

AUTUMN TERM 2009!

Whitnash Primary School
Langley Road
Whitnash
CV31 2EX.
September 2009



Whitnash Primary School Newsletter

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the start of a new and hopefully exciting year in our school. I hope you all had a great summer holiday and that all the children are ready to take on the challenges in the year ahead. Everyone has made a very enthusiastic start to the new school year and are ready to learn.

We say a special warm 'hello' to two new members of our staff team. Mrs. Norris joins us to take over Year 5/6 and Miss Gately joins us as a teaching assistant working with Year 1. We look forward to working with them, and wish all of them a happy and successful time at our school.

The children look really smart in their school uniforms and new shoes - thank you for all your efforts we do appreciate it.



FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

This year we will be focusing on:

- ❖ *Raising standards in science by providing more challenge and investigation work, and developing science language skills.*
- ❖ *Ensure that teaching and learning in all lessons are the very best they can be for all pupils.*
- ❖ *Share assessment and target setting with pupils so that they understand what they need to do to improve their work and to reach their targets.*
- ❖ *Continuing to develop our IPC curriculum by linking subjects through themes to provide all children with work which is exciting and allows them to develop skills, knowledge and understanding.*
- ❖ *Developing community cohesion to allow all children to begin to understand what makes a good community and how their learning and behaviour can affect the community they live in.*
- ❖ *Learning about different cultures and communities and comparing them to their own.*

GOVERNORS

The first full Governing Body meeting will be held on Wednesday October 7th at 6:15pm. If any parents/carers have a particular concern regarding our school that they have discussed with the Head and wish to discuss with a Governor, please do seek out and speak to Mr Humphries (Chair of Governors), Lucy Sweet or Sybil Mlambo (Parent Governors)



STAFFING

Mrs Stanley-	Headteacher-	
Mrs Roberts-	Deputy Head	Class 1
Miss Greet-		Class 2
Mr Allen-		Class 3 / 4
Mrs Norris-		Class 5 / 6
Mrs Davis-		Reception (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday morning)
Mrs Riddell-		Reception (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday & Friday)

All staff have a legal entitlement to Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) and school leaders have release time to carry out their leadership duties. In our school Miss Curran and Mrs Bowyer provide this time and take over classes to release the teachers.

QUERIES

Any queries and/or concerns regarding your child(ren) must be discussed with your child's teacher. If you need any further discussion on the same issue, please arrange an appointment with the Deputy Head.

HOMEWORK

All children receive homework (Learning Logs). Please support us by ensuring your child has some time set aside and an appropriate place to complete their homework successfully.



HOLIDAY REQUESTS

Following advice from the Government and the Local Authority,

- Parents are urged to avoid booking a family holiday during term time .
Parents/Carers do not have the right to take their child out of school for a holiday
- The school may authorise absence of up to 10 days in any school year.
- In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for longer planned absence.
- Absence for holidays will not be granted for more than ten days.
- All exceptional cases must be discussed with the Head.
- The school will consider each case individually, taking into account a child's overall attendance and the reason for the holiday when considering whether or not to authorise leave for a family holiday.
- The School will not authorise holidays taken at the beginning of the academic year or during tests/exams.
- A holiday will generally not be granted if the child's attendance level is below 90%.
- Requests for leave in term time must be made at least six weeks before the date of travel.

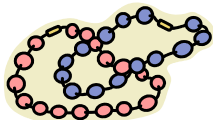
MEDICATION

Please note that we are unable to administer any form of medication (including off-the-shelf medication e.g. Calpol and Piriton) If your child has to have medication at set times we ask that you come into school to administer it.



JEWELLERY

Please could we remind parents/carers to discourage their children from wearing jewellery items in school, unless of course this is for religious or cultural reasons. Earrings should not be worn, children who continue to insist on wearing them must have them taped over or removed before they take part in swimming or any sports activities.



New Calendar attached

Half Term Friday 23 October - Friday 30 October

Parents Evenings - Wednesday 30 September &

Thursday 1 October



GROUP CALL - TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

We are pleased to tell you we are trialing a text messaging service to check on pupil absence, communicate updates, reminders, events and other important information. Text messaging will help us to keep you informed so that together we can offer the best support for your child.

From time to time you will receive a text message from the school. Please be assured that this service is FREE to you as the recipient of the text message.

We need your support as we trial this system. Please can you ensure the mobile phone details we have on our records are up to date and that your phone is switched on.



PE KIT

For PE and games lessons, pupils should be provided with dark shorts and white T-shirts and black pumps. For games outside during the colder month children should wear sensible trainers and jogging bottoms. All items of PE kit should be named and should be available in school at all times in a suitable drawstring pump bag, and hung on pupils' coat pegs.



SWIMMING KIT

For swimming lessons, girls are expected to wear a one-piece swimsuit, and boys should wear swimming trunks, not shorts. Goggles are not necessary.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Reception and Year 1 children should come into school through the front door and go straight onto the infant playground.

Year 2,3,4,5 and 6 children should go straight onto the big playground.

At the end of the day Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children should be collected from the main school entrance.

Year 3,4,5 and 6 children should be collected from the door by the 'wild area' . Parents/carers wanting to talk to their child's classteacher should go to the school office first.

Please tell Mrs Jones (in the office) personally or by telephone if someone else is collecting your child.

CLUBS

There will be a range of clubs and extended schools opportunities for pupils very soon. Letters will come home with full details as soon as these are up and running!

