

Whitwell Primary School

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

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

14th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are now ready for back to school routines. A very warm welcome to all our new children and their families, we hope the children all settle quickly into school life and enjoy 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 now 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. Hometown 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.

Uniform

Children are expected to come to school in their full uniform each day and have a pair of 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.

PE Days

You can find out which days your child has PE by looking at their class page on the school website. 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. When doing field sports in KS2, children will be told to bring a spare pair of shoes. 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!



Contacting the school office

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 – Forms – Contact Update Form. Thank you. Parents and carers also will need to indicate if their 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.

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.

For further information, please see the attached 'Attendance and Punctuality' Leaflet and 'School Attendance – the Law' information for parents.

Attendance Matters



School Website

Please check the school website regularly for updates – www.whitwellprimary.co.uk



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.

WOW Assemblies

WOW – Whitwell's Outstanding Workers! We will continue to invite parents to attend our fortnightly WOW celebration assembly on Friday afternoons. These assemblies will begin at 2.40pm and the hall will be open for you from 2.30pm. If your child is to be given a WOW 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 actually receiving a WOW.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

I wish everyone a happy and successful new school year.

Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Tomlinson

Headteacher

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Important Dates:

Mon 4 th & Tues 5 th Sept	INSET
Weds 6 th Sept	School Re-opens for all – 8.40am
Week 18 th Sept	Mini Police Project starts Y5/6
Tues 19 th Sept	Swimming starts Y5 & some Y6.
Weds 20 th Sept	Y3 parents for lunch
Tues 3 rd Oct	Introduction to Phonics meeting 2.30pm
Thurs 5 th Oct	Harvest Festival
Thurs 12 th Oct	10am – 12pm Power Maths Open Morning
Week starting 16 th Oct	Parent Consultations – in school – details to follow later.
Mon 16 th Oct	Mrs Plaister/Mrs Watts – Sapphire
Tues 17 th Oct	Miss Webster – Emerald Miss Morris – Topaz Miss White - Ruby
Weds 18 th Oct	Mr Moore - Amethyst Mrs Draycott - Nursery Miss Brown - Moonstone
Thurs 19 th Oct	Miss Sleight - Diamond Mrs Anderson – Amber
Thurs 26 th Oct	Last day of term for children
Fri 27 th Oct	INSET
Mon 6 th Nov	School Re-opens
Tues 7 th Nov	8.45am Accelerated Reader Parent Information Session – hall
Mon 13 th Nov	Individual school photos
Fri 17 th Nov	Children in Need
Tues 21 st Nov	Flu immunisations Y6 Sats Parent Meeting 5pm
Mon 27 th Nov – Fri 1 st Dec	Book Fair
Fri 1 st Dec	Christmas Fair



Believe, Endeavour, Succeed Together!



Weds 13 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
Weds 20 th Dec	Christmas Parties
Thurs 21 st Dec	Last day of term for children
Fri 22 nd Dec	INSET
Mon 8 th Jan	School re-opens for Spring Term Young Voices Concert
Tues 16 th Jan	Swimming restarts
Weds 14 th – Fri 16 th Feb Y4/5	Residential to Mount Cook
Fri 16 th Feb	End of Term
Mon 26 th Feb	Back to School
Thurs 28 th Mar	End of Spring Term
Mon 15 th Apr	Back to School
Tues 23 rd Apr	Swimming restarts
Week starting 13 th May	Y6 SATS
Tues 14 th May	Y2 and Y6 Fire Safety talk
Thurs 23 rd May	Last day of term for children
Fri 24 th May	INSET
Mon 3 rd June	Back to School
Mon 3 rd – Fri 7 th	Y6 Residential to the Isle of Wight
Week starting 3 rd Jun	Y4 Multiplication Check
Week starting 10 th Jun	Y1 Phonics Screening Check

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.