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Dear Parents

Welcome to Whitnash Primary School.

In partnership with parents we aim to create a happy and supportive atmosphere where children will develop confidence and achieve their full potential.

We are proud of our achievements and know that if you choose to send your child here you will be joining a positive, caring school.

We hope you find our prospectus helpful and that it provides you with all the information you will need. If you have any questions, or if you would like to visit our school please get in touch with us.

We will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Stanley MA
Headteacher



Aims Statement

At Whitnash Primary School we aim to provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment where everyone is valued and encouraged to do their best at all times

To achieve this aim, the school will:

- *Establish a homework partnership to help children learn*
- *Offer praise and encouragement for positive attitudes, behaviour and work*
- *Provide a safe and trusting environment in which everyone can grow and develop*
- *Give each and everyone equal opportunities*
- *Encourage everyone to take pride in their work and surroundings*
- *Build a school in which everyone is committed to high standards of teaching and learning*



Classes

We teach children in mixed ability classes, some of which are mixed age groups. This organisation varies from year to year as it depends on the number of children in a particular age group.

The class teachers are responsible for your child's education and welfare, supported by our very able non-teaching staff. All of our staff have been appointed because they are committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment for your child.

Curriculum

We aim to provide a broad balanced curriculum to allow everyone to develop lively enquiring minds and to be able to ask questions and make reasoned arguments with understanding. We believe that everyone should be treated as an individual. They should be taught in a way which will help them enjoy learning and which will extend their knowledge, experience, imagination and creativity.

Through our teaching and their learning, we hope your child will:

- develop the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics
- express themselves clearly and confidently in speaking and writing
- listen carefully and understand what they hear
- learn to research and record information
- have practical experience of using technology
- understand the geography, history and environment of the area in which they live and the way this relates to the wider world
- become aware of and tolerant towards people of other races, religions, ages and abilities
- acquire agility and physical co-ordination
- explore music, drama, art and movement.

Early Years

Our early years curriculum aims to encourage all children to experience a positive start to school life and a love of learning. We build on what they already know and can do, through purposeful, carefully planned activities. Learning takes place in indoors and outdoors in a secure and supportive learning environment.

Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, the National Curriculum, together with the National Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy form the framework for teaching and learning in our school. At Key Stages 1 and 2 the following National Curriculum subjects are taught:

English
Mathematics

Science

ICT

Design Technology

Music

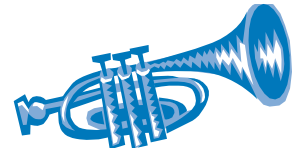
Art

History

Geography

Physical Education (including
Swimming)

Religious Education



Religious Education

Religious Education is taught to all children following Warwickshire's Agreed Syllabus. Whenever possible the work is linked to the "theme" for the term. The main emphasis is on Christianity but all the main faiths of the world are studied at some stage. Through studying RE we hope children will develop tolerance, respect and understanding of all people. Local church ministers are invited to contribute to our Acts of Collective Worship.

Sex Education

Sex Education is addressed through the Science programme of study - "Life and Living Processes". Where incidental and spontaneous references relating to sex education arise through other areas of the curriculum, children's questions are dealt with sensitively and honestly.

The curriculum we offer is constantly being reviewed to ensure we offer the best opportunities for the children we teach

Assemblies

We believe it is important for the school to assemble together on a daily basis to share feelings and thoughts in order to develop our identity and collective responsibility as a community.

Parents are encouraged to come into assemblies on Wednesday and Friday. Ministers from local churches come in to take a Whole School Assembly on a half-termly basis.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education lessons (where the content is not part of the Science curriculum), RE lessons or collective act of worship. We do ask any parents who wish to take up this option to speak with the Head Teacher and to notify the School in writing of their wish.

Special Educational Needs

Children progress at different speeds and have different abilities. Through careful planning, assessment and monitoring of their progress, we identify all children's learning needs from those having difficulties to the very able.



We are committed to using our support and resources to help all children achieve their potential.

If we are concerned about your child's progress, we involve you so that we can work together to support their learning.

From time to time we may contact outside agencies for specialist support or guidance, such as speech therapists or Learning Services.

If you have a concern about your child's progress, please contact the classteacher who will be happy to talk to you.





The school Day

- 8.55am School begins
- 9.10–9.30 Assembly
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 10.15 – 10.35 Assembly -
Tuesday and Thursday
- 10.35-10.50 Morning break
- 11.50-1.00 Lunch Reception and
Year 1
- 12.15-1.00 Lunch Year 2
- 12.15-1.00 Lunch Key Stage 2
- 2.30-2.40 Break Key Stage 1
- 3.15 School Ends

Total weekly teaching time

- Reception / Year 1 21hrs15 mins
- Year 2 22hrs 15 mins
- Key Stage 2 23hrs 45mins

Children may arrive in the school playground from 8.40am.

Please support us in encouraging children to

- *Be on time*
- *Attend school regularly*
- *Use the paths and stay clear of the car park*

Learning Beyond the Classroom.

