



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

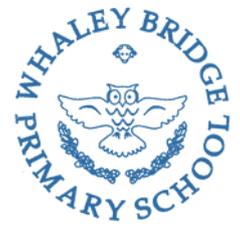
For every child, a chance to shine ★

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Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

29 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now in full swing and March has been a busy old month around school. As we rush headlong towards Easter, here is a taste of what has been happening over the last few weeks.

AROUND SCHOOL

Reminder - Maths Topic Sharing morning!

Please come and join us on **Monday 8 April 2019** between 9.00-10.30 am for a fun-filled morning where your children will have the opportunity to share their maths learning with you.

The PTA will be providing refreshments, so we do hope you will be able to make it - please come to the hall after dropping off your child/ren.

Year 1/2 Assembly

Thank you, Years 1 and 2, for a rousing dinosaur-themed assembly! All the children performed with such confidence, gave us some interesting facts about dinosaurs, showed us their fantastic dinosaur pictures and 'walked the dinosaur' with ground-stomping enthusiasm – brilliant!

Year 3 Assembly

Y3 took us back in time to Ancient Egypt in tremendous style – such fantastic costumes! It was a multi-media experience, with a video of how to mummify a body, looking at timelines, hieroglyphics, guessing the height of pyramids and a rousing song to close. What a brilliant and informative assembly, Year 3 – well done!

ER Trip to White Hall

Despite the inclement weather, the children from the ER unit spent an action-packed day of outdoor adventures at the White Hall Outdoor Activities Centre, Buxton. The activities included treasure hunts, climbing, orienteering and rides on a zip wire! Everyone got a bit wet and soggy, but the main thing was everyone had a fantastic time!

Annual Harry Potter Quiz

This week saw the annual Harry Potter Quiz, and as ever, it was a highly competitive event. Amelie proved to be a worthy opponent, but in a close-run, hard fought battle, Mrs Walton came out on top by a mere 1 point. The result was independently verified by some impartial Y6 pupils, but well done to both Mrs Walton and Amelie for having such in-depth knowledge of the world of Harry Potter!



World Book Day

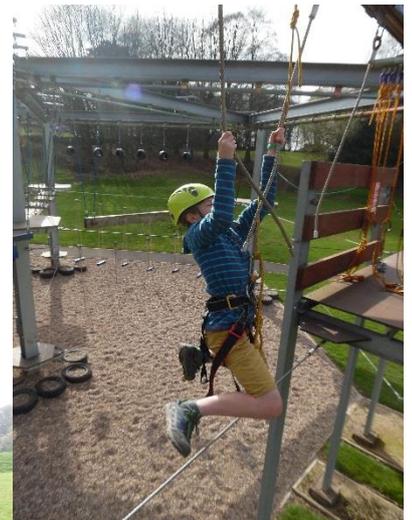
We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. The theme for this year was Bedtime Stories and children and staff rose to the occasion by coming to school in their onesies or pyjamas. Favourite bedtime stories were brought into school and read and shared with classes, and a fabulous day was had by all – even resisting the temptation to fall asleep in our PJs!

Red Nose Day

Our Red Nose Day was a low key affair this year, but nevertheless, we had an array of deeley boppers and red noses on display, not least sported by Mrs Walton during assembly!

Y6 Residential to Lea Green

What a great week! Despite some dodgy weather at the start, enthusiasm wasn't dampened and the Y6 team had a fantastic time taking part in an array of outdoor activities. The pupils will have some lasting memories from their week away, not least being beaten at archery by Mrs Walton and Miss Mansfield! From bog crawling to high wires, everyone relished the experience and a marvellous time was had by all.



Y4 Day with Buxton students

Year 4 spent a fantastic day in the outdoors with lessons planned by students from the University of Derby/Buxton College, and what's more – it didn't rain! In the morning, they spent time finding creatures, examining habitats and making clay hedgehogs with one group of students, then a second session with a different group of students saw them looking at food chains, making masks and investigating skeletons! A marvellous, hands-on, informative day!

