



# WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

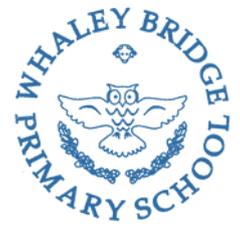
For every child, a chance to shine ★

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## Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

28 February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after half term – I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable time, especially with such unseasonably lovely weather! We are back to it, in full flow already with lots to look forward to in the run up to Easter. Here is a brief summary of what happened during February.

### **AROUND SCHOOL**

#### **Class 5L Assembly**

How fantastic to learn all about the true story of Aida's violin! The children on Class 5L told us all about the residents of a poor town in Paraguay which made musical instruments from items found in landfill and created the Recycled Orchestra, which now plays in concert venues all over the world. The children also made their own instruments from recycled materials. What a marvellous idea, and a marvellous assembly!

#### **Class 5TW Assembly**

Continuing with a South American theme, Class 5L showed us Sublime South America, enacting the story of the book Journey to the River Sea. They danced and sang their way through this fantastic journey, and shared some of their fantastic artwork with us. Well done to everyone!

#### **NSPCC Number Day**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our number-based day, dressing up in number-themed costumes and taking part in some fun number-based quizzes, competitions and games. Everyone had a great time, and we raised around £145.00 for the NSPCC in the process!

#### **Internet Safety Assembly**

Mr Emsley conducted an assembly, explaining to children how they can best stay safe online, only visiting age-appropriate sites and playing age-appropriate games. Should you need any information on staying safe online, please visit [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) for more information.

#### **World Book Day**

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for this year will be Bedtime Stories. Children and staff are welcome to dress up in their onesies or pyjamas and bring in their favourite bedtime story (past or present.) If children would prefer to dress up as their favourite book character, that is fine with us. ☺ There will be many exciting reading activities going on throughout the day.

#### **MOMO**

On the subject of internet safety and awareness, you should all have received a message via ParentHub about the recent reports of seemingly innocent videos appearing on YouTube/YouTube Kids which are anything but! If you have any concerns, please check out the following link for more information.

[parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge](http://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge)

## WBPS After School Club

The After School & Breakfast Club is always available for bookings.

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



## 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](mailto: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 **96.93 %** - 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](mailto: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.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – March 2019-April 2019

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?

<b>MARCH 2019</b>		
<b>7.3.19</b>	Thursday	World Book Day
<b>8.3.19</b>	Friday	Y4 Assembly- <b>cancelled</b>
<b>11.3.19</b>	Monday	Fire Safety Talks – Y2 & Y6
<b>15.3.19</b>	Friday	Y3 Assembly
<b>18.3.19-22.3.19</b>	Monday-Friday	Y6 Residential - Lea Green
<b>22.3.19</b>	Friday	Y1/2B Assembly
<b>29.3.19</b>	Friday	Y1/2E Assembly
<b>29.3.19</b>	Friday	Interim Reports
<b>APRIL 2019</b>		
<b>3.4.19-5.4.19</b>	Wednesday-Friday	Y4 Residential - Losehill
<b>5.4.19</b>	Friday	Reception Assembly
<b>9.4.19</b>	Tuesday	Parents' Evening
<b>10.4.19</b>	Wednesday	Class Photographs
<b>11.4.19</b>	Thursday	Parents' Evening
<b>12.4.19</b>	Friday	Easter Bonnet Parade / Break up for Easter holidays
<b>29.4.19</b>	Monday	School reopens
<b>MAY 2019</b>		
<b>13.5.19-16.5.19</b>	Monday-Thursday	SATS week
<b>16.5.19</b>	Thursday	Y4/Rec Theatre visit
<b>24.5.19</b>	Friday	School closes for Half Term
<b>JUNE 2019</b>		
<b>3.6.19</b>	Monday	School re-opens
<b>23.6.19</b>	Sunday	Well Dressing Blessing
<b>24.6.19</b>	Monday	New Reception Intake Parents' meeting

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)