



Whaddon C of E School newsletter

20th September 2024

Sports Day 2024

This week has been a wonderful week of teamwork, resilience and compassion. These values were abundant throughout our Whaddon School sports day.

It was wonderful to see the house groups cheering their friends on and those not in their teams! I was extremely proud that every child participated and our new Hedgehogs handled this new experience with great confidence.

Congratulations to Robins, for their win, after a nail biting decider race. I am sure you will agree the school were the ultimate winners, due to the attitude and values shown by all of our pupils.

Thank you to the FOWS team for their refreshments and cake stall, on sports day. The funds raised were brilliant!

The one cloud, in an otherwise blue sky, was the parking of some of our parents. One of our neighbours contacted us to say they had cars parked up on the grass outside of their driveway and had been spoken to rudely when they challenged it. We appreciate that the village does not have ample parking, but we do politely request that parents and visitors park respectfully, when visiting the school.

Fund raising 2024-2025

This year, with our library relocation and restock almost complete, we are turning our fund raising attention towards the development of our "Discovery Centre" which was formerly known as The Cabin." This fantastic outdoor classroom has, historically, been used for forest school sessions. However, we have planned to repurpose this space as a research and scientific study space. The Discovery Centre will enable all children to explore their outdoor environment even more closely with a range of science equipment such as pooters, collection pots, microscopes, reference books, identification charts, digital thermometers and a range of binoculars and magnifying glasses!

All funds raised by the school, this year, will be put into the development of the Discovery Centre and will ensure our children's learning and curiosity about their immediate environment can continue in breaks and lunchtimes.

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Forest School

Forest school was attended by both Hedgehogs and Squirrels this week and they had an amazing time. With the weather due to change soon. Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school. Without them, children won't be able to participate in outdoor activities, in wet weather.

School lunches

Please ensure that school meals are ordered, by the deadline, to ensure your child has the lunches you require in the coming weeks. There is a Wisepay link on our school website home page.

Could all parents of Hedgehogs and squirrels children book a school lunch for the 3rd October. This is our census day and all school lunches ordered go towards our finance towards school lunches, next year. If your child prefers packed lunches, they can always bring a packed lunch in- the hot meal will not be wasted and you are not charged for them.

Photographs

The individual/ sibling photographs took place, this week. The proofs will be out to parents soon and hard copies can be requested and purchased directly from Lisa, the photographer.

Harvest Festival

On the 2nd of October, we will be celebrating Harvest festival, in St. Mary's church, from 08.45am. We look forward to seeing you there! We are continuing our support for Milton Keynes Food Bank, this year. Please bring donations to the school. In order to be used by the food bank, all donations must be well within the use by date and nothing that needs to be kept in the fridge.

P.E

Our sports4All coach, Miss Hall, has lots of exciting P.E lessons planned for this term.

To ensure full participation in PE lessons, we ask that children come to school, on their P.E days, in their school P.E kit, as they did last year. The class P.E days can be found on the class webpages, on the school website. As the weather changes to more typically autumnal temperatures, we ask that children are clothed so they are warm, for outside P.E activities. To ensure hoodies get back to the right owner, please ensure they are named.

Key dates and Communication

All key diary dates are now on the calendar of the school website and the key dates, for this half term, have been sent out to all parents via Parentmail.

Parentmail should now be working for all parents. If you find that you are not receiving communications via parentmail, please let the school office know, so that we can look into it and rectify any issues.

In order to ensure stronger communication we have listened to parent feedback and implemented a further layer of communication, this year. Each class has a Whatsapp group to enable key messages to get to parents regarding specific classes and any FOWS information that is useful. These groups are optional.

Our website is a good source of information and gives you details about your child's learning, when you ask "What have you done today in school?" and they give the age old answer of "Nothing!"

There are also details of homework and vocabulary for the units they are learning- this is a work in progress. By sharing the key unit vocabulary in this way, parents can go through this with their children, so that they have a good understanding of the vocabulary meaning, ahead of their learning.

School open days

We have a wide selection of open days available to parents with children who will be school aged, in September 2025. A copy of the open day poster can be found on our website and bookings can be made through the school office. There is also a F.A.Q sheet to help answer some of the questions parents may have about their child joining Whaddon School. Please spread the word among your friends and any toddler groups or pre-schools you know of.

With thanks for your support. Have a happy weekend!

Mrs Prior and the Whaddon School team.