30 September 2019

Dear Parents,

September has flown by so fast, we are definitely in the midst of Autumn now! I hope your children have settled into their school routines and are enjoying being back at school! We have got off to a flying start, with lots going on around school, a flavour of which is detailed below.

Don’t forget - you can find lots of information on our school website, including: policies, letters and a school calendar with school events and dates for your diary.

AROUND SCHOOL

Modern Foreign Languages Day

We celebrated MFL Day with lots of games and activities in many different languages, including French, Spanish and Japanese! Each class had three missions to complete, and each class produced a Top Agent! Activities included sign language games, tongue twisters (hard enough in English!), counting and singing, to name but a few! Well done to everyone for taking part so enthusiastically!

Mindfulness Week

Mindfulness week was a brilliant way to introduce the children to different ways to look after ourselves, and others, both emotionally and physically. Thank you to those parents who came in to help with some of the sessions, which included yoga, peer massage, Buxton FC training sessions, a form of reflexology, calligraphy and team-building sessions.

Meet the Team

It was lovely to see so many of you at the ‘Meet The Team’ sessions and we hope you found them informative and useful. For those of you who weren’t able to come, the presentations given by each Class Teacher can be found on the class pages of the school website.

Climate Change Day – 20 September 2019

Friday 20 September 2019 saw a heightened awareness around the world about the issues of climate change and the state of our planet. We were fortunate to have a fantastic presentation in school from representatives of Acclimatise Whaley who showed us the effects of climate change for the world, and made it clear that we all have to change our habits and behaviour now in order to effect a change.

One of our students, Nellie Jacobs, is very passionate about the issues surrounding climate change and she took part in the Climate Change Rally in central Manchester. Not only did she march, but she
was concerned enough to stand up on the stage and speak, very eloquently, about the topic she feels is so important. Well done, Nellie, we are proud of you!

**Danish Students’ visit from CELFHS**

Every year, we host several visits from groups of Danish students who are on an exchange visit in the UK staying with families of children at Chapel High School. Last week we had two visits, and our year 6 and year 5 hosts spoke to the Danish students about life in a UK primary school, and they in turn learnt about Danish schools and traditions from the students.

**Stand Up Derbyshire**

‘Stand Up Derbyshire’ is an initiative to encourage everyone to be more active on a daily basis. We supported this last Friday by being active for 50% of the school day. Children came into school earlier than normal and took part in a work-out session, hosted by Joe Wicks (and the magic of technology!) – fantastic!

**Civic Ceremony & Thanksgiving**

A huge thank you to all those children who attended the Ceremony on Saturday and who represented the school so well and sang so beautifully during the proceedings. The service was the town’s way of saying ‘thank you’ to the emergency services and volunteers who worked so hard during the dam crisis back in August, and for those of you who were unable to attend, it can be viewed at [www.whaleybridge.com](http://www.whaleybridge.com).

**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 28 October – Thursday 31 October 2019.

Bookings are now being taken – the deadline for holiday club booking is Monday 7 October.

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

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the AGM, and as we start another school year, we will be letting you know shortly what events we are planning.

All parents/carers of children in the school are automatically members of the PTA, but we are always looking for more helpers and people willing to be involved. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch. 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.

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 98.3% - this is above the national average, so keep it up to ensure we maintain our target throughout the year.

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.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – October-November 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.9.19-27.9.19</td>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Well-being week</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.10.19</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>School Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.10.19</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Just Joshing production (Anti-bullying)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.10.19-11.10.19</td>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Y6 Residential</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.10.19</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Visit from Rachel Swann, Deputy Chief Constable</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.10.19</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Y5 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.10.19</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Flu vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.10.19-24.10.19</td>
<td>Monday-Thursday</td>
<td>Bikeability</td>
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<tr>
<td>23.10.19</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Reception 2020 New Starter tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.10.19</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Black History Month Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.10.19</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Break up for half-term</td>
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<tr>
<td>28.10.19-1.11.19</td>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Half-term holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.11.19</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School re-opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.11.19</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>School re-opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.11.19</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Bag-2-School collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.11.19</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Reception 2020 New Starter tours</td>
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<td>ER Drop in Session 1.30-4.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.11.19</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Poppy/Remembrance Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.11.19-15.11.19</td>
<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Anti-bullying Week</td>
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<td>22.11.19</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Y4 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>29.11.19</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Y3 Assembly</td>
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Thank you for your continued support.

*Mrs Fay Walton*

*Headteacher*