

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

7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the New School Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break 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 of 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 Katie Lloyd, who is joining the Y3 team and Lucie Modiri who is joining the Office Team. They are both looking forward to their new roles in school.

We also offer huge congratulations to Miss White, who got married over the summer and is now Mrs Everley. The children are gradually getting used to this!

Uniform

Children are expected to come to school in their full uniform each day, as per the home school agreement, and children must 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. Children can have cereals, fruit, toast and a drink. Activities are planned for 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.

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, 15th 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 2025/26. 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 25th 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.

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

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. We do our best to be a **Nut-Free School**. This means no 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!

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.



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



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. Also, if a child has 15 days off ill, which do not need to be continuous this is also shared with the local authority for monitoring.

We will continue to work closely with families and attendance.

In 2025/2026 we have improved our overall school attendance and are thrilled that this is closer to National data. Well done everyone – let's keep this up!

Safety at Crossings

A reminder that there is no longer a crossing patrol on Station Road. When leaving the school site please make sure your children stop at the school gate and wait for you, so they are not running down towards the road.

Please also 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 2026. 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 contact 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 script that reads 'S Tomlinson'.

Headteacher

Whitwell Primary School

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

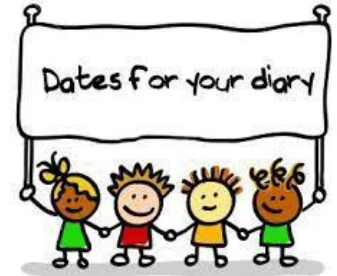
Tel: 01909 720251
Fax: 01909 720251
Email: info@whitwell.derbyshire.sch.uk



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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Fri 4 th Sept	INSET Day
Mon 7 th September	Children back to School
Weds 16 th September	Visiting Poet – all classes
Fri 25 th September	Whole School Colour Run (details to follow)
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



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



Fri 12 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
Thurs 11 th February	End of Term
Fri 12 th February	INSET Day
Mon 22 nd February 2027	Back to School
	Young Voices
Weds 25 th – Fri 27 th Feb	Bikeability (details will follow)
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
Thurs 25th 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
Mon 7 th June	Back to School
Monday 7 th – Fri 11 th June	Y6 residential to Isle of Wight (TBC)

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

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!



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!