Y5 and CELFHS 'Grease' performance

Chapel-en-le-Frith High School kindly invited our Y5 pupils to a matinée performance of their annual performance extravaganza, which this year was 'Grease'. It was an amazing production – the high school children put on a very polished and professional show, and our children behaved impeccably. A great time was had by all.

Change for Life, New Mills Leisure Centre

Some of our Y5 pupils took part in the Derbyshire Change 4 Life Champions training at New Mills Leisure Centre last week. The afternoon included physical activities, finding out about what is actually in the food we eat, healthy eating and food sampling! They all had a great time, and even brought back pizzas that they had made themselves – brilliant!

Fire Safety Talks Y6 & Y2

This week saw our annual visit from the Derbyshire Fire Service who give Fire Safety Talks to Years 6 and 2. Members of the Fire Service explain to the children in an easy-to-understand, age-appropriate manner, the dangers of fire and how to stay safe and answer questions the children may raise around these issues.

Y5 Manchester Mosque trip

For the second year running, Year 5 had a brilliant time at Manchester Central Mosque. The children were given a tour of the mosque, observed the noon prayers, as well as having the opportunity to learn about how Muslims wash before prayer! The children behaved impeccably and asked loads of insightful and interesting questions. It was a fascinating and informative visit, and they all enjoyed it immensely!

Lea Green October 2019

Following a successful residential with our Y6 last week we are already planning ahead for the next Year's Y6 Residential. Depending on numbers this will be at Lea Green again, for the week 7th October to 11th October 2019. Please check your parenthub messages for the letter sent on 22nd March with further information, and the deposit can be paid via your parentpay account.

Cycle Safety Instruction

We will have cycle safety instructors working with our KS1 children during April and May. There will be balance bike sessions for Reception class and scootability sessions for Year 1 and Year 2. Please look out for information being sent home from class teachers over the next few weeks.

Sports around school

Children from Y5 & Y6 represented the school at a Hi5 Netball tournament at Chapel High School this week. Unfortunately, all other planned events had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, but thank you to those who took part.

Swimming

The school has had the use of its own pool since the 1970s, originally provided by funds from the PTA at that time. The school, not DCC, is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance and this constitutes a significant portion of our allocated budget, so we do our utmost to ensure the pool is used appropriately. We are extremely lucky to have swimming facilities on site that can be accessed school-wide, especially as the National Curriculum does not stipulate that swimming needs to be provided for all year groups, and generally in other schools, this would be only one year group.

I'm sure you can appreciate that, as this is a fantastic additional facility we can offer to our children, we can only do it with your help. We regularly send out messages requesting parent helpers for swimming sessions as without the extra support, it is not feasible to run the sessions. Some classes struggle to find regular helpers more than others, which can mean some year groups regularly miss out. With this in mind, we would ask that if you are DBS checked and able to help with any classes other than your own child's class, we would be extremely grateful – please let the office or class teacher know the days you may be available and willing to help. Thank you.

WBPS After School Club

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



We also have a Holiday Club available from 23-26 April 2019.

For more information, or to book a place, 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 or ring 01663 732354.

PTA News

Tickets available for our Quiz and Chili night on **Friday 5th April 2019**. Doors open at 7 pm, quiz at 7.30pm.



Teams of 4 to 6 people – **EVERYONE welcome**. Form your own team or join a team on the night. Please book with amandaskeldon@gmail.com or speak with the office for tickets! Should be a good one. Cash bar available.

Thanks for all those who came to the School Disco and who made cakes for the hungry of Whaley Bridge at our coffee morning. Who knew that making the correct strength coffee would be such a challenge! The cakes went down a storm. We raised a whopping £252 from the disco and £225 from the coffee morning. As always, these funds will be spent on supporting the school.



