapel High School**

Years 5 & 6 were treated to a wonderful performance of Bugsy Malone at the high school, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! The singing and dancing was excellent, and the children were particularly impressed by the ‘splurge’ guns used by the gangsters!

**NSPCC ‘Speak Out Stay Safe’ Day**

The NSPCC came into school for the day to speak to everyone about their national campaign. There were two assemblies, one for each Key Stage, followed by workshops for Years 5 and 6, all on the theme of staying safe, understanding what is and isn’t appropriate behaviour by adults and other children, and what to do/who to talk to should they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. The day was informative, engaging, and here are some of the comments made by the children afterwards:

“I thought that it was very interesting and a good way to let kids now that if they have a problem, they can call Childline (0800 1111).”

“I found it very educational and entertaining.”

“I think that the NSPCC is a great company that helps children confidentially.”

“It was very kind of them to talk to us about things we need to be aware of.”

“I found that the people that came in to talk to us knew what they were talking about and were very precise.”

“It’s good that we now know the different kinds of abuse and what to do about it.”

**Easter Bonnet Parade & Egg Decorating Competition**

Yet again, the children wowed with their creative and fantastic headwear to celebrate spring and/or Easter and some ‘eggstraordinary’ decorated eggs. The ingenuity and engineering skills required for some of them are second to none and it is always a delightful way to end our term and get the Easter break under way. Judging both is always one of the hardest jobs of the year, so congratulations go to the winners, but well done to everyone who took part!
PTA Quiz & Curry Night

Back by popular demand – the PTA are hosting another Quiz & Curry night on Friday 13 April! Please return forms and payment to the school office as soon as possible or contact whaleybridgepta@gmail.com. Thank you.

Painting work

Work is still ongoing around the school, but is nearing completion of this initial phase. If you’ve been into school, I’m sure you’ll agree the corridors are looking much brighter. We have also had some raised beds built which Miss Farrell will be filling with wonderful things in the near future.

HOUSEKEEPING/NOTICES

Attendance

One of our key priorities is to improve attendance and punctuality for all children. Our whole school target is 97% and so far our overall attendance is at 96.5% - illness is still playing a part, and this is still above the national average, so keep it up and hopefully we will reach our target next time.

We continue to try and ensure that all children arrive to school on time, every day. If you are finding it tricky to get your children into school on time at 8:55am, please do come to us for help and guidance, we have lots of ideas and strategies to help make mornings a bit easier!

Notifying us of Absence

The easiest and most convenient way to let us know of an absence is via the texting service as this can be done any time of day or night. Alternatively, you can always ring school (01663 732354) and leave a message on the answerphone or email us on info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk. May we ask that, even if you have let your child’s teacher know if your child is not in school or is being collected at a particular time for an appointment, that you please inform the school office as well. If your child has an appointment and is not going to be in school for half a day or more, we will require a Request for Absence form completing and/or a letter from the doctor/hospital etc for our files. Thank you for your co-operation.

Payments for dinner money and school trips

DCC policy dictates that dinner money should be paid in advance, either weekly sent in on Mondays or the first day of the week should it be after a holiday, but preferably termly. Each child has an account on the system linked to their attendance, so any absences will be taken into account automatically and any overpayment will roll over to the following week. Reminders of outstanding balances are sent out weekly. Please follow this guide when sending money into school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dinner Money</th>
<th>Weekly or termly in advance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correct money</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In a sealed envelope with your child’s name, class, the amount enclosed written on it</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State that it is for Dinner Money on the envelope</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheques to be made payable to DCC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sealed envelopes can be put in the post box in the school reception area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Trips

| As requested | • Correct money  
• In a sealed envelope with your child’s name, class, the amount enclosed  
• State which trip it is for on the envelope  
• Cheques to be made payable to WBPS  
• Sealed envelopes can be put in the post box in the school reception area |

NB: If paying by cheque, please do NOT pay for dinner money and trips on the same cheque – please send two separate cheques as the payees are different

Also, please note that **two weeks’ notice**, requested via the school office, is required should your child wish to change from school lunches to sandwiches, or vice versa, regardless of whether they are eligible for FSM or UIFSM (key stage 1 free school meals).

Your co-operation in these matters is appreciated.

**Sickness & Diarrhoea**

In accordance with school policy, may we remind you that should your child suffer from either of these conditions, they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of illness. We need to adhere strictly to this in order to minimise the risk of spreading the illness further. Also, your child should not participate in swimming lessons for a period of 14 days after returning to school. Your co-operation in these matters is appreciated.

**After School/Holiday Club**

The ASC would like to refresh some of their equipment and so are planning to hold a few fundraising events for which they need your help.

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts or items, they would love to have them. Particularly, they are looking for any unopened toiletries, photo frames, socks, scarfs, slippers, drink or food sets, jewellery etc. They are also looking for any unwanted baskets/hampers of any size. Please hand in any donations to Suzanna and thank you for your support.

**Easter Holiday Club** will be available from **Monday 26 March to Thursday 29 March** and then from **Tuesday 3 April to Friday 6 April**. Please contact Suzanna King on 07894 235778 or via email at asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk, or via the After School Club (ASC) page on the school website or on Facebook.

Also, the After School Club continues to welcome donations of good quality toys or games as they are always looking to refresh the great pile of toys and activities they have. They would particularly benefit from Scalextric, Lego, Wooden Train Track and Balance Bikes, so if you have any of these, or other items on your pile for the charity shop then please do let Suzanna know (on 07894 235778 or email asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk). They would be very grateful!

**Contact details**

It is essential that we have up-to-date details for your child in case of emergencies, club cancellations, bad weather arrangements etc, so as a reminder, should your mobile telephone number, email or home address ever change, please make sure you let the office know at the earliest opportunity so we can update your child’s record. Thank you.

**Is your child eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)?**
Registering for free meals can raise an extra £1,300 for our school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff and after-school activities.

1. Is your joint family income under £16,190 per year?
2. If not, are you in receipt of any of the benefits listed below:
   - Income support?
   - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance?
   - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance?
   - Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration/Asylum Act?
   - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit?
   - Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190?
   - Working Tax Credit run-on?
   - Universal Credit?

If you answered ‘yes’ to either of the above, then please come to us immediately. If you are eligible, rest assured that the information is confidential. We are very discrete – even your child will not know that you have registered – let alone anyone else. Help us to help your child – contact us if you believe you qualify.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – April/May/June/July 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.4.18</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School re-opens – 8.55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.4.18-13.4.18</td>
<td>Wednesday-Friday</td>
<td>Class 5 Residential to Losehill Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.4.18</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Interim Reports out</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.4.18</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>PTA Quiz &amp; Curry Night</td>
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<td>17.4.18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Parents’ evening</td>
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<td>18.4.18</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Y2 Bramall Hall trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.4.18</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Parents’ evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.4.18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Class photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5.18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Bag-2-School collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.5.18</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School closed – BANK HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.5.18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>School re-opens – 8.55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.5.18</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Y6 Anti-bullying workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.5.18</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Y5 Anti-bullying workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.5.18</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Break up for Half Term – 3.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.6.18</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School re-opens – 8.55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.6.18 &amp; 7.6.18</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Wind in the Willows (Choir &amp; LV) – 6.15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.6.18-22.6.18</td>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Year 6 Residential to Lakeside</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.6.18</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sports Day: 9.30 am KS1; 1.30 pm KS2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.7.18</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>New Reception intake Parents’ meeting (tbc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.7.18</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Break up for the Summer Holidays – 3.30 pm *</td>
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Thank you for your continued support as we head towards the brighter days of early spring!

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher