

Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

9th September 2022



'Excellence in a Caring Community'

Welcome Back!



What a fab first week back it has been! The children have all settled in so well to their new year groups and have been sharing some of their amazing work with myself and Miss Monins! Our new Reception children have been absolute superstars starting their Whitby Heath journey and we are so proud of each and every one.

It has been lovely to see the children's smiling faces each morning as well as seeing them all looking super smart in the school uniforms once again.

As we start a new year, we welcome some new faces to our Whitby Heath team. Miss Mayhew has joined our Year 3 team as Rowan's class teacher. Miss Hilton and Mrs Wright are working across the EYFS, KS1 and Year 3 offering additional support and delivering PPA sessions. We also have two teaching assistants, Mrs Evans (EYFS) and Mr Goodwin (Year 4) who have joined the team.



A big celebration message also goes out to Mrs Madden (formally Miss Cross) who got married over the summer holidays. It was also lovely to see Mrs Burgess during our INSET days last week; she has now started her maternity leave. We wish her and her husband the best of luck for their new arrival.

We have also said a sad goodbye to Mrs Ablett who has left our team. Mrs Ablett has worked at Whitby Heath for a number of years and is moving on to a role outside of education. We thank her for all that she has done for the school and for hard work which has gone into supporting children across the school. We wish her the best of luck in her new job.



After the upsetting news about the Queen yesterday, I reflected on some of her celebrations during our assemblies today. Class teachers have also reassured and discussed the Queen's celebrations, as necessary and at an age appropriate level, with their classes. It's important that we support the children, and each other, during this time. As a whole school, we will pay tribute to and celebrate the life and achievements of the Queen over the coming weeks.

We have been enjoying our shared assemblies since the start of term and today, we resumed our weekly Celebration Assemblies. The following children were highlighted by their teachers as their class Shining Stars this week:

Oak Class - Kody L
Elm Class - Jorgie C
Ash Class - Daisy C
Beech Class - Thea R

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Fir Class - Madison C
Cherry Class - Jacob K
Poplar Class - Millie M
Rowan Class - Liam H
Cedar Class - Charlie T
Holly Class - Hermione L
Sycamore Class - Jake T
Willow Class - Lucy W
Birch Class - Frankie H
Maple Class - Lewis O

Congratulations to you all!

Unfortunately, I have some sad news to share. Joyce Morton, a former teacher at Whitby Heath, sadly passed away on Saturday. Mrs Morton was a teacher at school for many years. She worked across many different year groups supporting and fostering children's love for learning; building a great rapport with the children she worked with. She especially loved teaching RE and would wax lyrical about her love of RE and teaching it! Mrs Morton went on many residentials with UKS2 and even had her husband, who was a retired teacher, helping out on school trips and coaching basketball after school. Mrs Morton was a great colleague and a loved member of the teams she worked within. She will be sadly missed by all.

Meet the teacher presentations

This year, we are excited to be able to welcome parents and carers into school on Wednesday 21st September. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to come into school to meet their child's class teacher. Each teacher will be giving a presentation outlining key information about your child's year group this year. EYFS/KS1 meetings will be at 4-4.45pm and KS2 4.45-5.30pm. We will also have tables of lost property in the hall throughout the evening - please feel free to see if anything belongs to your child/ren.

New-Look Website

We have had a refresh and update on our website. It should now be more user friendly as well as more welcoming to all of our users. We will continue to update it with key dates and information throughout the year so don't forget to keep checking it.