We organise day visits to add interest and to provide experiences of learning beyond the classroom. Whenever possible, we offer a week long residential Outdoor Adventurous Activity week for children in Year 6.

We also arrange to have musicians, writers and artists to visit the school to work with the children

Education Business Partnership

The school has established strong links with The Education Business Partnership. These links enable us to extend pupils learning beyond the classroom, and to involve representatives from local businesses in supporting Literacy and Numeracy in school.

Children represent our school in a variety of sporting, artistic and academic activities.

Life at Whitnash Primary School does not stop at home time. Children can take part in a number of activities after school if they wish. Activities include Art, Drama and Sport.

Charging Policy

Some activities which take place in school time, like educational visits and swimming lessons require us to ask parents to contribute voluntarily to meet the cost. Without parents willing support, these additional activities could not take place.

Peripatetic Music Tuition

Children in key Stage 2 have the opportunity to have lessons from the county's peripatetic music teachers. Tuition for violin and steel pans is currently available. There is a charge for these lessons which parents are told about before they and the child make the commitment.



Homework

Homework should be:-

- a natural follow on from work done in school
- time spent talking between parents and/or grandparents and the child about what is happening in school
- Time spent visiting museums, galleries and libraries in connection to work your child is doing in school
- quality working time without the distraction of video games, television or radio
- set with clear expectations and timescales
- a partnership between home and school.

Children at our school are expected to read at home and will also be given spellings and multiplication tables to learn. We ask for your support and co-operation with any work your child is asked to do at home. (A detailed Homework Policy is available in school).



School Uniform

To promote a sense of unity and pride in our school all children wear uniform. Our school colours are maroon and pale blue and the following items can be bought from school.

Sweatshirts

Sweat cardigans

T shirts

Caps / woolly hats

Fleece tops

Reading and school bags

PE bags.

All items bear the school logo.

Children can wear black or grey trousers, shorts or skirts, and pale blue or white polo shirts in summer and winter. Pale blue check/striped dresses may be worn in the summer. Sensible, comfortable shoes please, not trainers.

PE Kit

For PE children should wear a white T shirt with black or dark blue shorts.

Indoor PE is done barefoot. For outdoor PE, children need trainers or pumps.

Tracksuits may be worn for outdoor PE in very cold weather.

Please name all items of clothing clearly with your child's name. Children are encouraged to take every care of their belongings. We do not have a LOST PROPERTY BOX

If your child has to wear any item of clothing or jewellery for religious or cultural reasons could you please contact the school before the child's first day. We can then assess and advise on the Health and Safety implications.

Behaviour

Self-discipline is encouraged in all our pupils in order to maintain a calm working atmosphere within the school. Everyone in our school is expected to be polite, respectful and considerate at all times. Children know the behaviour we expect of them and a long list of school rules does not exist.

Every class develops a code of conduct which forms the basis of the class rewards system; this in turn feeds into the whole school achievements system.

There are occasions when children misbehave – this may be because the child is bringing outside problems into school or because of friendship problems or a mixture of the two. Any problems will be dealt with by the Class Teacher who may decide to refer to the Senior Management Team. Where a child's behaviour causes concern, we will involve you at an early stage to :-

- discuss the problems
- be actively involved in setting targets for improvement
- work with the teacher and pupil towards achieving the targets to improve behaviour.

Continuation of the behaviours which we considered serious (as outlined above), may lead to the child being excluded from the school for a fixed period or in the most extreme cases, permanently. In such case, the school will follow the procedure outlined by the Local Education Authority and will safeguard the rights of all individuals involved.

Expected Standards of Behaviour during Lunchtimes

Good manners are encouraged at all times. Children are expected to remain seated to eat and to wait for everyone on their table to finish eating before they leave the dining room.

The school reserve the right to exclude children from the premises at lunchtime when:-

- their behaviour is unacceptable
- they are putting the safety and supervision of other children at risk

A copy of our behaviour policy is available to parents on request.

Reporting Pupil's Progress

Parent consultation evenings are held termly to enable parents to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher.

We provide a written report for all pupils during the Summer Term. Parents of children in Year 2 and Year 6 will also receive a copy of the Statutory Assessment outcomes for their child. We offer you the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the report with your child's teacher.



School Meals

All meals are cooked on the premises daily.

If your child wishes to have a cooked lunch, please pay dinner money for the week on a Monday morning in a sealed envelope with the child's name and class and the amount enclosed. Cheques should be made payable to Warwickshire County Council.

Inquiries about school dinners and payment of dinner money should be made to the School Catering staff.

Packed Lunches

Your child may bring a packed lunch and a drink to school in a named unbreakable container. Water is provided. No cans, glass bottles or fizzy drinks please and no chocolates or sweets.



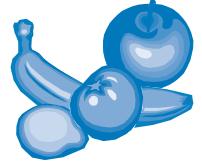
We do try to keep lunch boxes cool and ask parents to avoid packing foods which spoil if they get warm or to put a cool pack in the box to keep the contents chilled.

