

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

Friday 10th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!



This week has flown past in school, and I wanted to say Welcome Back and that the staff and children are raring to go as we go forwards into Spring Term.

And what a week it has been for the first week of term! I'm sure none of us thought we would start with a snow day, black ice and freezing conditions! Luckily the new school boiler has coped well, and the building is warm for the children. They have loved all the opportunities to play outside on the field and it has been great to see happy and healthy faces.

As this is normally the coldest term we have in school please make sure your child comes to school in a coat, and has a hat, gloves and has named wellies so they are warm and dry. If the field becomes really muddy we will use it on a rota system as we are very aware that many of the children love the space to run around in and to play football. If we do continue to get any more snow or bad weather we will continue to use 'Teachers to Parents' to inform you of any important information. We will always try to keep school fully open as long as it is safe to do so.



Internet Safety

Internet safety day is Tuesday 11th February. During this week staff will be teaching a specific focus on 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online' which is the focus of the day. Please be assured that internet safety is taught each term and whenever an incident arises but that we will join in with the specific day. However as things change so fast online, we urge you to please check that parental controls are set

through your own devices for sites your children are able to access at home. Mr Stirling sends a regular E-Safety newsletter which is full of helpful and current information.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Sarah Haywood to the team, supporting as a Teaching Assistant in Y4 and also welcome Mrs Chloe Bramley who is joining us part-time in the Office. We do have vacancies for Midday Supervisors and we always welcome the names of anyone who would like to be considered to work on relief. Please contact the office for more information. There will also be a couple of teaching students working in school during the Spring Terms. Teaching practice is the best way to learn to teach and we hope that they will feel welcome and supported by all.



Uniform

Many children seem to have had a growth spurt over the holidays! If you have any old uniform that is still fit for use but now too small please consider sharing this with us at school for the second-hand shop.

Also, a reminder that children should be wearing our Whitwell Primary School uniform of a navy sweatshirt, black or grey trousers or skirt and black shoes. Remember to write your child's name in all new uniform for safe return when it is left behind around the school!

Jewellery is not allowed for school, except for stud earrings and a watch. These must be removed for PE or taped. School does not provide the tape. Earrings must be removed for swimming. This is for Health and Safety reasons. The welfare of the children always comes first.

FWPS events

The Christmas Fair was a true success, and the school are very grateful for all the support from friends and families with donations and attendance at this. Many people have commented on how much they enjoyed it.

There is still an unclaimed raffle prize – it is one of the Christmas Hampers.

Buff edge – 514.

Please don't miss out and check to see if you have any tickets lurking around!

Keep your eyes open for a separate FWPS letter with other planned events.



Valentine's Coffee Morning



The Friends of Whitwell Team will host a coffee morning for Valentine's Day. This will be on Wednesday 12th February, at 9am in the hall. Please come and support if you can. The KS2 choir will be singing for you as their first audience prior to attending Young Voices the next day.

Please remember if you have any questions or concerns, you can speak to the office, chat to class teachers or myself outside or make an appointment to see any of us directly. We will always endeavour to respond within 24 hours during the working school week.

I hope the updated list of dates will help you plan ahead for the rest of this academic year, and I will continue to update you each 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. Sporting events are often organised by Bolsover Sports Partnership, and we share information as quickly as we have it for specific groups or classes. Please continue to check the website frequently.

Kind regards

S Tomlinson

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson
Headteacher

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2024-2025 Important Dates

Mon 6 th Jan	School re-opens for Spring Term
Tues 14 th Jan	Y4/5 Swimming starts
Mon 3 rd – Weds 5 th Feb	Mansfield Town Skills Coaching
Thurs 6 th Feb	Y5/6 Ukelele Assembly 9.05am Y5 Playmaker Training FWPS Valentine's Disco at School tbc
Fri 7 th Feb	PSHE – Wear your SCARF day
Tues 11 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Weds 12 th Feb	FWPS Coffee Morning 9am, hall
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
Weds 26 th – Fri 28 th Feb	Bikeability Training Y4, 5 and 6 – letters will follow
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)



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!

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 week
Mon 19 th May	Y2 and Y6 Fire Safety talk
Thurs 22 nd May	Y3 Activity Day at Pleasley Vale 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 Y4 Multiplication Check
Fri 20 th Jun	Intra school sports competition
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 Last Y4/5 Swimming session
Weds 2 nd July	Reserve Nursery Sports Day
Fri 4 th July	Y5/6 Dress Rehearsal to school
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