



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

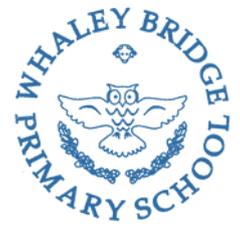
For every child, a chance to shine ★

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

26th October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We are already at the end of our first half term and I can't believe the time has gone so quickly. Below is a flavour of some of the activities that have been going on around school in the last few weeks, as well as a reminder of things coming up and some of our day-to-day 'housekeeping' routines, which may have changed slightly, so please take the time to read about them, just in case ...

AROUND SCHOOL

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to those of you who came along to speak with your child's class teacher last week – we hope it was useful for you to discuss the progress and future goals of your child(ren). As stated, if you require a further meeting to discuss specific issues in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact the teacher to arrange a convenient time. Thank you, also, to those of you who updated contact details at the same time.



MFL Day

It was Modern Foreign Languages Day at the end of September and there were lots of exciting activities going on around school – each class was assigned a different language and devised activities for other classes to do on a 'round robin' basis, so everyone got to have a go at several languages. Here, for example here children looked at body part names in a variety of languages. Magnifique!



Traversing Wall

For those of you who may not have seen it, please take the time to have a look at the amazing mural that has been painted on the side wall of the ER building by local artists Rob Wilson and Lyndsey Selley. The funds to create the climbing wall were raised by the PTA in association with Tesco Bags of Help, and therefore many of our parents and friends, and there was an official 'grand opening' of the wall on 25 October 2018 at which the Buxton Advertiser was present so hopefully you will see us in the local press sometime soon! It is a wonderful addition to the school, so our thanks go to everyone who helped practically on site or by attending fund-raising events, and to Rob and Lyndsey for giving up some of their summer to create such a masterpiece.

Online safety information evening: Thursday 6th December @ 6:30pm

Online safety is an issue that affects all of us with children who play games or have the use of a smartphone, whatever their age. Thank you to those of you who completed our online questionnaire – following the results of that, we are going to be running a session for parents where an expert in the field of keeping children safe online will be updating us all on how we can help our children stay safe, explain to us how our children's safety can so easily be compromised and what signs to look out for that may indicate a potential issue. School staff have already undergone this training, and we can't stress enough how important it is for all parents, even those whose children are only very young and who feel they are extremely 'tech-savvy', to be aware of what is out there. So please, do come along, we will have a crèche available.

Healthy Schools Award / Eco Council

As a school, we have been working towards achieving a Healthy Schools Award and we should hear soon whether we have achieved it – watch this space. Our focus has been on encouraging the children to live a healthy lifestyle and make good choices in an effort to stay fit and well in all aspects of their day-to-day lives.

Also, our Eco Council has been awarded a Silver Award for their efforts in promoting 'greener' lifestyles and for their efforts in running Energy Week last year and organising our TravelSmart initiatives. Well done to Mrs Jacevicius and all those pupils involved!

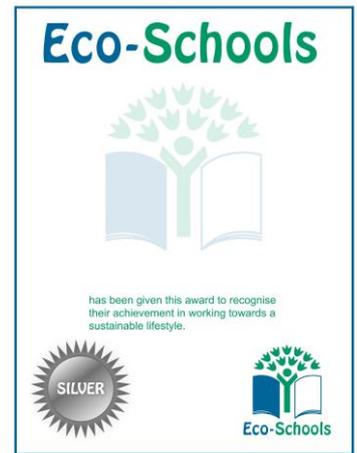


Table manners

One of our big drives at the moment is to encourage our children to have beautiful table manners – this includes using cutlery and crockery correctly and appropriately, being mindful of how they sit and eat at a table, being considerate of other diners around them and encouraging healthy food choices. All staff are on the lookout for those children who conduct themselves in this way and they are rewarded with stickers celebrating this. It would also really help your child if you could please continue with this when they are at home.

Y6 Class Assembly

Year 6 treated us to an assembly based around the book 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio. The children have been considering what makes us 'individuals', not simply looking at external appearances but how we differ from each other emotionally, as well as thinking about what sort of person we want to be now and in the future. The assembly was extremely entertaining and thought-provoking – well done Year 6!