Why not treat your Mother/Grandmother/Significant Other (or yourself!?) to one of our flowers that we will be selling in the playground on Friday 29th March afterschool. Flowers are £1 per pot and funds to go the PTA.

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/>

ParentHub - update

We are very pleased with our ParentHub system, and most 'teething problems' seem to have been ironed out. It is great that we can send more information in our messages than we could with the texting service, and we can include attachments and links.

However, should you ever experience any issues, please see the '*Handy Hints*' below which may resolve them for you:

1. Don't sign out of the app. Remain logged in. There's no need to log out and on again.
2. Don't 'kill' the app. This is where you double tap the home button on certain phones and swipe the app away. Killing the app can stop notifications coming through.
3. Ensure you have the most up to date app in your app store. This is version 3.2.4 last updated in December 2018.
4. Make sure push notifications are turned on for the app. Under your phones settings, find notifications and make sure they are allowed for ParentHub.
5. If you are still having issues log out and in again. This will also reset the push notifications.
6. And failing all that, if you are still not happy with the timing and notifications, you can remove the app altogether. All messages will then be sent to you by e-mail.
7. ParentHub have also said that parents are more than welcome to contact them directly on 0161 202 4141 if issues cannot be resolved by doing all of the above.

We have been informed that ParentHub are also developing a new option on the app for school to use. If we need to send out urgent messages (session or school closures for example), we will be able to opt in to ensure the message gets sent as a text if the recipient hasn't got 4G (or equivalent) at their end. Hopefully they will have this developed ASAP and we will let you know once this is up and running. However, should we ever have to cancel after school activities at short notice, please be assured, we do have a system in place for any children not collected at the end of the day. The school office will ring round parents and contacts but if we cannot get hold of anyone, the children are directed to the After School Club (but this will incur a cost).

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 also working well now and we no longer accept payments by cash or cheque in school.

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
- 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 - April 2019-June 2019

APRIL 2019		
3.4.19-5.4.19	Wednesday-Friday	Y4 Residential - Losehill
5.4.19	Friday	Reception Assembly
5.4.19	Friday	PTA Quiz & Curry Night
8.4.19	Monday	Maths 'Topic Sharing Morning' & refreshments
9.4.19	Tuesday	Parents' Evening
10.4.19	Wednesday	Class Photographs
11.4.19	Thursday	Year 1 & Year 2 Scootability
11.4.19	Thursday	Parents' Evening
12.4.19	Friday	Year 1 & Year 2 Scootability
12.4.19	Friday	Easter Bonnet Parade / Break up for Easter holidays
29.4.19	Monday	School reopens
30.4.19	Tuesday	Reception Balance bike session 1 of 4
MAY 2019		
7.5.19	Tuesday	Reception Balance bike session 2 of 4
9.5.19	Thursday	Choir & Little Voices performance for parents 4.00-4.30 pm
13.5.19-16.5.19	Monday-Thursday	SATS week
14.5.19	Tuesday	Reception Balance bike session 3 of 4
16.5.19	Thursday	Rec & Y4 Theatre visit *
21.5.19	Tuesday	Reception Balance bike session 4 of 4
22.5.19	Wednesday	Y4 visit to Buxton Museum *
24.5.19	Friday	Y5 Activity trip to Hollowford Centre *
24.5.19	Friday	School closes for Half Term
JUNE 2019		
3.6.19	Monday	School re-opens
12.6.19	Wednesday	Y1/2 Trip to Bramhall Hall *
17.6.19-21.6.19	Monday-Friday	Outdoor Learning week
23.6.19	Sunday	Well Dressing Blessing – Choir singing
24.6.19	Monday	New Reception Intake Parents' meeting
26.6.19	Wednesday	Rec Trip to Peak Wildlife Park *
27.6.19	Thursday	Sports Day – KS2 am: KS1 pm

* More details to follow in due course

Thank you for your continued support!
Mrs Fay Walton, Headteacher



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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)