



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

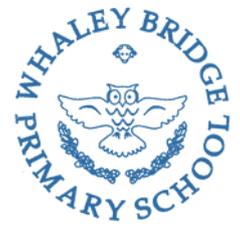
For every child, a chance to shine ★

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)



19 December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It's Christmas! This year has absolutely flown by, and as ever, we have had an action-packed year, and a fun-filled December. Check out some of the events that have been happening around school during December ...

AROUND SCHOOL

Online safety information evening

Thank you to those parents who came along to the e-safety information evening – we hope you found it informative and useful, and that you now feel better equipped to help your child access the internet in a safe and secure way.

Christmas activities

There have been loads of exciting activities going on around school in the run up to Christmas, including Christmas Dinner and Jumper day, the visiting pantomime, party day and our annual performance from Key Strings– as you can see, fun was had by all! KS1 even had a visit from Santa! Hopefully, it was a great way to get the children in a Christmassy mood before the holidays.



Key Strings!



Y5 Magical Sleepover



Wow – what a day and night that was! Year 5 spent the day enjoying a range of activities, followed by supper and an evening of magical films and a sleepover in the hall. Thank you to the Year 5 Team for organising the whole event, and for the children for making it a special evening.



High Peak Radio Festive Song Competition

Don't forget, our Choir & Little Voices are taking part in High Peak Radio's Festive Song competition. Their song has already been played on the radio and there will be further opportunities to hear it throughout December (106.4FM & 103.3FM).



Most importantly, remember to vote for it! You can vote for your school between 1 and 31 December 2018 by emailing the following address: schools@highpeakradio.co.uk and remember to include the name of the school for which you are voting. Alternatively, you can ring 01298 813377 between 8.00 am-12.00 noon, Monday to Friday. Please note, there can only be one vote per person or email address. Voting closes on 31 December 2018.

The winning school will get a live radio show broadcast from the school on a day of the school's choosing – so get voting! Don't forget to tell you family and friends to listen and vote for Whaley Bridge's festive song!

Sports Tournament updates

Our football and boccia teams were primed and ready to go But unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas! All area sports schedule for December had to be cancelled because of bad weather, but hopefully they will be rearranged in the new year.

Surprise presents for the ER

Having entered a competition on facebook, Mrs Casey became the proud owner of some fantastic replica Husqvarna power tools, kindly donated by World of Power in Buxton. These have now found a home in the ER, and a great time is being had by all – strimming, sawing and pruning!



Reception intake – September 2019 – Admissions

A reminder that 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.

Applications must be made **by 15 January 2019**.

WBPS Holiday Club

Whaley Bridge Holiday Club will be open on both inset days in the run-up to Christmas, 20th and 21st December. We will be open from 8.00 am offering a range of Christmas-related activities. Demand is likely to be high so please book now to avoid disappointment. Suzanna the manager can be reached on 07894 235778.



We will be closed for the rest of the school holidays, partly due to refurbishment. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused. We look forward to seeing you again in 2019. Many thanks for your continued support of our not-for-profit club.

Mid-day Supervisors

We are always on the look-out for Mid-day supervisors, so if you feel you have the requisite skills and time available, please contact Mrs Sowerby in the school office for more details on info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk or ring 01663 732354.



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

Thank you all for downloading the Parent Hub app in order to receive communication from us in future. If you haven't activated or verified your number yet, please do so **as soon as possible** otherwise you will miss out on vital information from school eg trips, snow closures, events etc.

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 the 96% of you who have activated your accounts – if you haven't yet done so, **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. **Please remember to circle the relevant permissions and date and sign the back of the form, whether you have made changes or not.** 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 enter school down the ramp. No children, unless being dropped by authorised taxis or with prior permission for a specific reason, should be coming through the car park.

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 **97.3%** - illness is still playing a part, and this is still above the national average, so keep it up to ensure we reach our target next time too.

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, 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 – January 2019-February 2019

JANUARY 2019		
7.1.19	Monday	School reopens
11.1.19	Friday	Reception Assembly
18.1.19	Friday	Y4 Assembly
25.1.19	Friday	Y6 Assembly
FEBRUARY 2019		
1.2.19	Friday	Y5L Assembly
8.2.19	Friday	Y5TW Assembly
18.2.19-22.2.19	Monday-Friday	Half Term holiday
25.2.19	Monday	School reopens

MARCH 2019		
1.3.19	Friday	World Book Day
8.3.19	Friday	Y4 Assembly
11.3.19	Monday	Fire Safety Talks – Y2 & Y6
15.3.19	Friday	Y3 Assembly
18.3.19-22.3.19	Monday-Friday	Y6 Residential - Lea Green
22.3.19	Friday	Y1/2B Assembly
29.3.19	Friday	Y1/2E Assembly
29.3.19	Friday	Interim Reports

Thank you for your continued support and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Festive Season and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher