



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

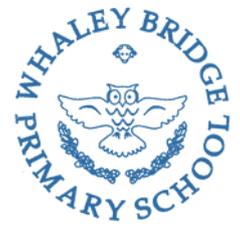
For every child, a chance to shine ★

Buxton Road, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7HX

Tel: 01663 732354 Fax: 01663 735014

Email: info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk



Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

27th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school! It is fantastic to see all our returning children and extend a huge Whaley Bridge welcome to everyone who is new to our school. I trust you all had a lovely holiday – I have heard so many wonderful stories of children's activities and trips during the summer break, but now it's time to settle down into a routine and begin our learning adventure for this year!

AROUND SCHOOL

Meet the Teacher Evening

We held our annual evening where you get the chance to meet your child's teacher in a more informal setting than a parents' evening and find out more about what your child will be doing over the coming year. Thank you to those of you who attended, and we hope you found the session(s) interesting and enlightening. As always, should you have any further questions, information may be found on our school website, in our School Brochure (also on the website) or you may contact your child's teacher and arrange an appropriate time to discuss with them any other issues you may have.

Extra-Curricular Activities

It is fantastic to see the number of children accessing the wide variety of extra-curricular clubs on offer at WBPS during lunch time and after school. The clubs have got off to a brilliant start. There are still spaces available in some clubs, should your child(ren) wish to join in, please complete and return the form, which can be downloaded from our website or hard copies are available from the reception area near the school office.

Danish Students

Every year, we host visits from groups of Danish students who are spending time in the UK staying with families of children at Chapel High School. This year is no exception and this week we have had two visits, where our year 6 and year 5 hosts were able to tell the Danish students what life is like in a UK primary school, and in turn learnt about Danish schools and customs from the students. Perfect timing to learn some Danish phrases which they could share with the rest of the school on MFL Day!

MFL Day

It was Modern Foreign Languages Day yesterday (Wednesday 26th September) – there have been lots of exciting activities going on around school – watch this space for pictures and details in our next newsletter.

New Projector and Sound System

To further add to our refurbishments and upgrades around School, we have had a new projector and sound system installed in the Hall today, we are very excited to start using it.

Stand up Derbyshire with HPSSP

We are joining other Schools across Derbyshire and pledging to be more active during the school day on Friday 28th September. We will be taking part by holding an active assembly, building short bursts of physical activity into the school day; making lessons such as Maths and English active; running playground challenges and organising lunchtime activities.

Goalposts

The metal goalposts that used to be in the playground have been removed and are no longer required by school. Should anyone be interested in making use of them (measuring approx. 13' x 6' each), please let us know.

Photographs

Tuesday 2nd October - The photographer will be visiting the school during the school day to take individual and sibling photographs. Please ensure children are wearing full uniform and their best smiles. Due to timescales please be aware this is only for in school siblings.

Parents Evening

Dates for your diary; Tuesday 16th October 3.45-5.00pm and Thursday 18th October 6.00-8.00pm. Letters will be sent out soon to arrange your appointment(s).

Bikeability

Once again our Year 5 children will have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability training, run by qualified Cycle Safety Instructors. Thank you for all interest already shown. Children will work towards gaining their Level 1 and 2 certificates in cycle safety. Further information will be available over the coming weeks, to confirm dates, consent and arrangements.

Online safety

There have recently been two instances where pupils from our School have been approached/contacted by strangers whilst gaming online at home. Learning about staying safe online is embedded in our curriculum and regularly addressed in events such as whole school assemblies and sessions with external speakers. Vigilance is key and we ask you to please support us with this and use the brilliant tools on our website to have conversations with your child(ren).

Admissions

It's time to start thinking about applying for Reception and Year 7 places for September 2019! 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 2014 and 31 August 2015 they will be eligible to start school in September 2019. You will be able to make your application from 12th November 2018 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 2007 and 31 August 2008 and is in their last year of primary school you should apply for their secondary school place by 31 October 2018. You will be able to make your application either online at: <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions> or by phone: 01629 537479

Pantomime

Yes, it will soon be that time of year again! Following the success of last year, we will again have the pantomime visiting us for the whole school to enjoy. This will be on Monday 17th December. Letters will follow later on in the term with details.

School Trips

Letters have been sent via Parentpay to request deposits for the residential trips we hope to run this academic year. Thank you for those deposits already received. Please note the deadlines for deposits and registered interest;

Y4 – Losehill - by 5th October 2018

Y6 – Lea Green - by 12th October 2018

As ever, class teachers are planning lots of fun trips and activities to complement the curriculum this year. Please look out for further details which will be added to the school website and consent letters communicated nearer the time.

Staff Update

May I extend a very warm welcome to Miss Cooling who has joined our team and is teaching Year 3 – hopefully, some of you with children in that class will have already met her, but if not, you will get the chance at parents' evening in October.

Whaley Bridge Parkrun

Whaley Bridge junior parkrun is a free 2k event for children aged between 4 and 14. It happens every Sunday at 9.30 am in Whaley Bridge Memorial Park. It is open to all, free and safe and children can run, jog, walk, skip or hop around the course. It is one of 244 events around the world and has been running in Whaley Bridge for nearly 3 years.



All you need to do is sign your child up online at www.parkrun.org.uk/register. You can then print off their personal barcode which you need to bring each time they run so that they can get their time. You don't need to advise anyone in advance, just turn up on the day with your barcode. It isn't a race, it's about having fun, making friends and getting active. Juniors earn wristbands after they have run a half marathon (11 runs), a marathon (21 runs) and Ultra Marathon (50 runs). They can also help out setting up, marshalling and cheering. Everyone is welcome so why not give it a try next Sunday?

