



# WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

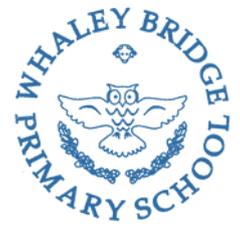
For every child, a chance to shine ★

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## Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

19 July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't believe it – the end of another school year! It has certainly been an action-packed year, and I hope these newsletters have given you a flavour of some of the wonderful events and achievements enjoyed by our pupils over the 2018/19 school year. These last few weeks has been no exception, and now all the staff and pupils alike are ready for a break – fingers crossed we have fantastic weather and can enjoy some sunshine and fresh air before returning rejuvenated in September. May I wish you all a wonderful summer break, good luck to those of our pupils leaving us for new schools, and see everyone else back in school on Thursday 5 September!



## AROUND SCHOOL

### Y3 Poole's Cavern

A train ride to Buxton, followed by an amazing day down in the cavern, was enjoyed by our Year 3 class. The visit linked into their topic work on rocks and soils, and they marvelled at the beauty of the stalactites and stalagmites as they ventured into the depths of the cave, watched a video about the wonders of the unexplored part of the cavern, spent time looking round the exhibition and even found time to play in the park before their return home. What a great day out!

### Reception trip to Peak Wildlife Park

On a less than brilliantly sunny day, Reception ventured to the Peak Wildlife Park. It was a day of 'firsts' for many – first coach trip, first nature walk, and certainly the first time penguins walked alongside them, being fed fish! They enjoyed listening to nature talks, feeding some of the animals and having a picnic in the outdoors – a fabulous day!

### Youth Presents Music

Yet again, our choir took part in the Youth Presents Music extravaganza, with other local schools, at Chapel High School, and yet again, they performed beautifully! They were not fazed by the large audience, their singing was fabulous and their behaviour impeccable; and we mustn't forget those playing violins – well done to all of you, and thank you to Mrs Chadwick for organising it.

### Eco Committee

Our Eco Committee, in an effort to encourage us all to play a part in helping protect our environment, wrote a heartfelt letter to the PTA, asking if they would be able to spare any funds to enable the Committee to purchase 3 terracycling bins. The PTA very kindly agreed, and our new bins will be ready for action in September. The Committee will be encouraging everyone in the school to recycle crisp packets, biscuit wrappers and pens in an effort to send less waste to landfill sites, a very laudable objective!

### **A Nelson Mandela opportunity ...**

Eight children from Year 5 were lucky enough to visit Hazel Grove High School a few weeks ago, to listen to a talk given by one of Nelson Mandela's former body guards. This amazing opportunity gave them the chance to hear first-hand about apartheid in South Africa and listen to some of the experiences of the bodyguard whilst he was in the service of Nelson Mandela.

### **Sports Day**

What a fabulous day! The 'weather gods' smiled on us, and we managed to get through the whole day with no 'rain stopped play' incidents! The children took part in all the races and activities with enthusiasm, and it was great to see so much parental support throughout the day. Thank you to the PTA for helping to provide much needed liquid refreshment to keep everyone hydrated – a great team effort on a team-oriented day!

### **QuadKids Final**

Some of our Y5 and Y6 children, after coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the local area competition, qualified for the High Peak Final. They took part in four different events – a throwing event, standing long jump, spring and a longer distance run. They thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and showed true perseverance and sportsmanship – well done all of you!

### **School Games Mark**

I am delighted to let you know that we have achieved the Silver Award this year, with plenty of Gold elements within that, for our sports provision – a fantastic achievement!



### **Transition Day**

As per usual, most of our Y6 pupils spent the day at Chapel High School and the rest of the school enjoyed spending time in their proposed classrooms for next year with their new teachers. We also welcomed the new Reception children for the morning, to help them prepare for starting school with us in September.

### **Area Sports**

Representatives from Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 spent an afternoon at Chapel High School where they took part in an Area Sports day, participating in a variety of different activities including field and track events, against other local area schools. They represented the school impeccably, worked together brilliantly as a team, which all led to them achieving First Place! Well done to everyone who took part!

### **Y6 Production**

This year's production, presented to us by Year 6, was Aladdin Trouble, and what a performance it was! All the children threw themselves into their roles with gusto, they learnt their lines impeccably, and their dancing and acting skills were second to none – with one or two surprises! The Y6 staff did a tremendous job helping the children to learn their lines and the songs, choreograph some great moves and yet again, produce fantastic scenery and props – their ingenuity never ceases to amaze me! Well done everyone for such an entertaining and professional show!

### **Samba Band Concert**

Y4 rounded off their year of Wider Opportunities drumming with a Samba band concert, and what a brilliant show they put on! Their brightly coloured clothes and even brighter (and louder!) drumming, transported us all, for a short while, to the tropical towns and beaches of South America. Their ability to handle some tricky beats and tempo, and the enthusiasm they showed throughout, did them proud – well done Year 4!

## **Year 6 Mystery Trip**

Our annual mystery day out took place this week, and what a brilliant day. We had ordered good weather, which arrived on time (!), so that our Year 6 pupils could make the most of a trip to Blackpool! They spent the morning at Sandcastle Water Park, had fish and chips for lunch and spent the afternoon playing games on the beach. On their return to school, the Y6 parents hosted a fabulous party for them all to round off their final year at primary school – hopefully a day they will never forget!

## **Leavers' Assembly**

Yet again, we were wowed by our Year 6 cohort as they showed us some of their fantastic moves (not be outdone by the Y6 staff!), relived some of their memories from their time here at WBPS and reminded us all of what a fantastic group of children they are! Through the tears and the laughter, we wish them all well as they move on to the next phase of their education at secondary school!

## **Big Reading Challenge & Poster Exhibition**

DCC Library Service came into assembly this week and explained to the children all about the Big Summer Reading Challenge for this year, which is entitled Space Chase, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first moon landing. So get on down to the library to take part, as well as checking out the poster exhibition including contributions from WBPS children.

## **Main Gates**

As you have passed school over the last couple of days, you may have noticed cones at the main drive entrance. This is because, at lunchtime on Wednesday, a car transporter reversed into the gates, demolished the stone post and bent the metal post, depositing the black gate on the floor – a right old mess! Luckily, no one was hurt, but the driver then drove off. Thanks to the vigilance and determination of one of our parents, the driver and vehicle were tracked down.

## **WBPS After School Club & Holiday Club**

The After School & Breakfast Club is always available for bookings. There will also be a Holiday Club running from Monday 29 July to Friday 16 August 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](mailto:info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk) or ring 01663 732354.

## **PTA News**

As another busy school year draws to a close, the PTA Committee would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, carers and friends who played a part in the vast array of events organised over the last 12 months, and for your help in making it another successful fundraising year for us. We hope you all enjoy your summer holidays, and we look forward to welcoming new parents with children in Reception in September as we renew our efforts to raise funds for the school, as well as having a great time! Thank you.



## 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.

<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.

### Coolmilk

Please note that we no longer operate the CoolMilk scheme within school – please, therefore, do not register your child for September. Any parent with a balance on the account will be refunded directly. 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).

### 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 this year, our overall attendance is at **96.65 %** - 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.

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 – September-October 2019**

<b>SEPTEMBER 2019</b>		
<b>3.9.19-4.9.19</b>	Tuesday-Wednesday	Inset Days
<b>5.9.19</b>	Thursday	School opens for the Autumn term
<b>5.9.19-6.9.19</b>	Thursday-Friday	Reception Class in afternoons only
<b>9.9.19-13.9.19</b>	Monday-Friday	Reception Class in mornings only + lunch
<b>16.9.19</b>	Monday	Reception Class begins full days
<b>16.9.19</b>	Monday	Extra-curricular clubs/activities will begin this week
<b>16.9.19</b>	Monday	'Meet the Team.' An opportunity for parents to meet the teachers and TAs who will be working with your child/ren.
<b>23.9.19-27.9.19</b>	Monday-Friday	Well-being week
<b>OCTOBER 2019</b>		
<b>1.10.19</b>	Tuesday	School Photographs
<b>3.10.19</b>	Wednesday	Just Joshing production (Anti-bullying)
<b>6.10.19-11.10.19</b>	Monday-Friday	Y6 Residential
<b>21.10.19-24.10.19</b>	Monday-Thursday	Bikeability
<b>25.10.19</b>	Friday	Break up for half-term
<b>28.10.19-1.11.19</b>	Monday-Friday	Half-term holidays
<b>4.11.19</b>	Monday	School re-opens

Thank you for your continued support and have a fantastic summer break!

**Mrs Fay Walton**  
**Headteacher**