

Whitwell Primary School

Southfield Lane, Whitwell, nr Worksop. Notts S80 4NR

Tel. 01909 720251
Fax: 01909 720251
Email: info@whitwell.derbyshire.sch.uk



Head Teacher: Mrs S Tomlinson
Deputy Head Teacher: Mr T Stirling

8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn term. I hope you all had a fantastic half-term break!



School Day

School now starts at 8.45am in Reception/KS1 and 8.50am in KS2, doors open at 8.40am. Registration will be closed at 9am. Please ensure that your child is on time, so that lessons can commence promptly. If your child is late and arrives after this time they must go to the main office. Any absence after 9.20am is recorded as unauthorised absence.

Hometime in Reception/KS1 is 3.15pm and in KS2 is 3.20pm.

Nursery hours; 8.40am – 11.40am mornings; 12.20 – 3.20pm afternoons; 8.40am – 2.40pm full-time.

Please collect youngest children first from their classrooms

Christmas

We have a range of activities planned during December. Please look carefully at the dates on the calendar pages.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to get seats for the whole school at the Panto at Mansfield so this year we would like to offer the children chance to go to the Savoy cinema in Worksop to see Moana 2. Please read the separate letter regarding this visit. Friends of Whitwell Primary School would like to organise an event for the Reception & KS1 children in school again this year. This would be after school on Thursday 12th December. It will be an ELF themed event. Please save the date if you can. More details to follow.



Phonics and Early Reading



Staff would like to invite all parents of children in Reception or any new parents in our school to come and learn how the children are taught to read. This event will be held on 14th November at 2.30pm, led by Miss Sleight and Mrs Basford.

Uniform

Our children look really smart in school. They are expected to come to school in their full school uniform each day, as per the home school agreement, and have a pair of named wellies left in school for playtimes. Please ensure uniform is in line with our uniform policy which can be found under the 'Parents' tab on our website. This is: black or grey school trousers (not jeans) or a skirt, a polo shirt (white or pale blue) and a navy sweatshirt or cardigan. This does not need to have a logo. On PE days children may continue to wear their school PE kit. We just ask that all uniform has names inside as so much looks the same. This last term 3 bags of unlabelled lost property have been washed and collected in school.

Contacting the school office - Office hours are 8am – 4.30pm. If you call outside of these times, please leave a message which will be picked up the next day. Staff will always aim to reply to emails within 24 hours. Teachers rarely get time to check emails during the school day so if something is



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urgent, please contact the office. Staff will reply to emails within the school week when they are able to.



To save the costs of paper and photocopying we use the school website, texts and emails frequently to keep you up to date with all that is happening in school; we also use Microsoft Forms instead of letters for trips or when parental permission is required. If anyone has a problem using this please see your child's classteacher.

Staff all have class pages on the website with all the information that you need. You can find these under the 'Children' tab. We are continuing to add our own pictures and want to celebrate our school through the website. www.whitwellprimary.co.uk

Attendance/Absence and Holidays in Term Time

Attendance at school is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age unless there are special circumstances e.g. illness. Should your child be ill, please follow the agreed protocol and inform the school by 9am of the day of absence. We follow up any unreported absence with a text, then a phone call as part of our safeguarding measures.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

I would like to remind parents that, as from September 1st 2013 the law gives **no entitlement to parents to take their children on holiday during term time.** As Headteacher I do not have the authority in law to authorise absences for holidays or related activities, unless there are 'exceptional' circumstances. I would not be expected to class any term time holiday as 'exceptional'. This being the case, any requests for term time holidays will be most likely declined and any subsequent absences will be recorded as unauthorised. Parents who take their children on holiday without

permission will incur unauthorised absences for their child and be issued with a fixed penalty notice and/or court action. Please do not take holidays in term time to avoid any misunderstanding. Thank you for your understanding and support in implementing this.

Please also note that school do not benefit from these fines – they are from the local authority.

The government advice on attendance was updated from August 2024 and fines have risen in cost. Be aware that schools now have to monitor 10 sessions missing in a 10 week period. This automatically triggers the process of fines for attendance that is unauthorised.

