

Monthly Newsletter

December 2024



Spreading Joy in the local community

We had the absolute pleasure of taking our pupils from years 5 and 6 to Cornwallis Court Nursing home to sing carols last week. We performed songs that included We Three Kings, Rudolph, Love Shone Down and more. The children were fantastic and received wonderful smiles and applause from all the residents. The children enjoyed speaking to the audience about their Christmas traditions from when they were children. One resident, who was 104, was enjoying sharing her experiences! We were so glad that we were able to spread some Christmas cheer and look forward to returning next year.



1

PTFA - Shining stars

A gigantic thank you to our superb PTFA who have been running their festive calendar of events over the last month. They have supported at school, organised events with teas and cake, decorated our Year 6 classroom for the festive period and ran the ever-popular Christmas shop over a two day period. Pupils from all classes have enjoyed shopping for special gifts to surprise their family with. They also created a magical dining experience at our yearly Christmas lunch with incredible decorations and candy canes + crackers for every child! Thank you again, the children are so lucky to have you supporting them with so many special, memorable events.



2

December - More to come

We are excited to still have lots more interesting events before the end of term. We welcome Reverend Sharon into school on Tuesday next week to run workshops before our Christingle Service in the afternoon (start time 2:30pm). On Thursday, Owls will be performing to the whole school to showcase the work they've completed in their corent sessions this half term. Parents are also welcome to this: Start time at 9:30am. On Monday 16th, pupils can come dressed in non uniform to raise money for our work supporting the RSPCA.



3 Safeguarding Update

This month's safeguarding update is about 'ACES' (adverse childhood experiences). This short animated film has been developed to raise awareness of ACEs, their potential to damage health across the life course and the roles that different agencies can play in preventing ACEs and supporting families. If you have any questions about any of our safeguarding features, then please speak to Mr Varela or Mr Gilbert.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgLYI9KZ-A&t=12s>





Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

NURTURE - GROW - SUCCEED TOGETHER

Dates for your Diary

-
- 13th December - RockSteady Concert (2:30PM)
- 17th December - Christingle Assembly (2:30PM)
- 19th December - Owls Cornet performance (parents welcome 9:30am)
- 19th December - Last day of term

- 20th December - PD Day
- 6th January - PD day
- 7th January - Children back in school



**WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**MR VARELA
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Mrs Kimber

About me

I am very fortunate to be able to interact with so many wonderful children and their families and to work in an environment filled with positivity, humour and fun.

I joined Great Whelnetham School over 25 years ago. Over this time, I have seen many changes and have worked with some incredible, supportive and inspiring people. Being part of this team - this family - is what makes my job so enjoyable.

Life outside of school is pretty hectic; when I am not helping to care for my mum, my husband and I enjoy walking and evenings out to music events and comedy shows. We have two lovely children and two beautiful granddaughters. I also like to swim, garden and I'm Safeguarding Officer for our local church.



My Role

As Office Manager, my role is varied and interesting. It includes aspects of finance and HR, communication and website maintenance to name a few. It's my job to ensure that the staff have all the resources and equipment they need to teach effectively.

Health, safety and safeguarding feature in almost every aspect of my job, from ensuring the building and grounds are safe places to learn and work, to keeping data secure and staff training up to date. I am also an Associate Member of the Governor's Health and Safety Committee.

Whilst I may not work in the classrooms, I like to think that the work I do indirectly impacts learning outcomes and the experiences of our children, and for that I am very proud.

MRS MILNER

About Me

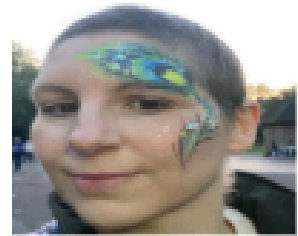
I never imagined I would find myself working in a school, but I have to say it's been the best career move I have ever made.

I absolutely love it here at Great Whelnetham!

I started my transition from the finance sector into the education world when my children were at nursery. I studied hard to gain the relevant qualifications in Early Years and recently completed my level 3 teaching assistant course in 2023.

I live with my husband, Jon, and my daughters Lily and Esme. As a family we love to spend time walking our dog Oakley and playing games.

I am a Brownie leader known as Brown Owl and have been running my own unit for 10 years now. I love Girlguiding, being able to plan exciting activities, which range from arts and crafts to organised events away. I love watching the girls grow in confidence, trying new skills, experiencing adventures, and most importantly having fun with their friends.



How I Teach

I provide individual and group support to the children primarily in Robins class however I do see and chat with all the children at lunchtime.

I love being able to empower each child to become resilient, independent learners, thinking out their own strategies to solving problems whether that be in the classroom completing a task or sorting out friendship issues outside. Building strong positive relationships are key in helping children to achieve the best version of themselves and taking accountability of their own learning.

I like to reinforce lots of praise, recognition and enjoyment into my group work, allowing the children to express their own individual ideas and views while maintaining and meeting our learning objectives to our full potential.

My favourite lesson is Forest School, I believe it is a great opportunity for children to work together, learn how to be a team player and experience new skills in a safe outdoor environment.

My Role

My role as a teaching assistant allows me to work closely with each child, building a strong rapport, getting to know what they like and dislike. Encouraging them to have a go at all activities and providing the right level of support that they may need. Getting them to try and do their best and succeed in everything they do.

I also support Mr. Varela with the Ethos Committee. I really enjoy this role as I get to work alongside a dedicated group of children who have a passion for promoting our school values and the environment we learn in. As a group we deliver collective worship assemblies and collect ideas on how we can improve our school environment.