



**Great Whelnetham CE Primary School**  
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18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School. I hope that you have all had a splendid summer and that the children have enjoyed their first full week back at school. It has been wonderful to see all the children back together, playing and enjoying each other's company. They are an absolute credit to you all.

As this is the first newsletter of the school year there are many important messages and key dates for your information below.

### **Welcome to Great Whelnetham!**

We are delighted to welcome to Great Whelnetham Primary, our new reception children and their families. Please join us in welcoming: Theo, Cameron, Thallia, Ezmae and Freddie. A warm welcome also to Lilly who joins us in Year 1.

### **Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)**

The children in Reception, Yr. 1 and Yr.2 will receive a free school meal under the government's universal free school meal scheme. **Free school meals (FSM) are different to UIFSM and are available to children of families who are in receipt of certain government credits and allowances. If you think you may be eligible please check the government website on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> to check the criteria and fill in the relevant form.** The school would also receive additional funding to help support your child in other ways such as academic and financial support. If you need any assistance with this then please do contact the school.

### **Snacks and Water Bottles**

Please can you make sure that your child has a **named** water bottle in school. They will need to bring it in every **Monday** and take it home on a Friday to be washed. Children in Years 3-6 are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack to have at break time; children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are provided with a free school snack of fresh fruit and vegetables.

### **Uniform and PE Kit**

Please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school with all items clearly named. Their PE kit will remain in school until half term (excluding Swans). They will also need a pair of **named** trainers to be kept in school.

### **Nut Allergy Reminder**

Please can we remind you all that because we have a number of children who are severely allergic to nuts that all packed lunches and any snacks sent in from home need to be nut free. You will need to check the ingredients in snack biscuits and bars etc. Thank you in advance for supporting the school over this.

### **Music Tuition**

It is very exciting that this term, children in Owls class will be learning how to play the clarinet! We will be having a

specialist music teacher who will be coming into school every Thursday. We are certain that the children will really enjoy this experience and look forward to attending one of their concerts some time very soon!

### **Class Welcome to Parents**

Class teachers are delighted to welcome parents into their pupil's classrooms on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. They will be sharing the routines, expectations and exciting learning experiences for the year ahead. Parent's welcome in Larks and Robins will take place from 2:40 – 3:00pm. Parent's welcome to Owls and Swans will take place from 3:00 – 3:20pm. Pupils will be dismissed as usual.

### **British Gymnastics Coaching**

We are delighted to be receiving specialist gymnastics coaching from 'Rivers Gymnastics Academy'. Hannah Palframan is a qualified British Gymnastics coach and will be delivering bespoke sessions going beyond the National Curriculum. Over the course of the school year, she will be working with every pupil in every class.

### **School Photos – Individual and Family Groups**

The photographer will be in school on the afternoon of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to take photos of the children individually and in family groups. If your child has younger siblings at home or at Cygnets who you would like to be included, please bring them along to the main office at 1.15pm and we will try to ensure that you do not have to wait too long to have their photo taken.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is a vital part of school life. We are vigilant and focused on educating all stakeholders; keeping them up to date with relevant information. Each month we will share with you some important resources that can improve your understanding of safeguarding. This month, we focus on keeping children safe while online. Please visit the link for some useful top tips: InternetMatters

[https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtfqKBhBoEiwAZuesiKy-uxCQQ7AGTzc4DnMAVkaPmasdUQBabTKyNt6fLeidyK15RvwnhoC09oQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtfqKBhBoEiwAZuesiKy-uxCQQ7AGTzc4DnMAVkaPmasdUQBabTKyNt6fLeidyK15RvwnhoC09oQAvD_BwE)

### **Ipswich Town – School of the Day**

Last week, we were delighted to welcome representatives from Ipswich Town FC to deliver an assembly in preparation for us becoming the 'School of the Day' at Portman Road this Saturday!

The coaches then took Swans Class for an exciting skills and drills session! There was some top quality football on display. We will be contacting families regarding ticket collection this week.

### **Dates for your diary**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – 4.00pm Year 5/6 7-a-side Football Tournament at King Edward School

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Robins trip to the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – 1.15pm – Individual & family photos

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Maths Open Morning – details to follow

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Assembly in the church – details to follow

Yours sincerely

Mr Varela  
Head of School