

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 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the New School Year!

All the staff and I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are now ready to settle back into school routines. Today, it has been fantastic to see the children chatting with friends, looking smart in their uniforms and getting to know their teachers. I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and families, we hope the children will soon feel established at Whitwell Primary School. Within this letter, I will detail a range of information and reminders that will hopefully support your child's return to school for this coming academic year.



School Day

Please remember that school starts at 8.45am in Reception/KS1 and 8.50am in KS2, all doors are 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.

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.

Staffing

We would like you all to welcome Miss Toon who is joining us in the Early Years Team. She is looking forward to her role in school, supporting the youngest children. Miss Morris is currently off school with ill-health; she is unable to be here for the start of the school year. We have re-organised the staff within KS1 to cover her absence as we all want consistent teaching and learning for the children. Mrs Basford will lead full-time in Miss Morris class with Mrs Banks for support in the morning and Mrs Bond in the afternoons. Miss Brown will lead her class and all the Y1 learning. Miss White will lead her class and all the Y2 learning. We all hope that Miss Morris will be able to return to work soon.

Uniform

Children are expected to come to school in their full 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. Please take the time to write names on labels as we always have lots of lost property and we would love to be able to give it back to the correct families! Uniform can be expensive and so we want to support you with it being well looked after. We do have some second hand uniform available and if you need something please ask at the office or speak to Mrs Boldero-Gray who will be able to help.



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club provision continues each morning in the hall. It is run by our own school staff.

Please walk your children down the driveway to the hall doors and sign them in. It can be paid for using our online payment system for the week or the days that you use the provision. Prices are:

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

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

Children are provided with cereals, fruit, toast and a drink of juice, milk or water. They are then encouraged to play with friends, take part in crafts, take part in simple activities, games etc.

PE & Swimming

You can find out which days your child has PE by looking at their class page on the school website. Swimming is on a Tuesday and starts next week, 16th September. You will receive a letter for permission if your child will be going swimming. This is such an important lesson as we all want the children to have basic swimming skills. Please return consent forms promptly.



For outdoor PE children will need to come in black or blue joggers/leggings and a white/blue plain t-shirt and jumper/cardigan or plain black or blue track suit top with outdoor trainers. School sweatshirts are fine. For indoor PE children will need black or blue shorts and a white/blue plain t-shirt with plimsolls or indoor trainers. Children may come with joggers over the top of shorts or bring their shorts to put on later. Please note that branded sportswear, football kits or clothes with logos or picture are not suitable - thank you! We do have some spare kit in school and children may be asked to wear spare kit if they repeatedly do not have correct PE kit.



We are delighted to have received the Gold Award for school sport again in 2024/25. Congratulations to Mrs Plaister for her strong leadership of PE in school and to all the staff who take children to events and lead after school clubs in their own time. In school, children love all the opportunities that are promoted for PE and being active, not just in PE lessons but also at playtimes with the scooters and mini-leader activities that the children run themselves. When representing school, our children are always determined, resilient and are often awarded 'Spirit of the Game' awards, which is fantastic!

The first event of this year is the Colour Run, which will be held on Friday 19th September. Mrs Plaister has sent an initial letter outlining details.

Contacting the school office

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. Also please ensure that any changes in address/email addresses and phone numbers are notified to the school by completing the form on the school website under the 'Parents' tab – Useful Links and Forms – Forms – Contact Update Form.

Medical Needs

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.

Allergies

We do have children in school with severe nut allergies. For this reason, no-one may bring any food to school which has nuts inside. This means peanut butter, chocolate spread and certain cereal and chocolate bars. Staff will contact you if children have these items in their lunch boxes. Please help us to keep all the children safe!

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Celebrations

Many children like to bring sweets and cakes to share for their birthdays. It helps staff if sweets or cakes are individually wrapped or are sent in the original packaging. Before you buy, please check they do not contain nuts. If you are baking a cake or buns to share, a list of ingredients must be attached to the tin please so that staff know what ingredients are used. At Whitwell Primary School we always tell the children to ask you if they can eat a treat before they have it and these treats are given out at home time. I am sure you would all agree that we want to keep all of our children safe and healthy!

Water

The Department for Education guidance states that schools must:

- Provide children with access to water throughout the day.
- Provide only fresh tap water and plain milk to drink.
- Provide whole milk, semi-skimmed cow's milk or unsweetened calcium fortified non-dairy alternatives for children from 1 year of age.
- Avoid skimmed and 1% cow's milk.
- Avoid sugary drinks (including fruit juices, squash and smoothies).

Please ensure that only water is put into your children's water bottles. You can order milk for your child through the new milk ordering system. Details have been previously sent, or they can be found on the school website.

