



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

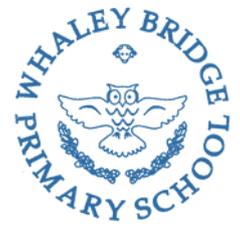
For every child, a chance to shine ★

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

30th November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, we've had Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Children in Need – that must mean it's nearly Christmas! Where has the time gone? As we start gathering pace with pre-Christmas activities, there is still a lot of hard work going on around school and events taking place – check out some of the latest.

AROUND SCHOOL

OFSTED Inspection

As you are all aware, our OFSTED inspection took place this week. We would like to thank those of you who took the time to complete the parent surveys or who spoke to the inspectors in person, and your children for completing the pupil surveys. Thank you also to all the staff who worked extremely hard to provide the required information. You will, of course, be notified with the results in the next few weeks.

Online safety information evening: Thursday 6th December @ 6:30pm – DON'T FORGET!

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.

Derbyshire Healthy Schools Community Award

Last month, we told you that as a school, we have been working towards achieving a Healthy Schools Award and 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. Well I am delighted to announce that we have achieved that award – well done everyone, especially Mrs Jacevicius who co-ordinated the project and submitted our application! Keep it up!



Swimming Pool update

Good news – repairs are now booked for the pool next Thursday 6/Friday 7 December 2018. Hopefully, this will be an end to the issues we have had and swimming lessons can continue as normal from 10 December 2018.

Anti-bullying week

Anti-bullying week ran from 12-16 November 2018 and during that week, children engaged in all sorts of workshops, discussions and activities looking at different forms of bullying, how to recognise it and what to do about it. They were also treated to a fantastic performance by Caboodle, an educational performing arts group, with a thought-provoking and informative story around respect for others. Thank you to everyone involved in organising events over the week.

Bikeability

Once more our Year 5s have been enjoying Bikeability training, learning how to ride their bicycles safely on the roads. We hope those children who have already taken part enjoyed their sessions, despite some of them being in the pouring rain! Well done to everyone who took part and good luck to those participating next week.

Poppy Appeal – Remembrance Assembly

Year 6 gave us a very moving and thought-provoking assembly on Remembrance Day, accompanied by some fantastic, decorated poppies and wreath which they had made – a fitting tribute – and we hope those parents who attended enjoyed it. A huge thank you to everyone who purchased poppies too – our school contributed £73.10 from their sale to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal – thank you!

Children in Need

Yet again, our school supported Children in Need in its usual, generous way. The Choir and Little Voices did a marathon session of singing at the Trafford Centre – and even had the strength and voice to carry on in the playground when they returned to school! The PTA generously donated the toast sales to the cause and with the donations from children at school, we raised a massive £2,266.40, which takes our total amount raised since we began supporting Children in Need to £57,633! A huge thank you to everyone who took part, whether it was organising, singing, baking or donating – including the children who came to school with funky hair or sporting wacky headgear or Pudsey ears – you all looked wonderful, and for such a worthwhile cause. Also, thank you to the After School Club who had a delicious cake sale after school too – well done!

Christmas Tree Festival

This annual festival at Trinity Church is a delight, and this year was no exception. Our ER children decorated a tree, and the Choir and Little Voices sang in celebration of the event at the church on Friday evening. Thank you to everyone involved.

High Peak Radio Festive Song Competition

Once more, our Choir & Little Voices will be taking part in High Peak Radio's Festive Song competition. Their song has already been recorded, so listen out for it being played every other day on the radio 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!

PTA Christmas Fair

Thank you to the PTA for organising a wonderful Xmas Fair last week – all the usual festive treats to get us firmly in the mood for Christmas. We hope those of you that came along enjoyed yourselves.

PTA Notices

Thanks so much for everyone who came along and enjoyed or helped the Christmas Fair last week – we have raised a whopping £1750 to help support school!!!! Truly incredible!!!! Thank you so much.....more exciting events to come of course in 2019.



Giant mural painted on side of Whaley Bridge school doubles as a climbing wall



Did you see the picture in the paper? Helping us celebrate our wonderful mural and traverse wall.

TESCO Bags of Help

Sports Tournament updates

We entered mixed Y3 and Y4 teams in a Boccia Tournament at Chapel High School, which was enjoyed by all, and one of our teams came 2nd overall – a great team effort by everyone involved. Unfortunately, the scheduled football competition was postponed due to high winds, but has been rearranged for December – so watch this space!

Flu Vaccine

For those of you who have returned the forms confirming you wish your child to be vaccinated (nasal spray), the vaccinations will be taking place on **3 December 2018**. 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>

Reception intake – September 2019 – Open Day and Admissions

We held a successful Open Day during November for parents wishing to view the school, prior to applying for a primary place for their child for next September. A second date will be scheduled for December. 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 **97.4%** - 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 – December 2018-January 2019

DECEMBER 2018		
3.12.18-4.12.18*	Monday-Tuesday	Bikeability Y5
7.12.18	Friday	Y4 Assembly
11.12.18	Tuesday	Nativity !! Please note change of date !!
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