

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 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write with an update letter as so much has been happening and there is so much to come in the next few weeks. It has been a fantastic start to the school year and already the children are well engaged with their learning. Progress is clear in all classes, especially the youngest children, where Early Reading is amazing!

We are delighted that more children are in school on time this term, meaning they are not missing the start of phonics and guided reading, this is fabulous – thank you all!

Attendance

This has been really good so far this term! Well done Everyone! We aim for 96% attendance for every child. This year we want to change how we reward children who are in school for a full week at a time and will be introducing a new attendance reward system after half-term.

Attendance Matters



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.

	Year to Date		Year to Date
Nursery	93.78%	Year 3	95.05%
Reception	93.1%	Year 4	95.82% - 2nd
Year 1	91.95%	Year 5	95.22% - 3rd
Year 2	94.65%	Year 6	97.21% - 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.

office@whitwell.derbyshire.sch.uk

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.

This Week

On Thursday we have our Harvest Assembly in school, and we would welcome any donations for the food bank at Limestone House in Creswell, which serves this community. On Friday the school are supporting a mental health charity by wearing yellow – donations of £1 would be gratefully received. We want to ensure that we support a range of charities over the school year and good child mental health is really important for all.



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



Next Week – 14th October

Our Parent Consultation days are next week.

Please sign up at classroom doors for Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2.

Come into the office or give us a call for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 teachers to make your appointments.

It is really important for you to have the chance to understand how your child has settled this term and how we can work together to support them in school.

School Admissions

Y6 parents need to apply for a place at a secondary school by 31st October.

You do not automatically get a place at the nearest school. It must be applied for.

On 9th November applications open for Reception Class places for September 2027. Again, everyone needs to apply for their school place.

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

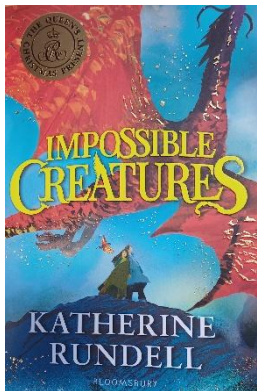
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

We are holding two sessions for prospective Reception parents to come and look at the provision in our Reception (Foundation Stage 2) class. Come and join us on 21st October between 11am – 11.40am or on 5th November from 1.30 – 2.10pm.

Parent Governors

Emails were sent last week inviting you to apply to be a parent governor.

This is a really rewarding role, supporting the school and helping to make a difference within the Governing Board. We would welcome applications from any parents; it doesn't matter if you do not have any school experience as the Governing Board represents the whole community. Meetings are held on Thursday evenings. There are 6 full Board meetings a year.



Y6 - The Queen's Christmas Present

Today we have received notification that Her Majesty the Queen is giving every Y6 child in the UK the gift of a book to help inspire a love of reading.

2026 is the National Year of Reading.

This book is on Accelerated Reader, which the children use in school, with a ZPD of 5.1 which is well in the middle of the range for lots of Y6 readers.

We hope that the children will read it for enjoyment and then can quiz on it afterwards in school. Go for it Y6 – we have never had gifts like this before!!

Our School Site

Wellies

Now that the weather is starting to change it is important that children have wellies to play outside. As you know we use the field as much as possible throughout the year so children can really have freedom to play and run around.

If you need wellies, please come and have a chat with staff as we have had many pairs donated where children have outgrown them. We will happily give your child a pair, as long as staff know they need them.

Litter

Please help us keep the school site clear and tidy. We understand that you like to bring snacks and treats for home time but please can all rubbish be put in the bins. There are bins on both sides of the school for food waste, plastic bottle recycling and general waste. We have noticed an increase in plastic wrappers

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being dropped close to paths around school. These are not from playtimes as the children have fruit and use the food waste bins for peel etc.

Scooters and bikes

We are all for the children being fit and active and understand that some of you live a distance away from school. However, children **must not** ride bikes and scooters on site. I have had reports from parents that children ride into them on paths and near to the crossings. We can identify the children who have these and will stop them bringing them if this continues. The safety of everyone is important!