Attendance/Absence and Holidays in Term Time (See Policy on School Website)

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



I would like to remind parents that, as from 1st September 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 DFE document, 'Working Together to Improve attendance' was updated from August 2024 and fines then rose in cost.

Please remember that schools must monitor all attendance for every child. If a child has 10 sessions (5 days) missing in a 10-week period this automatically triggers the process of fines for attendance that is unauthorised.



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



Safety

I would like to remind you that we have a crossing patrol on Station Road only. Thanks again to Tarmac and L'Hoist for sponsoring this again for us to keep the children safe.

Please be extremely careful when crossing on Southfield Lane and leave space when parking near the road markings.

Y6 Parents

The application process for your child's secondary school opens today! You must apply before 31st October 2025. Your child doesn't automatically get a place at the nearest school!

Many of the local secondary schools will hold information evenings over the next few weeks.

Please check their websites for details.

You are able to apply through the Derbyshire website for your chosen schools.


[Secondary school admissions - Derbyshire County Council](#)

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.

We are all looking forward to another successful school year!

Kind regards

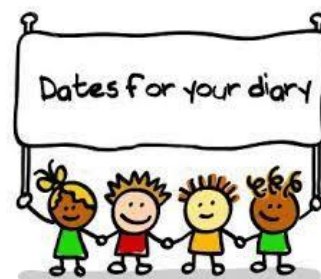
Mrs Sarah Tomlinson



Headteacher

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

Thurs 4 th & Fri 5 th Sept	INSET Days 1 & 2
Mon 8 th September	Children back to School
Tues 16 th September	Y3 Trip to Creswell Crags
Fri 19 th September	Whole School Colour Run
Fri 26 th September	Reserve Date Whole School Colour Run
Mon 13 th October	Y5 Parent Consultations with Mrs Plaister Y6 Parent Consultations with Mr Moore
Tues 14 th October	Y1/2 Parent Consultations with Miss Morris Y3 Parent Consultations with Miss Binge
Weds 15 th October	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Draycott Y1/2 Parent Consultations with Miss Brown Y1/2 Parent Consultations with Miss White
Thurs 16 th October	Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Anderson Y5 Parent Consultations with Mr Stirling FS2 Parent Consultations with Miss Sleight



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Fri 17 th October	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Williams
Fri 24 th October	End of Term
Mon 3 rd November 2025	INSET Day
Tues 4 th November	Back to School
Tues 11 th November	Tempest Individual Photos
Thurs 13 th November	World Kindness Day
Tues 2 nd December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal for school
Weds 3 rd December	EYFS Christmas Production for parents 9.45am and 1.45pm
Fri 5 th December	Choir visit to the Church Festival School Christmas Fair 2.15pm
Weds 10 th December	Christmas Dinner – Start wearing Christmas Jumpers
Thurs 11 th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal for school
Fri 12 th December	KS1 Christmas Production for parents 9.45am and 1.45pm
Thurs 18 th December	Christmas Party Day
Fri 19 th December	End of Term
Mon 5 th January 2026	Back to School
Fri 13 th February	End of Term
Mon 23 rd February 2026	Back to School
Weds 25 th – Fri 27 th Feb	Bikeability (details will follow)
Mon 16 th March	Y5 Parent Consultations with Mrs Plaister Y6 Parent Consultations with Mr Moore
Tues 17 th March	Y1/2 Parent Consultations with Miss Morris Y3 Parent Consultations with Miss Binge
Weds 18 th March	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Draycott



	Y1/2 Parent Consultations with Miss Brown
	Y1/2 Parent Consultations with Miss White
Thurs 19 th March	Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Anderson
	Y5 Parent Consultations with Mr Stirling
	FS2 Parent Consultations with Miss Sleight
Fri 20 th March	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Williams
Fri 27 th March	End of Term

Mon 13 th April 2026	Back to School
Mon 11 th May	Y6 SATS Week
– Thurs 14 th May	
Fri 22 nd May	End of Term

Mon 1 st June 2026	INSET Day
Tues 2 nd June	Back to School
Weds 3 rd June	Provisional Y6 trip to Institute of Sport
Tues 9 th June	Class photos
Fri 12 th June	Summer Fair
Weds 17 th June	Sports Day
Thurs 18 th June	Reserve Sports Day
Monday 22 nd	Y6 residential to Isle of Wight
- Fri 26 th June	(Please note change of dates!)
Weds 1 st July	Nursery Sports Day
Thurs 2 nd July	Reserve Nursery Sports Day
Weds 8 th July	Y6 Production to parents 1.45pm and 6pm
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th July	Y6 to Heritage High School
Mon 20 th July	Y6 return to Whitwell Primary School
Tues 21 st July	Y6 Leavers Assembly 4.30pm
Wed 21 st July	End of Term for all children
Thurs 23 rd 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!