



WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

For every child, a chance to shine ★

Buxton Road, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7HX

Tel: 01663 732354 Fax: 01663 735014

Email: info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

Website: www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk



Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

24 May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

It's the end of another half term and what a busy one around school. This newsletter incorporates events from April and May, so cast your minds back to Easter ...

AROUND SCHOOL

Easter eggs & Easter bonnets

Yet again, we were treated to an absolutely amazing display of headwear at our annual Easter Bonnet Parade – the children paraded their creations with style and confidence and their hard work and efforts shone through. It was hard to choose just one from each class to receive an accolade, so everyone who made a hat or decorated an egg received a crème egg as a thank you for taking part ... and what can I say about the decorated Easter Eggs – the children's imagination and creativity never ceases to amaze us and no two eggs are ever the same. Again, it was hard to choose winners – thank you to everyone who took part.

Class	Decorated Egg winner	Bonnet winner
Rec	Douglas	Penny
Y1/2E	Rowan	Thomas
Y1/2B	Jacob	Stanley
Y3	Zofia	Sophie
Y4	Jacob	Rhiannon
Y5L	Jasmine	Dax
Y5TW	Gaby	Katie
Y6	Alex	Matilda

Y4 Losehill trip

What an action-packed few days were had in Losehill! Despite some changeable weather, the children built Roman siege engines, took part in a mock Roman battle, looked at history timelines, did the Three Rocks walk, some orienteering, archery, panning for gems, making and launching egg rockets ... a fantastic time was had by all and when out and about in Castleton, their behaviour was exemplary. Well done, Year 4!

Reception Assembly

Reception entertained us with a lovely assembly, regardless of being beset with 'technical issues' which meant they couldn't share a video they had made. Nevertheless, they presented us with some fantastic singing and the message of celebrating our differences, caring for one another and being kind. Thank you, Reception – great job!

Buxton Museum

Our Y4 class made a whistle stop visit to Buxton Museum on the train for a great hands-on workshop based around a 'Hoards Hunters' game – helping to search for lost buried treasure in the Wonders of the Peak gallery, where the children acted out some of the important jobs relating to buried treasure and putting together a display. The exhibition had come to Buxton from the British Museum and Buxton is the only town in the north of England to get to host it. A fantastic time was had by all, and the children have already written 'thank you' letters to the museum for getting the chance to enjoy this rare treat.

Maths Topic Sharing Morning

A big 'thank you' to Miss Mansfield and the team for organising the wonderful, maths inspired morning which was enjoyed by over 90 parents/carers. The children loved sharing their work with you, and the energy levels and excitement around numeracy continued throughout the day. We also hope you found it useful and enjoyable too. Thank you, also, to the PTA for providing refreshments.

Eco Council

The Council delivered an informative climate change assembly to launch the whole-school 'Travel Smart' week. They have been busy collecting data to find out if we have reduced the number of cars coming to school this week.

Whaley Bridge Primary School is also going to be joining forces with Newtown Primary School in a mission to recycle crisp and biscuit wrappers. Special recycling bins will be delivered shortly, and a special assembly on the topic will be made to the whole school on 11 June.

School Council

The School Council planned and prepared a fantastic 'Name the Bunny' competition and through their efforts, raised just over £200, which will go towards some of our outdoor projects! The Council were fantastic at writing and delivering a letter to Tesco asking for donations for the prizes and for creating such eye-catching posters for around school.

Scotability and balance bikes

Years 1 and 2 have had a wonderful time during the Scotability sessions in school, learning how to ride their scooters safely whenever they use them. Hopefully, they will remember these lessons as they get older and we will see them scooting safely out and about in Whaley Bridge, wearing their fantastic helmets! As well as these sessions, Reception children have been learning to improve their balance on specially developed bikes. The 'lessons' were based around dinosaurs and large animals, where their legs became pterodactyl wings and they learned to jump like kangaroos!

Reception and Y4 – Wallace & Gromit performance

The Reception and Y4 classes ventured on the train to Buxton to watch a marvellous classical music performance accompanying The Wrong Trousers, put on by the Derbyshire Music Partnership. It was a 'grand day out' (well, afternoon) and a most unusual way of experiencing the antics of those two loveable characters!

Chess Megafinal

Eight children from Years 4 & 5 qualified for the Chess Megafinal and 3 have even qualified for the Gigafinal in Manchester – well done to you all – BRILLIANT CHESS FROM EVERYONE!

