



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

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14th September 2022

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 wonderful 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: Harry, Lydia, Henry, Huxley, George, Frederick, Valentina, Daisy, Aa'Jiah, Oban and Eddie. The children are all settling in beautifully and are getting to know each other and the school environment. We are very proud of them.

Please also join us in welcoming Betsy to Robins class. Finally, we also welcome Mrs Reavis who joins us as a class teacher in Owls and Robins classes.

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 Y3,4,5& 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.

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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.

Entrance to and from School

Please can we remind you that children should be accessing and leaving the school site via the pedestrian entrance on Stanningfield Road. We ask that you do not use the car park as a cut through for reasons of health and safety.

Music Tuition

It is very exciting that this term, children in Owls class will be learning how to play the flute! We will be having a specialist music teacher who will be coming into school every Thursday, starting this week. 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 the new date of Wednesday 21st 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.

Girls Football Club

We are pleased to let you know that all pupils who have so far applied for a place on the Girls Football Club on a Friday afterschool have been successful in gaining a place. We look forward to seeing them at the club this Friday.

School Photos – Individual and Family Groups

This date has had to be re-arranged due the Queen's State Funeral and will now take place in the afternoon of Monday 3rd October. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

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

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on keeping children safe while online. Please visit the link for some useful top tips: Internet Matters

https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtfqKBhBoEiwAZuesiKv-uxCQQ7AGTzc4DnMAVkaPmasdUQBaBTKyNt6fLeidyK15RvwnhoC09oQAvD_BwE

Attendance

The last three school years have seen an unprecedented period of disruption for children, parents, carers and teachers. We are immensely proud of how the school community has pulled together to ensure that the children at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School have continued to get the best education possible. The SATs results from last summer have shown that the children are capable of achieving great things despite the recent challenges. We are immensely proud of how our children are performing.

This year the school will continue to ensure that children have as much quality teaching time as possible to help their learning. Despite restrictions having been removed for many months we are seeing absences remaining high. The school wants all our children to achieve their potential. It is vital that all children are in class for all sessions for which they are able. Research has shown that poor school attendance directly impacts children's attainment. We know that children returning from a period of absence often struggle to catch up with their peers, which can in turn impacts their confidence and self-esteem.

Leaders will continue to observe this area closely and persistent absences will be identified and concerns raised with parents.

We thank you for your continued support in this area and if you have any questions then please do not hesitate in getting in touch with Mrs Flatman or Mr Varela.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Flatman: Executive Headteacher.

Mr Varela: Head of School

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