



Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Let your light shine!

Newsletter 13/9/24

News

Thank you!

We've been so pleased by the engagement we have had with our Facebook group now that we are posting class work – many thanks! If you have tried to get on, but haven't managed, it may be because you haven't answered the security questions – you need to do all three! If you would like to come in and see us, we can try to help you if you're stuck.



Roald Dahl Day

It's been Roald Dahl day in school today. The author has caused a bit of controversy of late, as people are questioning some of his opinions and beliefs – but his books are so beloved by children and staff alike that we have spent today celebrating his work. We imagined we'd be watching Matilda, but in fact, staff had planned some really engaging work linked to other stories, so we have watched a variety of the classics. He may have had his faults, but Roald Dahl gave our children some genuinely beautiful messages.

'Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.' –Matilda.

Unfortunate Parking

We're sorry to tell you that, after all our reminders, we tripped up with parking yesterday. Our lovely sports coach, who works for an outside provider, came in for the day and parked outside of school. From what I hear, she wasn't parked illegally during the day, but apparently it was not a helpful place to have a car. This led to an altercation with a resident, after which our coach drove away, but then decided she needed to return as she was worried about the implications for her job. When she arrived, she, unbeknown to us, parked on the zig-zag lines. Our staff explain parking rules to outside providers when they arrive, but we know that, even legal parking can be inconsiderate. However, our coach parking on zig-zag lines was not acceptable and not indicative of how seriously we take our children's safety. We can only apologise and hope you will support us in working to improve the situation for our children and the local residents.

Attendance

Year Group	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Weekly %	97.08%	97.77%	99.17%	98.54%	98.96%	99.6%	99.58%
Whole School %	98.68%						

Just a reminder, we will be sending letters using our new assessment system "A-Star", to let you know if your child has dipped below 95% or into the 'persistent absentee' realms of 90% or below. Please come and see us if we can be of any help with attendance. These letters are not intended as a criticism, we are keeping you informed as we are asked to do so in guidance from the LA and DfE.

Celebrations

Well done to our WonderWall winners who have made us very proud, as always! Our housepoint winners of the week were Lindisfarne. The TTRockstars engagement winners were Year 5. Thank you to Year 6 for writing our prayer this week.



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Dates for your diary... (Remember, whole school dates are on our website and e-schools calendars)

- Monday 16th September – Cross-Country trials for Year 6 and Year 4. Your child just needs to bring their trainers if they want to try out, but please bear in mind that the distance is approx. 1200m for Year 4 and 1800m for Year 6.
- Tuesday 17th September – Year 6 Art at Whickham School
- Tuesday 24th September – Year 6 Trip to Beamish Museum
- Wednesday 25th September – Reception Parents Meeting (5:30pm)
- Monday 30th September – Reception Vision Screening
- Friday 25th October – Harvest Festival. Although we won't be able to have a Eucharist, we will still have a service at 9:15am with prayers, readings and hymns. The Year 6 pupils and our school choir will be helping me with this, so for the sake of numbers in our hall, we will invite their grown-ups only please.
- Just so you have advance notice, here are the dates for our Christmas performances:
Reception and KS1 Nativity is on Friday 13th December at both 9:15am and 2:00pm in our school hall.
KS2 Carols and reading is on Wednesday 18th December at 2:00pm at St Mary's Church.

Things to remember...

- Guitar isn't on this coming Tuesday, but the lesson will be made up this term, possibly on the final week before Christmas. We're so sorry!
- Could Year 6 parents contact Mrs Baird to give/withdraw their consent for their children to attend the lessons at Whickham School?
- Side by Side Arts are developing a children's choir, for children between the ages of 5 and 11. I have attached the flyer for more information.
- A lovely parent has told us ASDA Rewards gives you the opportunity to choose a school when you shop with them. If you'd like to choose us, we would be very grateful! ASDA will then donate 0.5% of any shop, to us.

Don't forget, you can find lots of school information on our [website](#) – our letters are saved on there, you can find out about our curriculum, and we have our calendar and term dates too. If you are ever in need of information, it's a good place to start! Additionally, all dates are on our E-schools calendar.