HOUSEKEEPING/NOTICES

Communication

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 or texting school to make an appointment. If more convenient this could take the form of a telephone appointment.

A member of the Leadership team (Mrs Walton, Mrs Heyes, Mrs Chadwick, Mrs Baxby and Miss Cooling) will be available on the playground at the beginning or end of the day if you wish to have a quick chat or want to say hello.

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, policies, medicine and leave of absence forms etc. www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

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.

Lesson ready

Please remind your children about the importance of being lesson ready every day. To limit disruption to the timetable, it is important that PE kits, swimming kits and instruments are in school for the beginning of the day. Text reminders and phone calls to request forgotten items will no longer be made.

Similarly may we ask that as far as possible, your child care arrangements for after school are organised before the children come into school. We do, however, understand that sometimes emergency situations arise. Thank you for your ongoing support with these matters.

ParentPay

The ParentPay system is now live and we will no longer be accepting payments by cash or cheque in school. Thank you to those of you who have activated your accounts – at the time of going to press, **there are only 11 accounts yet to be activated**– if that's you, **please** log on with the username and password provided so that you will be ready to receive communication from us via the system in the near future, as well as be able to pay for school dinners, trips, book bags, Christmas lunches etc.

DCC and our school policy are still in place, dictating that dinner money should be paid IN ADVANCE and the school will be notified by ParentPay should your account fall into arrears.

Similarly, please note that the **two weeks' notice**, requested via the school office, is still 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).

!! Parental Permissions !!

A reminder text was sent to those of you who have still not returned the new permission forms. Please can you send them into school **as soon as possible** – if we don't have up-to-date permissions on file for your child, they may have to miss out on certain events or opportunities. If you have lost the form that came home, you can download it from the school website or pick one up from the rack in the School Office reception area. Thank you.

Parking on school premises/collecting children from school

May we ask that all parents/carers note that the turning circle and new gate is strictly for the use of staff, visitors and disabled access. Parents must continue to park on the road and walk down the ramp. Also, when collecting children from extra-curricular activities, parents are requested to wait at the locked gated entrance and not walk into the school grounds. Only parents collecting children from After School Club in the creative classroom/ER building should be on the school grounds. We thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

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 **97.38%** - 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!

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.

Notifying us of Absence

The easiest and most convenient way to let us know of an absence is via the **texting service** (which will soon be via Parentpay) 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. Forms can be downloaded from the school website or are available in the reception area of the school office.

Authorised absence can cover a bout of illness, appointments, a religious observance, close family bereavement or absence due to exceptional circumstances.

The fundamental principles for defining "exceptional circumstances" are that they are rare, significant, unavoidable and short.

Holidays are therefore not considered exceptional circumstances as it is an event that could be rescheduled outside of term-time.

The DfE 2013 amendments make it very clear that schools may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless "exceptional circumstances" prevail.

Applications for a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances form can be found on our website obtained from our school office.

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.

Polite reminder

Although social networking sites may appear to be the quickest and easiest way to express frustrations or concerns about the School, it is rarely appropriate to do so. As always, we are here to listen and help, so please do come into school and talk to us about your concerns. Please speak to the office to arrange an appointment if more convenient.

Before you post on:



THINK

- T** = Is it true?
- H** = Is it helpful?
- I** = Is it inspiring?
- N** = Is it necessary?
- K** = Is it kind?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – September 2018-January 2019

SEPTEMBER 2018		
3.9.18-4.9.18	Monday-Tuesday	INSET DAYS
5.9.18	Wednesday	School re-opens – 8.55 am
18.9.18	Tuesday	Meet the teacher evening 6-8pm
21.9.18	Friday	European Day of Languages assembly
26.9.18	Wednesday	MFL day
28.9.18	Friday	Stand up Derbyshire - HPSSP
OCTOBER 2018		
2.10.18	Tuesday	School photos (Individual & Sibling)
5.10.18	Friday	Y6 Assembly
12.10.18	Friday	Class 5L Assembly
16.10.18	Tuesday	Parents Evening 3.45-5.00pm
18.10.18	Thursday	Parents Evening 6.00-8.00pm
19.10.18	Friday	Class 5TW Assembly – Black History Month
25.10.18	Thursday	Class 1/2B & Class 1/2E Assembly
29.10.18-2.11.18	Week	Half Term
NOVEMBER 2018		
5.11.18	Monday	School reopens
7.11.18	Wednesday	Bag-2-School Collection
9.11.18	Friday	Poppy/Remembrance Assembly – Y6
12.11.18-16.11.18	Monday-Friday	Anti-bullying Week
16.11.18	Friday	Children in Need
26.11.18-29.12.18*	Monday-Thursday	Bikeability Y5 *group info to follow
30.11.18	Friday	Y3 Assembly
DECEMBER 2018		
3.12.18-4.12.18*	Monday-Tuesday	Bikeability Y5 *group info to follow
7.12.18	Friday	Y4 Assembly
12.12.18	Wednesday	Nativity
13.12.18	Thursday	Key Strings
14.12.18	Friday	Christmas Dinner
17.12.18	Monday	Panto in school
18.12.18	Tuesday	Christmas Parties
19.12.18	Wednesday	Christmas Carol Concert, Holy Trinity Church, 1.30 pm
19.12.18	Wednesday	Break up for Christmas
JANUARY 2019		
7.1.19	Monday	School reopens
11.1.19	Friday	Reception Assembly
25.1.19	Friday	Y6 Assembly

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher