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

5th November 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of Autumn Term!
This is one of our favourite terms in school with so much to look forward to in the run up to Christmas. Please stay safe if you are out and about for fireworks tonight and over the weekend.

Attendance

New Rewards System

It is really important to me to reward every child for completed weeks in school. Realistically, it can be incredibly hard to achieve 100% attendance. Even one tummy upset means 2 days off school.
So, we are introducing a new system. Each week that a child is in school 100% they will get a raffle ticket. It will have their name on it and it will go in a big box with all the tickets for children across the school. At the end of the term, there will be 3 prizes for children whose names are pulled out of the box. The more the child is in school, the more their name will be in the box, giving more chances to win a prize.

The DFE (Department for Education) aim is for 96% attendance for every child in school. We must record children who drop below 90% as Persistent Absence, in which case letters are sent and families are invited in for a meeting. We also have to report 15-day illness to the local authority. This is not 15 days in a row but the total ill days recorded over the year. Most children do not have 15 days off a year so school and Local Authority Teams can work with families if they have specific needs.



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. If we still do not hear from you then safe and well checks may be carried out.

You can see that in some year groups attendance really need to improve!
A massive well done to Y6, Y3 and Y2 this time!

	Year to Date		Year to Date
Nursery	91.93%	Year 3	95.98% - 2nd
Reception	92.33%	Year 4	93.94%
Year 1	92.44%	Year 5	95.05%
Year 2	95.34% - 3rd	Year 6	96.77% - 1st

Contacting the school office

We have introduced a new email address – please use this for any daily messages you wish to pass onto staff in school. This is important as Mrs Froggatt now works part-time.
office@whitwell.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Office hours are 8am – 4.30pm. If you need to call outside of these times, please leave a message which will be picked up the next day.

Contacting Teaching Staff
The easiest way to contact teachers is to speak at classroom doors at drop off or pick up. Alternatively call the school office and ask for a call-back. Please respect their working hours (Mon-Fri 8am–5pm). Teachers only have one block of non-contact time a week. They may not get chance to respond immediately but will always respond when they are able. Teachers work hard and are in class and are on duty during school hours, as I am sure you understand.

School Admissions
On 9th November applications open for Reception Class places for September 2027. Everyone needs to apply for their school place, even if your child is currently in nursery. It is not automatic.

Following this link will direct you to a secure portal to apply for your child's place.

https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx

We are holding an open session for prospective Reception parents to come and look at the provision in our Reception (Foundation Stage 2) on 5th November from 1.30 – 2.10pm.

Children in Need – 13th November



We always try to support Children in Need as it appeals to the children to help others. Please encourage your child to wear spots, or yellow, or Children in Need branded items and contribute £1 to the cause. If everyone contributes, we can easily raise £250 from Whitwell Primary School.

Parent Governors

Please consider joining our Governing Board and complete the simple application sharing why you would like to be a part of our amazing school team.

Emails have been re-sent inviting you all to apply to be a parent governor.

Being a Governor is a really rewarding role, supporting the school and helping to make a difference from within. The Board would welcome applications from any parents; it doesn't matter if you do not have any education experience as the Governing Board represents the whole community and the Board benefits from members from a variety of backgrounds. Meetings are held on Thursday evenings. There are 6 full Board meetings a year. The role lasts for 4 years.

Uniform

By the end of the 2nd week of term I had a collection of brand-new hoodies – blue and black in my office. None of them had names in! Therefore, it is impossible to give them back to the correct child. This is upsetting as parents have spent money and things are lost. **Please, please put names in clothing.**

All children should wear **full uniform each day,** with **black shoes** or plain black trainers**.** A reminder that our uniform is a **plain** white or blue polo shirt with a pair of grey or black trousers or a skirt/pinafore dress. Jumpers/Cardigans are **navy blue**.

When children continue to wear alternative clothes, they will be provided with school uniform to wear for the day. All children should feel included and have the opportunity to be the same as their friends.

For PE, it is cool outside now so children may wear navy or black joggers with a **plain white t-shirt**. Clothing should not have pictures on. They can wear a **plain blue or black jumper** with their PE kit, or a school jumper if you prefer. KS2 children need well-fitting and comfortable trainers for PE so that they don't trip over and so shock is absorbed in the shoes, not their legs, in running or jumping activities.

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Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues each morning in the hall run by our own school staff. Children can have cereals, fruit, toast and a drink. Activities are planned and there is also free play. When the weather is good the children play outside too.

