



Whaddon Wheatsheaf Newsletter

(Number 9.)

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Welcome to the ninth edition of the Whaddon Wheatsheaf.

23rdth February 2024

New half term message

Welcome back! Now the rain has finally ceased, signs of spring are everywhere and we are raring to enjoy our new units of work. Find out more about what your child will be learning, on the class pages our school website.

Parents evening

Thank you to all parents for the successful and positive parents evening meetings, earlier this week. We hope you feel that you have a good understanding of the successes your child and their next steps. There were questionnaires available for your comments and feedback, but appreciate you may not have seen them. We welcome constructive feedback and aim to make the improvements suggested. If you have not already done so, please complete a questionnaire and return it to the school by 27th February.

Forest school

In order for all of the children to be able to fully participate in our forest school experience, we ask that their forest school waterproof clothing be kept in school. This will also enable full and spontaneous outdoor learning, all week round. Alongside this, the children also require a complete change of clothing in school, especially in light of the weather we have recently experienced. We don't want children to be damp and cold for the rest of the day, having had so much fun- so please ensure your child has a bag containing a complete change of clothes (including socks). **Please return forest school clothing to school.**

Homework club

Having received and reviewed parent and pupil feedback, we are offering a homework club, after school on a Friday 3.10-4.00pm. **This will start from Friday 1st March.**

The homework club will be led by a member of teaching staff and will be an opportunity for children to complete homework with the support of a teacher. Please notify the school office, should you wish your child to attend. **Places are limited to 20** so it will be on a first come first served basis. We have to limit numbers, to keep ratios safe and manageable. Please let the school know, if your child won't be able to attend by the Thursday before the session.

Height and weight check (Hedgehogs and Foxes)

The nursing team are visiting the school on 4th March to take the height and weight of the children in Hedgehogs and Foxes. A separate communication has gone out, via Parentmail regarding how to log into the portal to receive the results and to provide the nursing team with the relevant information they require and your permission. Please refer to the Parentmail, so you can gain access to the portal.

Police visit

We are very excited to welcome a member of Thames Valley Police (and their patrol car) in the morning of **6th March**. We will be taking lots of pictures for the website and encouraging the children to ask lots of thoughtful questions. Should you require us to make arrangements for your child, during this visit, please contact the office for a discrete and confidential conversation.

World Book Day

This year we are celebrating world book day on the **7th March** with a carousel of activities, in the morning, which are all book themed. Your child is welcome to dress up as a character from their favourite book. We appreciate that Marvel characters are from a graphic novel, but we would love to see as many literary characters as possible. Dressing up is **optional** and if your child does not want to join in with this part of world book day, they don't have to.

World book day books have been selected by the children and we have them ready for the children, on the day. We have decided to source the books early, as our experience has been that a variety of WBD books can become extremely limited, once the tokens are distributed. Thanks to WHSmith for helping us organise this, ensuring our children get the book they have chosen.

Mother's Day

Our celebration of Mothers and people like mothers to us will take place on **Friday 8th March at St. Mary's church**. This celebration will be part of our usual celebration collective worship. The children will be sharing their poems, writing and songs celebrating their mums and mum figures.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day, this year, will be acknowledged in a low key way, due to the other big events being observed in the half term. So that our children can support this charity event in a meaningful and manageable we propose that children donate £1 and wear something red. Red noses can be worn, but will be the responsibility of the child. Appropriate footwear should be worn for break and lunch time.

The correct PE clothing and forest school clothing, is an important consideration, on this day. Please ensure any red clothing is suitable for these activities.

Non uniform day (FOWS)

Children are being offered a **non-uniform day**, on the **18th March**. The donation will be a chocolate egg, of any description. These delicious donations will be gathered together in hampers for a raffle, which will take place at the end of the term. This has deliberately been arranged on a Monday, so as to avoid PE and forest school events. Reminders will go out via Parentmail, but to avoid upset on the day, please set a reminder on your phone.

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 Church of England 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. This included our policies accurately reflecting the lived experiences of our stakeholders. 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 is **“You are the light of the world, let your light shine.” Matthew 5:14-16**

Our next step in the development of our Christian Vision is to develop our Vision statement. A draft of this will be shared with you soon, for your comments and thoughts. This is a collaborative piece of work and all ideas are welcome.

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 have notified parents of the pre-loved uniform sales that will be held this term, in their message above.



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.

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 they no longer need, Hedgehogs would love to give them a new home in their role play area. Thank you for the kind donations given to the school already.

Any jig saw puzzles that people no longer need would be gratefully received by the Foxes class, 300 pieces + please.

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...

Getting to school on time really matters. Did you know...

| 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.

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.

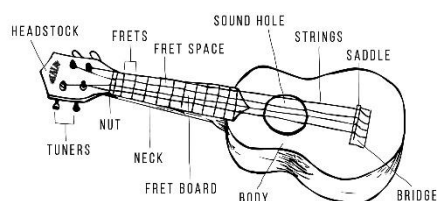
P.E days...

Sports4all are providing high quality P.E coaching to all of our children. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit, which should be suitable for the weather, when learning outdoors.

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Hedgehogs | Tuesdays |
| Squirrels | Wednesday |
| Badgers | Friday |
| Foxes | Thursdays |

Music lessons

PARTS OF THE UKULELE



Music lessons will continue with MK music co-operative guitar and ukulele, Wednesdays 11.30-12.30pm

Mr Dunham's music lessons Clarinet, flute and piano, will remain on Thursdays.

Information about payments will follow soon.

French club

French club is now being offered to children in Key Stage 1 and if parents are interested in their child attending, over Thursday lunch time, they should **contact Madame Lepelletier via the school office email address.**



Friends Of Whaddon School

A big thank you to everyone who purchased a donut from the Friends of Whaddon at the end of last term. It was a big success and we raised £70.

We are excited to announce the theme of the May Fayre on Sunday 5th May 2024 will be "Whaddon's War Effort". It will be a fun filled day with food, drinks, stalls, plenty of games and of course the parade!

We will be releasing more information in the coming weeks and look forward to seeing you all there. This is a big event in the fundraising calendar and we simply can't do it without your help, so please keep an eye out for our posters and requests for assistance. The money raised at the May Fayre goes a long way towards paying for important resources all the children benefit from, such as the I-pad licenses. So whether it's a raffle prize, an hour running a stall, making a cake, serving behind the bar or helping set up/pack away - FOW needs you!

Finally a little reminder that the Bags 2 School donations need to be in school by the morning of Thursday 29th February. Thank you!

The Friends Of Whaddon School

Website / dates for your diary...



February

29th February Reading workshop 2.00-3.00pm

March

1st National school offer day

4th March Height and weight checks 11.30am Hedgehogs and Foxes

6th March Thames Valley Police visit -with patrol car

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

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

22nd March celebration assembly- last of the term

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



Thank you for the books and board games donated for wet play.



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

Raiph

Sadie

Henry W

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