



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

For every child, a chance to shine ★

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

31 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Well, the New Year has well and truly begun, and we are already a month down, but how quickly has that gone! The cold snap and snow reminded us that it is still winter – fingers crossed we don't have too many more snowy downpours. However, if we do, please remember to check out the school website for details of possible snow closures and ParentHub for up-to-date messages. Don't forget that children need to bring in suitable footwear (wellies/snow boots) as well as their school shoes to be allowed to play outside.

It's been a relatively quiet month in school, as January always is, so there are just a few things on which I can report to you so far this year ...

AROUND SCHOOL

Y4F Assembly

Wow – what a fabulous assembly based around the theme of spying and detectives, with some 'sleuthtastic' investigative work – particularly in relation to catching the naughty chocolate thief! Well done to everyone for a most amusing and informative assembly.

Y6 Assembly

We stepped back in time with Y6's assembly which treated us to a World War II 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' show. We heard some marvellous rapping and singing, and there was ultimately a millionaire winner! Thank you to everyone in Y6 for an enlightening and entertaining assembly.

Drumming Assembly

How amazing to listen to the Year 4 Djembe drummers, who haven't been playing very long, make such wonderful music. They entertain the whole school every Friday afternoon with their rhythmic beats and singing, so it was fantastic that so many of you managed to come along and listen to how much they have learnt in such a short space of time, and witness the enthusiasm they show when they are playing. Well done, Year 4 – can't wait to see what you do with the samba drums next term!

Take Part In The Arts

Y6 are currently part way through a course of drama sessions, provided by Take Part In The Arts from New Mills. Each session has a different focus, so far including teamwork, emotional health and well-being and coping strategies, particularly in connection with the transition from primary school to secondary school. The children are engaging with these sessions and there have been some fantastic role plays and interaction between the children – well done Y6!

NSPCC Number Day – 1 February 2019

A reminder that we are taking part in the NSPCC's Number Day on **Friday 1 February 2019** where the children will enjoy lots of fun, maths-based activities and games. For a suggested donation of £1, we will also be taking part in **Dress up for Digits** and pupils will be invited to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!) or to dress up as a digit themselves! Thank you for your support for this – more information on our website or just follow the link below:

<http://whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NSPCC-Number-Day-2019.pdf>

WBPS Holiday Club

Bookings now being taken for Holiday Club - 18-22 February 2019.

Please note - the Club will only be open on days when there is sufficient demand so it is in your best interests to book well in advance. The closing date for bookings is Friday 8 February 2019.



For more information, please ask a member of the After School staff or ring 07894 235778 or check out our Facebook page. Thank you.

Farewell

We are saying a farewell to our Teaching Assistant and MDA, Ms Bush who has decided to leave Whaley Bridge Primary School after 6 years. We know that she will be sorely missed and wish her all the best in her new venture.

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. The 2019/20 School Calendar has been updated on the website, including details of inset dates, so please take a look. A PDF version is attached to this newsletter too.

<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 97% 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 97.06% - 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 – February 2019-April 2019

FEBRUARY 2019		
1.2.19	Friday	Y5L Assembly
1.2.19	Friday	NSPCC Number Day - £1 donation
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 – dress up as a favourite book character
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
APRIL 2019		
5.4.19	Friday	Reception Assembly
9.4.19	Tuesday	Parents' Evening
10.4.19	Wednesday	Class Photographs
11.4.19	Thursday	Parents' Evening
12.4.19	Friday	Easter Bonnet Parade / Break up for Easter holidays
29.4.19	Monday	School reopens

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs Fay Walton
Headteacher



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Term Dates 2019-2020

September 2019							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35	30						1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

October 2019							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November 2019							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2019							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48	30	31					1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

January 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28	29	

March 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	30	31					1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

April 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

August 2020							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31	31					1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

School Holiday Dates
 Bank Holidays
 Inset Days (School Closed to Pupils)