



## Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0UA  
(01284) 386203

Executive Head Teacher – Mrs. Claire Flatman

Head of School – Mr Bobby Varela

office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk

Website: www.greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk

13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dear Parents and Carers, Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing break. We have lots of exciting things planned for this half term, please see below for further details.

### Our Learning

This half term, our focus subjects are history and art and design. The topics in each subject are shown in the table below. You can find more information about these topics on the curriculum page located on our school website.

Class	History	Art and Design
Larks	The Great Fire of London	Drawing – Spirals
Robins	Significant Women from the Past	Drawing – Still Life
Owls	Roman London	Painting – Henri Rousseau (Landscapes)
Swans	Equal Rights for Women	Portraits - Picasso

### STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Day – 25<sup>th</sup> January

We are extremely excited about our upcoming STEM Day and look forward to welcoming parents, carers and other family members; we hope you can join us after you drop off in the morning. We will start with an assembly at 9:10am – introducing the STEM subjects and looking at future jobs which may inspire our children to work towards. We also have a guest speaker and a tech demonstration! Next, we will be splitting into house groups. Each house group (along with parents/visitors) will have four exciting activities to complete based on one of our STEM subjects. The PTFA have kindly offered to provide refreshments which will be available from 8:50am in the school hall. The whole morning should be complete by 12:00pm. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

### School Library

If you would like to visit the library – it is open every Friday after school from 3:15 – 4:00pm. Enter through Mrs Tyler’s classroom. We have already seen lots of you visiting this year which is fantastic! As well as providing a wide range of books to borrow, we currently have some ‘pre-loved’ books. These will be available for pupils to take home and keep – adding to your own book collection. So please do come and visit us and continue growing our love of reading in the school community.

Swans Class recommendations:

Key Stage Two-page turners = Hatchett by Gary Paulsen and There’s a Boy in the Girls Bathroom by Louis Sachar

Nonfiction fun = Guinness Book of Records 2021

Family share = Explorer by Katharine Rundell

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### **School Council**

The School Council have been doing a wonderful job – led by Mrs Milner. They have been working hard to give every child a voice and improve the school. Here are some of their recent successes shared in their last meeting. “Since the launch of our School Council in March 2022, we have successfully achieved the following:

- Established our roles, responsibilities and mission statement
- Renamed our team houses from colours to gems and voted on our end of term prize
- Voted on new extra-curricular activities
- Led a Collective Worship assembly on Respect.”

This term the School Council will be leading a Collective Worship assembly. This will represent one of our school core values which is Friendship.

The Council will present a story, questions, prayer and time for reflection.

Keep up the super work!

### **Healthy Mindset for Everyone in our School**

We have been continuing our behaviour and wellbeing program this half term with InvestED Wellbeing and are delighted with the results that we are seeing in school. As well as our daily relaxation, focus and brain enhancing Pit Stops, we have been introducing calming techniques to help pupils find ‘balance’ and choose resolution based behaviours when experiencing different emotions. This has helped pupils regulate and overcome challenges or worries that they may have in or out of the classroom. We have recently reviewed our behaviour policy and have made some changes which we believe are going to support us in continuing to providing a safe, nurturing and empowering environment for our children to learn and grow. Our new policy has been uploaded to our school website so please do take a moment to read it. It has been wonderful to receive and hear stories and observations from parents sharing that pupils have been using these techniques at home to help them in moments where they felt unsettled. We love hearing from you, please keep sharing.

### **Eco- Council**

The Eco Council met again before Christmas and created an action plan to direct our focus for the next phase of the year. We have identified that we would like to improve our biodiversity, school grounds and eco-friendliness. We will be running a competition in January that focuses on “How eco-friendly is your class?”. The Eco-Councillors will be monitoring the progress of each class and the winners will be going on a ‘Plod’ in the local area. A Plod is a hybrid - a jog and a litter pick (to keep ourselves and our local area healthy)!

### **Safeguarding Update**

The safeguarding update this month is in relation to setting up parental controls on your child’s device. The link below provides a helpful checklist for the things you can do to ensure your child stays safe while they are online. If you have any questions about online safety, please speak to Mr Varela who is our Online Safeguarding Lead.

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Alternatively, if you have any questions relating to any of our safeguarding features please do come and speak to Mr Varela or Mrs Flatman.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/>

### **Dates for your Diary**

Week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> January – Inter-Class Eco Competition  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5/6 Futsal Tournament (afterschool)  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January – STEM Day – Parents welcome  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Year 4 Dodgeball Tournament (afterschool)  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January – PTFA Coffee Morning (from drop off)  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Number Day (details to follow)

Best Wishes  
Bobby Varela  
**Head of School**

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