If a child forgets to bring a lunch:- We try to contact the parent but when this is not possible, a cooked school meal will be ordered from the kitchen.. You will be asked to pay for this meal the following day.

Any parent receiving Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers' Allowance may apply for a child to have free meals. Application forms are available from the school office.

Breaktime:

Healthy snacks and drinks are on sale from the kitchen at break time – i.e. seasonal fruit, milk, orange juice, milk shake. A price list is available from the school office or kitchen. Children in Reception and Year 1 are provided with free fruit at each break time.



Water

All pupils are given a sports drinks bottle and chilled drinking water is available throughout the school. Pupils have their bottles on their tables and they are encouraged to drink throughout the day.

Keeping Children Safe

Children are welcome to come onto the school site from 8.40 am. They should only arrive earlier than this when prior arrangements have been made with the head or class teacher.

We want to encourage all children to become independent and hope that after a term or two most children will be happy to come into school by themselves. At 3.15pm the class teachers bring the children to the front of the school to meet you.

If you have to collect or deliver your child to school outside normal school times we ask that you come to the school office.

It is essential that you tell us of any change of arrangements for your child's collection from school.

Absence / Illness

When your child is absent you should contact the school by:-

- telephone on the first day of the absence
- letter when the child returns.

The only recognised reasons for absence are:-

- personal sickness
- family emergencies
- family holidays – please complete a form which is available from the office. Only ten days in a year can be sanctioned and additional "holidays" are recorded as unauthorised absences.
- Medical or dental appointments – a letter or the appointment card should be sent to school before the absence.

Children should be kept at home if they are sick or unwell as we do not have staff available to supervise children too ill to take a normal active part in lessons.



If an emergency arises, and it is necessary to send a child home or to hospital, the school will contact parents as soon as possible. **It is vital that the school has the home telephone number for each child and a contact telephone number in case of emergency.**

If your child does need to leave during school hours it is essential that:-

- they are collected from the school office by a parent/guardian or named responsible adult.

- the collecting adult must complete and sign the book in the school office.

Medicines

Members of staff are not allowed to give medicine prescribed by a Doctor to children in school. We would ask that you the parent come to the school office during break or lunchtime to do this.

Inhalers

If your child is asthmatic they should have their inhaler with them at all times, either in their pocket or in a small discreet bag under their jumper or cardigan. They should know how, and be able to use them when necessary. A spare inhaler may be kept in the classroom if you wish. All inhalers must be marked with the child's name. The school provides training for staff and pupils in the Autumn Term on – How to deal with an Asthma Attack, what it is and how it affects individuals.

Headlice

Headlice are a common problem in most schools. Parents can help us by checking their child's hair weekly. If any signs are found it is important that everyone in the family is treated. Advice on what to look for and the treatment to use can be obtained from the school nurse, your own GP or our class Representatives. We ask that you inform us if your child becomes infected so we can then make other parents aware.

Parents, Children & School

We welcome parents actively taking part in the life of our school.



Many parents have skills and talents they can share with us such as, sewing cooking, using computers, spelling and

sharing books. Children copy adult behaviours and the more they can see adults involved in the school the more they benefit.

If you would like to offer help outside the classroom, there are plenty of other tasks around the school which you may be able to help us with, like covering books and work cards, mending library books and/or assisting children to use the library. If you would like to help in school please let us know. We see offers of help being for the benefit of children in the classes.



School Association

The "Friends of Whitnash Primary" consist of parents and staff who organise events to raise money for the benefit of the pupils. At the start of each year a committee is elected to organise fund raising and social events. As a parent of one of our children you are automatically a member and we hope that you will bring along new suggestions and help us organise future events

Parent Representatives

Each class has one or two parent representatives to form positive links between parents and the school. Our parent representatives

- remind parents when it is class assembly
- collect items for class use
- compile a parent skills list
- promote the contents of the newsletter – reminders, support with reading, tell parents when newsletters come out
- find out areas of "need" and what parents would like to know more about.



Governors

The governing body's main function is to support the head teacher in the management of the school and to ensure the school provides the best possible education for the children. Meetings are held twice a term and governors are regular visitors to school.

Our School Governors serve for a period of four years and represent a variety of groups from the local community.

Admission to the School

Children starting school for the first time

Where children are entering school for the first time, children are admitted into school in the September after their fourth birthday. Places are limited to 30 in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

The school follows County Council Guidance on admission.



Admissions after the age of five

Where the parent makes an application for a place for their child into any of the other year groups because they have moved to the area or because they wish to move their child from another school, preference is given:

- to those children who have a brother or sister already attending the school
- to those living in the school's priority area
- to those children living outside the priority area with a brother or sister already attending the school
- All others, with priority to those living closest to the school

A copy of our most recent map to show the priority area is available from the school office.

If you would like your child to attend our school, please contact us for more information and a registration form.