

Whitwell Primary School

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

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a quick few weeks it has been since the children came back in September! Children are settled in their classes now and I would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to all those who have attended parent consultations last week. All the staff love to be able to share information with you about the children and their learning.

Christmas Dates

- 2nd – 9th Dec – Book Fair after school in the hall
- 6th Dec – FWPS Christmas Fair 2.30pm
- 11th Dec – School Christmas Dinner
- 16th Dec – EYFS & KS1 Dress Rehearsals for the school
- 17th Dec – KS1 Productions – 9.30am and 1.45pm
- 18th Dec – EYFS Productions – 9.30am and 1.45pm
- 19th Dec – Christmas Parties during the afternoon in school
- 20th Dec – End of Term



Attendance

Attendance has been carefully monitored since the start of the school year, in the light of attendance changes since August 2024. All schools aim for 96% attendance, which is the National recommendation. Letters and calls are made to families where children's attendance drops below 92% attendance as this puts them at risk of persistent absence.

Overall, Whitwell Primary School attendance from September to date is: 93.68%.

I have broken this down to each Year Group. Well done to Y6, Y5 and Y1 for being closest to the expected figures.

Reception	91.05%
Y1	95.38%
Y2	93.29%
Y3	91.54%
Y4	93.92%
Y5	95.02%
Y6	95.55%



There have been a lot of children and staff with Covid and cold viruses, but thankfully we seem to be over the worst now and everyone is improving. This should mean that our attendance rates are now climbing back up to at least 96%. Attendance is celebrated in school and each class with the highest attendance each week receives a certificate. Once a class has five certificates, they receive a treat afternoon of their choice! Also, did you know that our children are rewarded every day with 1 Wellian for attending and get a bonus 5 if they are here the whole week!

Qualitas After School Care

Due to low numbers of children attending, the Qualitas Childcare Provision **will not** continue after half-term.

We have tried hard to get this established following parent feedback last year. However, it needs to be sustainable for the company to run this. We feel sad that it will stop. Qualitas are applying for accreditation to use childcare vouchers towards the cost of places and if they are granted, they will contact school again, which may generate new interest.



Events this term

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Harvest Festival. The food was very well received by the Limestone House Charity in Creswell. They have sent thank you wishes to school which have been shared with the children.

Y5 have enjoyed the start of school swimming lessons and working with Derbyshire Constabulary on the Mini Police Project.

Children have been keen and willing to represent our school in football and cross-country events over the last few weeks. Unfortunately, some events were cancelled due to poor weather. Well done to those who have taken part! There are more sporting opportunities planned for after the holidays for Y1 and a range of school team events.

Y5 and Y6 have enjoyed immersion days about Vikings and Ancient Greeks as part of their topic work.

Y2 have welcomed a visitor from Severn Trent Water to link with their work in science.

Reception Class have been enjoying further opportunities for outdoor learning on Fridays.

Staff are involved in planning residentials, trips and visits for the rest of the school year. You will receive letters directly regarding these.

School Website <https://www.whitwellprimary.co.uk/>

I'm sure many of you have browsed our new website. This is full of information that you may need.

Staff all have a class page which gives details of their learning for each term. Also, contact details are provided.

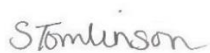
Please can I remind you that staff work school hours and there is no expectation that they will be able to reply to emails or messages the same day. Everyone will always try to reply within 24 hours during the working week.

Finally, I have been asked to share a link to the latest Newsletter of Family First magazine.

<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue4-24>

All that remains is to say that we hope you have a safe and happy half-term break. School closes on Friday at the end of the day. School re-opens to children on Tuesday 5th November following an INSET day on Monday 4th for all staff.

Kind Regards



Headteacher