Y5L & Y5TW Class Assemblies

Both year 5 classes gave us enchanting assemblies based on the theme of 'magic'. There were delightful costumes, amazing singing and dialogue, all made even more mystical by the use of our super-duper new sound system. Both classes worked really hard and their efforts gave parents/carers and school alike most entertaining assemblies – great job Miss Lomas, Mrs Thirsk & Mrs Wilson!



Y1&2 Assembly

Pirate Emsley & Pirate Baxby, along with their pirate crew, performed a fantastic assembly taking us on a swashbuckling journey across the seas with rousing songs and super speaking! They stayed in costume to spend an action-packed day of activities on a pirate theme including making pirate/beach 'snow globes' and peg mermaid dolls – what a brilliant time was had by all!



Sports Tournament updates

Some of our children older children recently took part in a football tournament at Chapel High School. Here is a report written by Flossie and Jasmine about the event:



“The girls’ football tournament had a great atmosphere. There was some ace scoring and amazing teamwork. There were 8 girls competing from our school. We played against Chinley, Taxal and Buxworth. The girls overall came 2nd. The boys also did extremely well – there were some epic saves and amazing teamwork. There were 7 amazing boys and some top goal scorers – they also came 2nd overall.”

Thank you, girls, for the report – sounds like everyone taking part did really well and had a great time.



PTA Hallowe'en Disco

Thanks to the PTA for organising the Hallowe'en disco – the decorations in the hall were beautifully autumnal and a marvellous, noisy time was had by all! Thank you to those parents and staff who helped on the night to make it an enjoyable event for all the children.

Flu Vaccine

For those of you who have returned the forms confirming you wish your child to be vaccinated, you may be interested in a document we have been sent outlining the possible side effects after receiving the vaccine and how to deal with them. Please follow the link below, or just take a look on the school website under Whole School Letters. Thank you.

<http://whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Advice-slip-for-schools-and-parents-flu-vaccine.pdf>

Vacancy – Mid-day Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a Mid-day supervisor. The advert, with further information and an application form, can be found on the Derbyshire website or by following this link;

<https://jobs.derbyshire.gov.uk/education-non-teachingsupport-services-contract-midday-supervisor/14589.job>

Reception intake – September 2019 – Open Day

We are holding an Open Day on Wednesday 7 November 2018 for parents of prospective reception children to come and have a look round the school – see the school website for more information. Appointment times are 9.30 am, 11.00 am, 1.15 pm & 2.30 pm. Please contact the school office to book onto one of the tours, and if you know anyone with children who will be starting school next year who may wish to come and see us, please let them know about the Open Day. Thank you.

Admissions

Don't forget to apply for school places for Reception and Year 7 places for September 2019!

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

Staff Update

It is with sadness that we say 'goodbye' to Mrs Cheadle, one of our Teaching Assistants, who is taking early retirement at the end of this month. We thank her for all of her hard work over her 17 years at the school, and wish her well with her future plans.

HOUSEKEEPING/NOTICES

Communication

Our school website is 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.

<http://whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

Parent Hub

You will all have received information about downloading the Parent Hub app in order to receive communication from us in future – most of you have now done so, but if you haven't activated or verified your number, please do so as soon as possible to avoid missing out on vital information from school. If you do not have a smartphone that enables you to use apps, you will have been sent information about how to ensure we have an up-to-date email address instead. Our Teachers2Parents system is no longer available.

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.

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 9 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 97.2 % - 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

This can be done at any time of day or night via the following means:

- Email us – either via ParentPay or on info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk
- Ring us – on 01663 732354 – you can leave a message on the answerphone if it is out of school hours.

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 – November 2018-January 2019

OCTOBER 2018		
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
7.11.18	Wednesday	Reception 2019 Open Day
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
23.11.18	Friday	Non-uniform day – chocolate/sweets for PTA Xmas Fair tombola
23.11.18	Friday	PTA Xmas Fair 5.00-7.30 pm
23.11.18	Friday	Choir singing at Xmas Tree Festival, Trinity Church 6.30/6.45 pm
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

Wishing you all a restful half-term break, and as ever, thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher