



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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8th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. It has been wonderful to see the children return, rested and ready to begin the exciting learning that their teachers have been busy planning.

We have a busy half term planned, so please see below information about your child's learning, other events taking place and key notices. Within our learning this half term, our focus subjects are geography and music. The topics in each subject are as follows:

Class	Geography Topic	Music Topic
Larks	Oceans and Seas	Nativity
Robins	Europe	Nativity
Owls	Four nations	Soul/Gospel – Lean On Me
Swans	Volcanoes and Earthquakes	Happy – Pharrell Williams

Children in Need

Friday 17th November. To support and raise money for 'Children in Need', the children are invited to come into school in non-uniform and bring a voluntary donation of £1.

Anti-Bullying week (13th -17th November)

As a school, we are looking forward to celebrating anti-bullying week to continue our culture of positive relationships. Mrs Masson delivered a collective worship this week in preparation – pupils are invited to wear 'odd socks' on November 13th for World Kindness Day. Pupils will also be completing a range of activities in class.

Safeguarding Update

Safeguarding is of vital importance to us all at Great Whelnetham. It is also important that we keep our parent community updated - this month the theme is 'Online Safety'. Please see below a link which will provide you with useful information. This video is specifically designed for children in Key Stage 2. If you have any questions about any of our safeguarding features, then please speak to the class teachers or Mr Varela.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81aKC1owwAY&t=14s>

S.T.E.M Olympiad

Mr Varela had the pleasure of taking pupils to an event designed to encourage Year 5 girls to participate in the STEM subjects. We attended the competition at Old Buckenham Hall and participated in a range of Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering challenges. The highlights included writing mathematical formulas on tables, cracking a crime scene investigation using our scientific enquiry skills and working as a team to create a wind-powered car made out of paper straws. The girls represented the school superbly and had a fantastic day.

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School Library

If you would like to visit the library – it is open every Friday after school from 3:15 – 4:00pm. Enter through Miss Tyler’s classroom. It has been wonderful to see so many of you exploring and enjoying new books and taking some home to share with the wider family.

Mr Varela recommendations

Key Stage 2 book = The Land or Roar (Jenny McLachlan)

Key Stage 1 family read = Fantastic Mr Fox (Roald Dahl)

Family share = Mixed up Fairy Tales (free look box)

Lost Property

We are already seeing growing amounts of lost property building up in school. We have many items which are not named. I would be grateful if you could check that all items of clothing are clearly labelled as this will help staff to return items back to the correct child. Thank you.

Jumpers and Coats

Now that the weather is starting to get colder, please do send your child in with a jumper/cardigan and a coat. If your child brings in hats, scarves and gloves, please make sure that these are also clearly named. Thank you

Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th November – Children in Need – Non-Uniform Day

Wednesday 22nd November – Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 5th December – Whole school visit to Theatre Royal

Thursday 7th December – Save the Children – Wear a Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 12th December - Larks/Robins Nativity (Afternoon and Evening performance)

Wednesday 13th December – Christingle Carol Service in the hall (2:30pm start)

Thursday 14th December – PTFA Christmas Shop

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Lunch

Friday 15th December – PTFA Christmas Shop

Friday 15th December – Rocksteady Concert

Head’s Update

I am extremely excited to announce that I will shortly be taking two weeks paternity to welcome my second child into the world. She is due at the end of November. Mrs Reavis has kindly offered to step into Owls class full time for these two weeks. If during this period you have any questions or concerns, please contact your class teacher in the first instance. If you need further support, please email the school office who will forward your message onto Mrs Flatman.

Best Wishes

Bobby Varela

Head of School

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