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club provision continues each morning in the hall. It is 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

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson - Headteacher

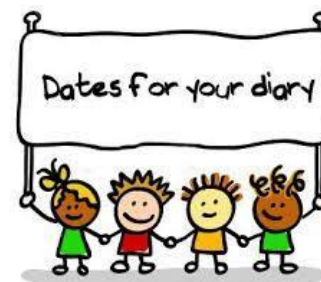


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ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Thursday 8 th October	Harvest Festival in school
Friday 9 th October	Wear Yellow – Hello Yellow
Mon 12 th October	Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Plaister
Tues 13 th October	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Draycott Y2 Parent Consultations with Mrs Gregson Y5 Parent Consultations with Mr Stirling
Weds 14 th October	FS2 Parent Consultations with Miss Sleight Y1 Parent Consultations with Miss Brown Y6 Parent Consultations with Mr Moore
Thurs 15 th October	Y2 Parent Consultations with Mrs Everley Y3 Parent Consultations with Miss Binge Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Anderson
Fri 23 rd October	End of Term
Mon 2 nd November 2026	INSET Day
Tues 3 rd November	Back to School
Weds 4 th November	Flu Immunisations
Tues 10 th November	Tempest Individual Photos
Weds 25 th November	Panto at Mansfield (not nursery)
Tues 1 st December	EYFS Dress Rehearsal for school
Weds 2 nd December	EYFS Christmas Production for parents 9.30am and 1.45pm
Fri 4 th December	School Christmas Fair
Weds 9 th December	Christmas Dinner – Start wearing Christmas Jumpers
Thurs 10 th December	KS1 Dress Rehearsal for school Official Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day £1
Fri 11 th December	KS1 Christmas Production for parents 9.30am and 1.45pm
Thurs 17 th December	Christmas Party Day
Fri 18 th December	End of Term
Mon 4 th January 2027	Back to School
Tues 9 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thurs 11 th February	End of Term
Fri 12 th February	INSET Day



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Mon 22 nd February 2027	Back to School Young Voices Concert
Weds 3 rd March	Bikeability Level 1 (details will follow)
Thurs/Fri 4 – 5 th March	Bikeability Level 2 (details will follow)
Fri 5 th March	Joint Cluster Schools Choir event
Mon 15 th March	Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Plaister
Tues 16 th March	FS1 Parent Consultation with Mrs Draycott Y2 Parent Consultations with Mrs Gregson Y5 Parent Consultations with Mr Stirling
Weds 17 th March	FS2 Parent Consultations with Miss Sleight Y1 Parent Consultations with Miss Brown Y6 Parent Consultations with Mr Moore
Thurs 18 th March	Y2 Parent Consultations with Mrs Everley Y3 Parent Consultations with Miss Binge Y4 Parent Consultations with Mrs Anderson
Fri 19 th March	Red Nose Day
Thurs 25 th March	End of Term
Mon 12 th April 2026	Back to School
Weds 28 th – Fri 30 th	Whitehall Residential Y4/5
Mon 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Mon 10 th May	Y6 SATS Week
– Thurs 13 th May	
Thurs 27 th May	End of Term
Fri 28 th May	INSET Day



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Mon 7 th June	Back to School
Monday 7 th – Fri 11 th June	Y6 residential to Isle of Wight Y4 Multiplication Check
Monday 14 th – Fri 18 th June	Phonics Screening Check Y1
Weds 30 th June	Sports Day
Thurs 1 st July	Reserve Sports Day
Weds 7 th July	Y6 Production to parents 1.45pm and 6pm
Thurs 8 th July	Nursery Sports Day
Fri 9 th July	Reserve Nursery Sports Day
Mon 12 th – Tues 20 th July	Y6 to Heritage High School
Weds 21 st July	Y6 return to Whitwell Primary School
Thurs 22 nd July	Y6 Leavers Assembly 4.30pm
Fri 23 rd July	End of Term for all children
Mon 26 th 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!