Bag-2-School collection

Thank you to everyone who brought bags for the collection – we raised £56! The next collection dates are Wednesday 6 November 2019 and Wednesday 3 June 2020, so make a note in your diaries. Thank you.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is currently being developed and the Plan has four themes; Transport & Traffic, Countryside, Commerce and Housing. The Plan will develop local planning policies for the next 10 years and hopes to look at issues such as congestion and parking, protection of the countryside, housing design, capacity and tenure and ensuring Whaley is an attractive place for employers and businesses.

The Plan covers Furness Vale, Fernilee, Taxal and Whaley Bridge. Anyone wishing to take a look or get involved can visit <https://www.vision4whaley.org.uk>.

Volunteers are needed to help in all areas particularly Transport and Housing.

Staffing changes

Today is Mrs Thirsk's last day before she begins her maternity leave. We wish her all the best and hopes that she is well rested before the baby arrives! Miss Worsley will be returning to school (Hurray!) and will be teaching Year 5TW for the remainder of the year.

Mrs Laura Chadwick has taken the difficult decision to relinquish her SENCo role from September 2019. She will remain a class teacher in the mainstream from September and has agreed to provide a smooth transition and support to her new successor. May I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Chadwick for all her hard work and dedication to the role as SENCo, her passion and drive have ensured that all of our children with SEND have received outstanding provision over the years.

From September, we will welcome Mrs Emma Mahon, who will be taking on the role of SENCo and Miss Nikki Hodgkinson who will be teaching every morning in the Enhanced Resource. Both ladies will be coming into school over the next couple of months to meet the children.

Little Voices/Choir performance

The children gave a 'farewell' concert to parents and sang beautifully. Their enthusiasm was plain to see, and they negotiated some tricky dance moves, including props! Well done to them all, and thank you to Mrs Chadwick and Mrs Thirsk and Mrs Baxby for their efforts throughout the year, encouraging all the children to develop a love of music and song!

Holidays

It has been brought to our attention that some parents are taking their children out of school for a holiday and then telling the school that their children are ill. This is putting the children in a very difficult situation. All requests for taking your child out of school should be done so using the Leave of Absence form which can be found online and in the school office. In accordance with government regulations, we can still challenge and fine parents if we believe that a holiday was taken.

Thank you to Tesco!

A huge 'thank you' to Tesco yet again for supplying us with some scrummy food to enable us to provide a nourishing and tasty breakfast for our Y6 pupils prior to their SATS – it was a fun, relaxed way to start each day, and was enjoyed by all.

Sports around school

Yet again, the weather put paid to some events, but we were represented in a Cross Country event at Chapel High School by some of our children from Years 3, 5 & 6, with our Year 3 team achieving a commendable third place. Well done to everyone who took part.

Swimming

I'm sure you appreciate that, although 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.

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

The Quiz Night was a great success – tricky questions and great food. Thank you to everyone who helped and to those of you who attended. We raised c. £400!

The weather gods were kind to us for our Spring Fair and we managed to stage the event outside without getting wet. Again, huge thanks to all the volunteers, stall holders and attendees who made the event a great success and added around a further £1,000 to the funds raised this year.



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/>

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.

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).

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 **96.8 %** - 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-September 2019

JUNE 2019		
3.6.19	Monday	School re-opens
10.6.19-14.6.19	Monday-Friday	Book Fair
12.6.19	Wednesday	Y1/2 Trip to Bramhall Hall *
17.6.19-21.6.19	Monday-Friday	Outdoor Learning week
17.6.19-21.6.19	Monday-Friday	Well dressing week
20.6.19	Thursday	Group of Y5 going to - Maths challenge at Stockport Grammar*
21.6.19	Friday	Mrs Parkes – violin assembly – parents welcome
23.6.19	Sunday	Well Dressing Blessing – Choir singing
24.6.19	Monday	New Reception Intake Parents' meeting 6pm
26.6.19	Wednesday	Rec Trip to Peak Wildlife Park *
27.6.19	Thursday	Sports Day – KS2 am: KS1 pm
JULY 2019		
2.7.19	Tuesday	Move up day
10.7.19	Wednesday	Y6 production*
11.7.19	Thursday	Y6 production*
15.7.19	Monday	Annual Reports to parents/carers
16.7.19	Tuesday	Year 6 leaver's day out and party
17.7.19	Wednesday	Y5 swimming assessment at New Mills Leisure Centre*
19.7.19	Friday	Leavers' Assembly
19.7.19	Friday	School closes for the summer holidays
SEPTEMBER 2019		
3.9.19-4.9.19	Tuesday-Wednesday	Inset Days
5.9.19	Thursday	School opens for the Autumn term

*details to follow

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)