Subject Superstars Assemblies

Our new 'Superstar' assemblies have a curriculum focus and children will be selected for their amazing work in one particular subject each time. We will continue to invite parents to attend our celebration of learning assemblies. These are held on a Friday morning at 9.05am and the hall will be open for you from 8.50am when breakfast club ends. If your child is to be given an award you will receive a text earlier in the week to inform you. Unfortunately, due to numbers in school, we only have space in the hall for the parents and carers of the children who are actually invited. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please make contact with us at school. We will always want to know! I will continue to be outside on the playgrounds in the mornings when possible and teaching staff can be contacted directly at classroom doors or you can make an appointment to come into school to see any of the teaching staff team or myself.

Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S Tomlinson'.

Headteacher

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2024-2025 Important Dates

Mon 4 th Nov	INSET
Tues 5 th Nov	School Re-opens Swimming starts Y5
Tues 12 th Nov	Individual school photos – full uniform for everyone
Fri 15 th Nov	Children in Need Day – non-uniform £1 donation
Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd Nov	Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week
Tues 19 th Nov	Y6 Sats Parent Meeting 3.30pm
Mon 2 nd – Wed 11 th Dec	Book Fair
Fri 6 th Dec	Breakfast with Santa at Breakfast Club – ticket only Christmas Fair 2.30pm
Tues 10 th Dec	Cinema Trip
Weds 11 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
Thurs 12 th Dec	Cinema Trip Reception and KS1 ELF evening – details to follow
Tues 17 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am and 1.45pm
Weds 18 th Dec	EYFS Christmas Production 9.30am and 1.45pm
Thurs 19 th Dec	Christmas Parties
Fri 20 th Dec	End of Term
Mon 6 th Jan	School re-opens for Spring Term
Tues 14 th Jan	Y5 Swimming restarts
Thurs 6 th Feb	Y5 Playmaker Training
Tues 11 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Thurs 13 th Feb	Last Day of Term Young Voices Choir at Sheffield Arena
Fri 14 th Feb	INSET DAY



Mon 24 th Feb	Back to School
Mon 24 th - Fri 28 th Mar	Parent Consultations
Mon 24 th Mar	Mrs Plaister – Primrose (all day) Mr Moore – Honeysuckle (all day)
Tues 25 th Mar	Miss Morris – Dandelions (all day) Miss Binge – Poppies (all day) Mr Stirling – Foxgloves (all day)
Weds 26 th Mar	Mrs Draycott – Nursery (all day) Miss Brown – Bluebells (all day) Miss White – Buttercups (all day) Mr Moore – Honeysuckle (1pm – 5.30pm)
Thurs 27 th Mar	Miss Sleight – Daisies (all day) Mrs Anderson – Forget-me-nots (all day)
Fri 28 th Mar	Mrs Williams – Nursery (12.40 – 3.20pm)
Weds 2 nd - Fri 4 th Apr	Y4/5 Residential to Whitehall
Fri 4 th Apr	End of Spring Term

Tues 22nd Apr	Back to School Swimming restarts
Week starting 12 th May	Y6 SATS
Mon 19 th May	Y2 and Y6 Fire Safety talk
Thurs 22 nd May	Last day of term for children
Fri 23 rd May	INSET
Mon 2 nd June	Back to School Class Photos
Week starting 2 nd Jun	Y4 Multiplication Check
Weds 4 th Jun	Y6 Trip to Institute of Sport (EIS)
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th Jun	Y6 Residential to the Isle of Wight Y1 Phonics Screening Check
Weds 25 th Jun	Sports Day
Thurs 26 th Jun	Reserve Sports Day
Fri 26 th June	INSET Day
Tues 1 st July	Nursery Sports Day
Weds 2 nd July	Reserve Nursery Sports Day

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Mon 7 th July	Y5/6 Production 1.45pm and 6pm
Weds 9 th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly 4.30pm
Mon 14 th – Tue 22 nd July	Y6 to Heritage for Transition
Weds 23 rd July	Y6 Back to WPS
Thurs 24 th July	End of Term

There will be other dates to add and I will update you each half-term to give you as much notice as possible of events happening in school. Please continue to check the website frequently.



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