



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

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18th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue towards the last part of spring term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. We are so proud of the children and all their hard work this term.

A Warm Welcome

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed three new pupils and their families into our school community. A warm welcome to Ivy and Arty who have joined Larks class and to Luke who has joined in Owls.

Easter Bingo - PTFA

Pupils, parents and staff are excited for the PTFA Easter Bingo which takes place on Thursday 28th March at the Community Centre, starting at 6pm. I am so thankful for all the superb fundraising from the PTFA. They have recently supported the school to renovate our pond area – more details to follow! I look forward to seeing many of you at the bingo later this term, Eyes down!

Pond Renovation

We are delighted with the redevelopment of pond area following grants from Councillor Karen Soons and her Locality Budget, Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme and a donation from the PTFA. We still have some way to go and items to purchase but we are very grateful for the support. A shout out to R & M Pond Services Limited of Sudbury for all their hard work in some dreadful weather conditions - we are delighted with their work. We would welcome support from any parents, particularly those with some landscaping experience regarding what to do with the land inside the fenced area of the pond - please see Mr Varela or Mrs Kimber.

Bikeability – Year 5

We are incredibly pleased with the success of our year 5 pupils in completing their bikeability level two qualification. The instructors commented on both groups' attentiveness and attention to detail – representing the school fantastically! They felt this is the most talented group of riders they've had so far this year. Well done year 5.

Important information you your child is eligible to receive Suffolk County Council funded transport:

If your child is eligible for SCC funded school travel you will need to opt-in by **31 May 2024** to receive travel for the start of the 2024/2025 school year.

If your child already receives SCC funded school travel you still need to opt-in every year.

If your child is starting secondary school in September 2024 and they are eligible for SCC funded school travel you will be contacted by the end of March 2024. You will need to opt-in if you would like your child to use this service.

If your child is starting primary school in September 2024 and they are eligible for SCC funded school travel you will be contacted by the 10 May 2024. You will need to opt-in if you would like your child to use this service.

Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School is part of the All Saints Schools Trust.

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For more information on the SCC school travel policy and getting your child to school please visit; <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/optin>

Safeguarding Update

This month's safeguarding update is focused on Online Safety. This collection of guides provides parents and carers with key information about the most popular social media and gaming apps children and young people are using today. The guides include a detailed overview of the app, outlining the age rating and key terminology. They also highlight the risks each app poses to young people and give detailed instructions on how to enable parental controls and safety settings. If you would like more support with this or any other safeguarding support please speak to Mr Varela <https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online/in-the-know/>

Eco Council

The Eco-Council shared information with the school about the 'Big Plastic Count'. We care greatly about our world and want you to get involved in this important challenge. From 11th-17th March, we counted our plastic use. Pupils have been completing tally charts in school and at home to calculate our plastic footprint and work with thousands of other schools to campaign for change! If you haven't already, please send your Tally chart back into school so we can finalise our results.

Asthma Friendly School – Award

We are thrilled that the school has been awarded the status of Asthma Friendly School having achieved the top gold level of accreditation. Actions completed to achieve this include but were not limited to; has named asthma champions, has access to care plans for asthmatic pupils, have a minimum of 85% of staff who have undertaken bespoke asthma training and has an emergency inhaler kit on site for pupils.

Dates for your Diary

20th March – Y5 Skateboarding Event (in school)

22nd March – PTFA Coffee Morning and Meeting

Non Uniform Day – please donate an egg for the Easter Bingo

Rocksteady Concert

26th-28th March – Parents Evening

28th March – Last Day of term

28th March – PTFA – Easter Bingo (6pm start)

15th April – First Day of Summer Term

15th April – Weekly Hockey taster sessions Years 4/5/6

17th April – Weekly Swimming starts (Y4/5 and 6 after SATS)

Best Wishes

Bobby Varela

Head of School

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