Children **must be brought to the hall doors and signed in** by an adult. Breakfast Club can be paid for using our online payment system for the week or the days that you use the provision.

Prices are:

£4 from 7.30am

£3.50 from 7.45am or £3.00 from 7.45am if your child is entitled to free school meals.

£3.00 from 8am or £2.50 from 8am if your child is entitled to free school meals.

We are delighted that so many children attend regularly. Please try it if you want to - breakfast with friends gives the children a great and settled start to their day!

Safety reminder: parents should not use the school driveway. It is very narrow and difficult for staff who are arriving when parents are trying to leave, making it unsafe. Please park on the road and walk your children down to the hall.

Medical Needs & Allergies

Please inform us immediately if your child has any new medical needs. Children who require inhalers for asthma must leave these in a bag in school and a medical form must be completed by parents/carers in the school office. All regular medications need to be signed in with the office prior to them being administered. Children must not have medicines in their bags under any circumstances.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at school. We 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

S Tomlinson

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson – Headteacher

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027



Mon 2nd November 2026	INSET Day
Tues 3rd November	Back to School
Weds 4th November	Flu Immunisations
Tues 10th November	Tempest Individual Photos
Fri 13th November	Children in Need Day £1
Weds 25th November	Cinderella Panto at Mansfield Palace Theatre (not nursery)
Tues 1st December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal for school
Weds 2nd December	EYFS Christmas Production for parents 9.30am and 1.45pm
	Book Fair will be open - please bring cash.
Thurs 3rd December	Book Fair in Hall from 3.10pm – 3.30pm
Fri 4th December	School Christmas Fair
Mon 7th December	Last chance for the School Book Fair - 3.10pm – 3.30pm
Weds 9th December	Christmas Dinner – Start wearing Christmas Jumpers
Thurs 10th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal for school
	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day £1
	FWPS – KS1 Event – The Snowman (details to follow)
Fri 11th December	KS1 Christmas Production for parents 9.30am and 1.45pm
Mon 14th December	FWPS Carols by Candlelight Event (details to follow)
Thurs 17th December	Christmas Party Day
Fri 18th December	End of Term
Mon 4th January 2027	Back to School
Tues 9th February	Safer Internet Day
Weds 10th February	Y5 trip to National Space Centre
Thurs 11th February	End of Term
Fri 12th February	INSET Day
Mon 22nd February 2027	Back to School
	Young Voices Concert
Weds 3rd March	Bikeability Level 1 (details will follow)
Thurs/Fri 4 – 5th March	Bikeability Level 2 (details will follow)
Fri 5th March	Joint Cluster Schools Choir event

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Mon 15th March	Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Plaister
Tues 16th March	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Draycott
	Y2 Parent Consultations with Mrs Gregson
	Y5 Parent Consultations with Mr Stirling
Weds 17th March	FS2 Parent Consultations with Miss Sleight
	Y1 Parent Consultations with Miss Brown
	Y6 Parent Consultations with Mr Moore
Thurs 18th March	Y2 Parent Consultations with Mrs Everley
	Y3 Parent Consultations with Miss Binge
	Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Anderson
Fri 19th March	Red Nose Day
Thurs 25th March	End of Term
Mon 12th April 2026	Back to School
Weds 28th – Fri 30th	Whitehall Residential Y4/5
Mon 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Mon 10th May	Y6 SATS Week
– Thurs 13th May	
Thurs 27th May	End of Term
Fri 28th May	INSET Day
Mon 7th June	Back to School
Monday 7th – Fri 11th June	Y6 residential to Isle of Wight
	Y4 Multiplication Check
Monday 14th – Fri 18th June	Phonics Screening Check Y1
Weds 30th June	Sports Day
Thurs 1st July	Reserve Sports Day

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Weds 7th July	Y6 Production to parents 1.45pm and 6pm
Thurs 8th July	Nursery Sports Day
Fri 9th July	Reserve Nursery Sports Day
Mon 12th – Tues 20th July	Y6 to Heritage High School
Weds 21st July	Y6 return to Whitwell Primary School
Thurs 22nd July	Y6 Leavers Assembly 4.30pm
Fri 23rd July	End of Term for all children
Mon 26th July	INSET Day

Please note there will be other dates that will be added during the year for class trips and events that are booked, linked to the curriculum or visits. These will be communicated when available.

Thank you!