



Whaddon Wheatsheaf Newsletter

(Number 6.)

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Welcome to the fifth edition of the Whaddon Wheatsheaf.

26th January 2024

Reading records

Reading records have been issued to the children and we would like to encourage comments to be entered about what was read, any areas discussed and any areas that may need support. We have seen a really positive impact on engagement with reading for pleasure and are pleased with the variety of texts read by the children. Remember, it doesn't have to be a chapter book: non-fiction texts, letters, emails, leaflets, poems, jokes, instructions and comics all count towards "texts."

Forest school

In order for all of the children to be able to fully participate, next session, we ask that their forest school waterproof clothing be kept in school. This will also enable full and spontaneous outdoor learning all week round.

The Riverbank

Our wellbeing space is almost finished and we have already received very generous donations of tables and chairs and we are on the lookout for any good quality 2-seater sofas free to a good home! We will be a position to share this wonderful space with you all soon.

Parent conduct on the playground

We take our position of role models very seriously and aim to maintain our values in everything we do. We request that our parents do the same. Sadly, unacceptable comments have been made on the playground and untrue and unkind comments have been said to other parents causing distress and upset. Intolerance, prejudice and untrue and unkind comments about the school and the children in it, will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as per our parent behaviour policy. This policy is currently being reviewed, to ensure all expectations are clear and in line with our vision as a Church of England school and the latest legislation. We ask that any conversations between parents uphold these values and our policy.

Learning this half term

We have many exciting units planned across the curriculum, this half term. **For more detailed information about what your child will be learning, in each subject, please visit the school website and click on the relevant class page, here you will find the class overviews.** If there are any areas that you have expertise or skills in, please let us know, so we can share your talents with the children.



Homework

Homework can be found on the class pages and more information can be found there for specific activities. We do ask that reading is completed at least 5 times per week, TTRS and SPag.com platforms are engaged with, as frequently as possible.

Please can the year 4 children, in Badgers class use TTRS as much as possible, from now on, to prepare them for the times table check, in June. This is not just good for practice and recall but it is very similar to the format of the actual times table check format.

Distinctive Christian Vision



As a school that has been through many changes over recent years, we have reflected on the relevance of our existing vision, our current context and the communities we serve: school, village and church. As a school, it is important to us, that our Distinctive Christian Vision supports our aspirations and enables us to shape and guide all areas of our decision making and policies, accurately reflecting the lived experiences of our stakeholders. As such, we will soon be sharing the biblical reference, we feel, best suits the school we are and the school we wish to become; enabling all of our all of our stakeholders to shine and flourish. In order to ensure accurate representation and contributions, from all areas of our communities, please contact the school office via the usual email address, if you feel that you would like to contribute to the shaping of our new vision as a vision team member.

Uniform

Should you require more uniform items, please head to our website and click on the uniform tab for our providers.

Friends of Whaddon School will notify parents of any pre-loved uniform sales that will be held across the school year.



We are going to continue with the process of children wearing their PE kit, to school, on PE days but request that dressing and undressing skills are practiced at home, as frequently and independently as possible.

We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that name stick ins are available to purchase, but if you choose not to use this form of labelling, we request that all elements of uniform likely to be removed in school are named with a permanent pen- this includes PE tops and forest school clothing. This will enable all items to be returned to the right person at the end of the day.

Please remember that our uniform **does not** include nail varnish or make up. Jewellery, other than sleeper earrings, is not permitted, for health and safety reasons. Sleeper earrings (studs not hoops) must be covered with tape, for PE lessons. Please ensure that any post- Christmas party nails are removed for the school week.

Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the temperature outside, as we have had some very cold and sad children, this week.

Recycling

Hedgehogs class have been hugely industrious in their upcycling of packaging. We are grateful for any boxes, toilet roll tubes, containers that could be used. We politely request that boxes that have contained ingredients such as nuts not be brought in e.g. crunchy nut cereal or cereal bar boxes.

If anyone has any dolls and dressing up clothes they no longer need, Hedgehogs would love to give them a new home in their role play area.

Absence

Please can parents let the office know, as early as possible- **no later than 08.30am**, if your child is unwell or going to be late in for any reason. This helps us with our safeguarding process, first thing in the morning and helps us complete our registers accurately, in a timely way.

Timings...

If in a school year, you are late every day by...	You would have lost approximately...	or you would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	18 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	35 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	50 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	73 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	110 Lessons

You should not take holidays during term time.
Please be punctual to maintain attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

We would like to remind parents that registration is at **08.30am** and parents and children should be on the playground ready for collection by the adult at **08.25am**.

We have had repeat late arrivals from families and would like to remind parents that late arrivals are not only detrimental to their children, but the children already settled in class completing their phonics sessions. The gate will be shut at 08.35am and late arrivals will be buzzed in and signed in by a member of staff who will require a reason for the late arrival, in order for us to record this for the local authority, on SIMS.

Celebration/class assemblies...

We warmly welcome parents and family members to attend our celebration/class sharing collective worships on Friday mornings. We aim to notify you, if your child is receiving an award, by the Thursday before. The children will not know if you are able to attend or not.

Should your child have been awarded a certificate or medal, outside of school, please let us know, so that we can share this, as a school. Please ensure that the school office is notified, in advance of the assembly, to manage the timings of the worship.

The rota for each classes sharing assembly is available on the school website. These sometimes have to be changed, due to other events that arise, throughout the school year. We endeavour to communicate these to you, via Parentmail.

Badgers class 02.02.24

Squirrels class 09.02.24

Hedgehogs class 23.02.24

Please note that Friday collective worships are starting earlier, to enable parents to share their child's certificate celebration without having to wait in the hall. The collective worship will start at 08.40am.

Website / dates for your diary...

February

2nd February Badgers sharing assembly

9th February pancakes at forest school

12th - 16th 2024 Half term

19th February back to school!



March

1st National school offer day

7th March 2024 World Book Day- more details to follow

8th March 2024 Mother's Day celebration St. Mary's church

26th March 2024 Easter celebration at St. Mary's Church

27th March Easter egg hunt children hunting in houses- coloured T-shirts for their house needed

28th March INSET day, school closed to pupils

A message from the governors...

The full governing body met on 6th December 2023 and we will be actioning the points raised in the meeting, throughout this term. We are still looking for one more foundation governor! Please contact Amanda Hardman, if you or someone you know, are interested in the role. To be a foundation governor, you do not need a current link to the school, but you do need to have a link to Church (any church, not just St. Mary's).



A huge thank you to those parents who have donated items for The Riverbank!



A big 'well done' to all of the children who were given a teacher award or a golden ticket this week!

Thank you to all of the children, awarded certificates, for all you have done to make our school a brilliant place to learn and for being such good role models and living our school values.