

Whitwell Primary School

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

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



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

13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are now settling back into your school routines. It is lovely to see everyone chatting with friends, looking smart in their uniforms and getting to know their teachers. A very warm welcome to all our new children and families, we hope the children are enjoying their time at Whitwell Primary. 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 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. 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.

Qualitas After School Care

After being asked frequently about after school child care we are delighted to be hosting a new after school childcare service. You can sign your child up for an hour 3.30- 4.30pm or for 2 hours until 5.30pm. You sign up directly using the QR code.

Children receive a light snack tea and have sports and creative activities to take part in. The staff are all DBS checked and a member of our Senior Leadership Team will be on site.

Please sign up to try this out if you are interested. So far uptake has been lower than anticipated and we really want this partnership to succeed for the families of Whitwell. The children who have attended so far have had a lovely time!

(See Attachment)

Website

We are proud to have modernised the school website, which has moved over this week. Please check this regularly for updates – www.whitwellprimary.co.uk

Staff have all updated their class pages with all the information that you need. You can find these under the 'Children' tab on the website. Gradually we will add our own pictures and celebrate our school through the website.



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.



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



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. We are already finding uniform that is not named. Please take the time to write names on labels.

PE Days

You can find out which days your child has PE by looking at their class page on the school website. Swimming for Y5 is on a Tuesday and starts next week. 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.



Contacting the school office

We have also had a new phone system installed in school. Office hours are 8am – 5pm. If you 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. 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.

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



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. Please see the attached leaflet from Derbyshire County Council regarding penalty notices. The biggest change is 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. Please be aware of this.

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Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

During Spring Term 2024, the DFE produced new advice regarding mobile phones in school. They state: *"By removing mobile phones from the school day, we can create a safe space where pupils are protected from the risks and dangers associated with social media and cyber-bullying, as well as the peer pressure and possible stigma associated with owning what are often expensive devices."*

From then, children have not been bringing phones to school, except in exceptional circumstances. Please inform myself or the class teacher if your child needs a phone. The phone must be off and will be locked in a safe place during the day and returned at home time. It must not be switched on until the child has left the premises for safeguarding reasons.

We are aware that some children have Smart Watches. Please keep these at home. The risk of damage or loss is too great in school and jewellery is all removed for PE. If a child arrives with a smart watch it will be locked away and treated like a mobile device.

Subject Superstars Assemblies

WOW – Whitwell's Outstanding Workers are becoming Subject Superstars!

The format of our WOW assemblies is changing this year. There will be a curriculum focus for each assembly 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 will now be 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.

We are all looking forward to another successful school year!

Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Stomlinson".

Headteacher



2024-2025 Important Dates

Weds 4 th Sept	INSET
Thurs 5 th Sept	School Re-opens for all – 8.40am
Week 16 th Sept	Mini Police Project starts in Y5
Tues 17 th Sept	Swimming starts Y5
Weds 18 th Sept	Friends of WPS Meeting 9am at school – please come if you can!
Thurs 19 th Sept	Y6 Playmaker training
Thurs 26 th Sept	Y1 – Y6 Challenge Day
Fri 27 th Sept	Subject Superstars Assembly (invited only)
Weds 2 nd Oct	Harvest Festival at Whitwell Church (details to follow)
Thurs 10 th Oct	New starters meeting for Reception class Sept 2025
Week starting 14 th Oct	Parent Consultations – in school (details to follow)
Mon 14 th Oct	Mrs Plaister – Primrose (all day) Mr Moore – Honeysuckle (all day)
Tues 15 th Oct	Miss Morris – Dandelions (all day) Miss Binge – Poppies (all day) Mr Stirling – Foxgloves (all day)
Weds 16 th Oct	Mrs Draycott – Nursery (all day) Miss Brown – Bluebells (all day) Miss White – Buttercups (all day) Mr Moore – Honeysuckle (1pm – 5.30pm)
Thurs 17 th Oct	Miss Sleight – Daisies (all day) Mrs Anderson – Forget-me-nots (all day)
Fri 18 th Oct	Mrs Williams – Nursery (12.40 – 3.20pm)
Tues 22 nd Oct	Flu Vaccinations in school
Fri 25 th Oct	Last day of term
Mon 4 th Nov	INSET
Tues 5 th Nov	School Re-opens Swimming starts Y5
Tues 12 th Nov	Individual school photos
Fri 15 th Nov	Children in Need Day
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	Christmas Fair
Weds 11 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
Thurs 19 th Dec	Christmas Parties
Fri 20 th Dec	End of Term

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Mon 6 th Jan	School re-opens for Spring Term
Tues 14 th Jan	Y5 Swimming restarts
Thurs 6 th Feb	Y5 Playmaker Training
Thurs 13 th Feb	Young Voices Choir
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 22 nd 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



BEST
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Weds 4 th Jun	Y6 Trip to Institute of Sport (EIS)
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th	Y6 Residential to the Isle of Wight
Week starting 9 th Jun	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
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.