At the start of a new school year, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of ways you can support your child in school:

In School on Time: Punctuality makes a great start to the school day and we cannot stress how much children are affected if they arrive late. The feeling of uncertainty

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and worry often impacts throughout the entire first lesson. *Please let us know if you are having problems getting your child to school on time.*

DID YOU KNOW

5 minutes late each day = 3 school days lost
10 minutes late each day = 6.5 school days lost
15 minutes late each day = 10 school days lost
20 minutes late each day = 13 school days lost
30 minutes late each day = 19 school days lost



Look Smart: Wearing School Uniform makes a statement which helps unify all our learners, this includes PE kits on PE days. It has been great to see so many children looking super smart in their uniforms this week. *Please ensure that you label all of your child's clothes and belongings.*

Snacks and Waterbottles: Please ensure any snacks for break times are **healthy** choices - no chocolate bars or crisps please. We also encourage all children to eat healthily at lunchtimes and we ask that parents support us with this when sending packed lunches into school. *Reminder that we are a **NUT FREE** school.*

Please make sure your child has a **named water bottle** in school each day. Children have access to water coolers in school throughout the day but they do need a bottle to collect their water in. It is important that children drink lots of water throughout the school day to stay well hydrated and healthy. Please also be reminded that these bottles **are for water only** and not juice of any kind.

Sickness and Illnesses: We would like to remind all parents and carers that it is our policy to ask that all children are absent from school for 48 hours from their last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. This is to prevent other children and staff becoming ill. Thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation in this matter.

Safety at the Beginning and End of the School Day

Please ensure children are supervised by an adult both before handover at the start of the school day and once children have been handed over by class teachers at home time. The field and school equipment are **NOT** to be used by children at these times. Any bikes or scooters must be dismantled before coming on to school grounds and wheeled carefully to the bike rack.

School Attendance, including Persistent Absences and Holidays during Term Time

The government has a persistence absence threshold of 10%. The absence threshold of 10% means that if a pupil is absent for 38 sessions (19 days) of school, they are classified as persistently absent. Schools are urged to inform parents of this threshold



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and to advise parents that fines will be made for persistent absence, unless there is evidence of a justifiable reason for such absence, for example, significant illness. Failure to make payment will result in legal action for failure to ensure regular attendance at school under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996.

After the summer break we are eager to help children on the next steps to learning success. Guidance concerning holidays taken in school term time is clear - **holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances** and both schools and Local Authorities are expected to ensure that such circumstances are not that holidays are cheaper during term time.

Timeline	Penalty Charges
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent per child
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent per child
After 28 days	The parent will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrate's Court on the grounds of having failed to secure their child/ children's regular attendance

As you are aware, school is unable to grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is usually a one-off, unique situation that is of significant emotional, educational or spiritual value which outweighs the loss of teaching time.

Therefore, in line with guidance, requests for holidays during term time will not usually be authorised.

It is my duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time. In addition, it is important that I advise you that under the legislation there is an expectation that schools will issue a Penalty Notice to those parents who take their children on an unauthorised leave of absence in term time.

Please bear this guidance in mind when making bookings for any holidays.

Photos!

Academy Photography will be in school Tuesday 13th September to take individual photographs of all children in school. If you have older or younger siblings who do not attend our school and you would like your children to be photographed together, the photographers will be available from 8.15am on Tuesday in the school hall to do this. Please come to the main entrance of school for access to school for sibling photographs. Please ensure that all children come into school in their usual school uniform on Tuesday for their photo - there will be no PE on this day.



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School Meals and Pupil Premium

The Government's initiative 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' provides free school meals to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. In addition to this, Cheshire West and Chester Council continue to administer free school meals to families who qualify.

You will qualify if you are receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

What To Do If You Think You Are Eligible

All you have to do is phone Cheshire West and Chester on the number below and they will let you know if your child/ren are entitled to Free School Meals.

0300 123 7021

Alternatively, you can complete an application online by visiting:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx>

All schools receive additional funding known as the Pupil Premium for pupils registered with the Council for free school meals based on income levels, therefore any parents who may qualify should still apply to the Council if they are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, **even if your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.**

As you will be aware, both myself and Miss Monins (Acting Deputy Head) will be available at most drop off and pick up times on the playground if you would like to discuss anything with us. If we are unavailable or you would like an alternative time to discuss a matter, please don't hesitate to contact us via help@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk and one of our team will get back to you.

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I look forward to a prosperous year ahead working once again within our Whitby Heath community.

Mrs E Williams