



Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love

Newsletter 16/10/23

Hello parents – just a few notices, reminders and news;

Dates for your diary:

We have almost every date on our school calendar and on our website, but here are some new ones and some reminders:

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th October – parents' evenings, which can be booked on E-Schools

Friday 27th October

This is the last day of half term and Foodbank Friday. We are holding our Harvest Festival at 9:15am and parents of our choir and any child who has a reading to do (they will know by Thursday 19th) are welcome to attend. Mrs Baird will send a pdf of the items the People's Kitchen are most in need of.

Monday 6th November

Return to school for Autumn 2. Years 1 – 6 will be in winter uniform.

Wednesday 15th November

SATs and Robinwood meeting for Y6 parents at 5pm

Friday 17th November

Children in Need. Pupils are welcome to come into school with Pudsey ears and spotty clothes if they wish to. We would ask that they bring a £1 donation to Children in Need.

Friday 17th November

Flu vaccinations will be given to those children whose parents have given consent.

WB 20th November

This is our chore week for our sponsored child Thiago. Chore charts can be found on our [website](#) but will also be sent out nearer the time.

Monday 11th December

The KS2 children will walk to St Mary's Church to do a rehearsal of their carol service – **they will need a packed lunch that day and a warm coat.**

Wednesday 13th December

KS2 will perform their carol service at St Mary's Church at 2pm (doors will open 10 mins before). We take the pupils down there early to practice, so **they will need a packed lunch that day and a warm coat.** Parents of the children performing are welcome to attend but we ask you extend this to no more than two audience members per family. Children will need to be collected from the church at 3pm. If parents also have children to collect from school, please don't worry, we will keep them safe until you arrive.

Friday 15th December

Our KS1 and EYFS children will perform their nativity at 9:15am and 2:00pm. This is also Foodbank Friday.

Monday 19th December

The whole school will be travelling by coach to the Northern Stage to see Cinderella. This is paid for by the Friends – so many thanks to them and to everyone who has supported them in their time or donations, it is very much appreciated. Pupils will return to school too late for lunch, so we ask that they all have packed lunch.

Thursday 21st December

Whole school Christmas party – feel free to send them in their finery and we'll try to keep them pristine until the afternoon. Nicky Noo Noo (DJ and entertainer) will be doing her usual excellent disco and party games for everyone in the hall and we will have some refreshments in our classes.

Friday 22nd December

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children (please donate £1) and the last day of Autumn Term.

Monday 8th January

School closed for Inset Day.

Tuesday 9th January

Children return for the first day of Spring term.

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.



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In other news...

You may know that we have had some considerable issues with drainage and flooding around the school and you will have seen that our KS1 yard, near the building, has some subsidence. We have been working with the local authority to find the cause of this and may be nearing a solution. We hope to have this sorted and that part of the yard resurfaced during this academic year.

We have also been having some difficulties with our beautiful sycamore tree in KS2. It was originally planted 50 years ago by some pupils, who were given a spade and left to it! Consequently, the tree is too near our building, which is causing issues for the yard surface, the pipes and the drains beneath the yard, and making the tree very unwell! We have been told the condition is very poor and been given reluctant permission to take the tree down. We would not take this decision lightly and will be so sad to see the tree go, but this is the best course of action to reduce maintenance costs and – more importantly – safeguard the children. The tree will come down in the October half term. In order to take some of the sting of this away, once the ground has settled in Spring, we will resurface the area and put in some playground equipment to make the yard more entertaining for our children.

Many thanks to those of you who talked to your children about the school values that we are currently voting for – we should have our final value chosen by half term and will let you know which one was chosen.

Thank you as always for your support,


Mrs Walton