



"You are the light of the world, let your light shine!" *Matthew 5: 14-16*

5th September 2024

Dear parents,

A warm welcome back to school!

We hope you are well, rested and have made some memories, over the summer holidays.

The staff at Whaddon School wish to convey our huge thanks for the very kind and generous gifts, at the end of the school year. The kind words were equally as appreciated.

We welcome our new Hedgehogs and their parents and look forward to helping them settle into school life. The children had a wonderful first morning!

Welcome back to Teacher Read who is very excited to work with Badgers class, this year. We also welcome Mrs Ellis, in the office, as a permanent member of the Whaddon School family.

As you may know, Mrs Marchant and her husband are expecting their first child, in October. You will see Mrs Marchant around school, but she will not be class based, for this reason.

This year, acting on feedback gained from our parent community, we are offering a drop in session after school, on 25th September, so parents can see their child's classroom and to have a brief chat with the teacher about how their child has settled in.

This drop in is in addition to the official parents evening appointments. These will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of October, via Microsoft Teams. Should you require a phone call, in place of a Teams call, please let the class teacher know, when you book your appointments.

Face-to-face parents evening appointments will take place in the February parents evening sessions.

We are advertising open morning and afternoon sessions- which include some Saturday morning sessions- so, if you know anyone who has a child requiring a school place in September 2025, please refer them to our school office for an opportunity to see our wonderful school for themselves. The deadlines for parents to state their school placement preferences, for a September 2025 place, is in January 2025.

School lunches will continue to be provided by St. Paul's School. Please ensure you have booked your school lunches, two weeks ahead of when the meals are required. If your child is in receipt of universal free school meals: Hedgehogs and Squirrels classes please take the opportunity to order your meals- packed lunches can be ordered in place of hot lunches, using the wise pay system.

We ask that any packed lunches, provided by parents, are healthy, balanced and are nut free. We understand that some children have sensory sensitivities to textures and tastes and we work with parents to accommodate such requests offering gentle taste trials, when the pupil is ready. This worked with positive results, last year.

We will continue to provide Key Stage 1 children with a healthy fruit snack for break time. We encourage children, across the school, to bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable equivalent, for their morning break. Please do not supply any items containing nuts.

We are happy to let you know that Forest school sessions will continue with Green Planet Forest School, on Friday afternoons, for Hedgehogs and Squirrels. As the weather is changing and the temperature is cooling, it is important that all children have the appropriate long sleeved/ legged, waterproof clothing including boots and gloves- (a list of items is available on our website, under the uniform tab). Please ensure all items of clothing are named, so they can be matched to their owner swiftly. Biro washes out, so stick-ins are more robust.

P.E days for each class have been sent in a separate message, but they are available on the class pages of our school web site. We ask that children wear the PE kit items outlined on our school website, under the uniform tab. Sports4All coaches will continue to lead our sessions, which will offer both outdoor and indoor P.E/ Games curricula.

We are pleased to share with you our booking for our whole school visit to Milton Keynes Theatre. This had been booked, prior to Christmas, this year and will take place on the afternoon of 17th of December. More details will follow, closer to the time.

Dates for other key events, throughout the school year, are available on our website and will also be made available in newsletters. Sometimes, dates of events have to be changed, so it is important that parents regularly check in with the website calendar.

Celebration assemblies will continue to take place, on Friday mornings from 08.45am, in our school hall. You will be notified, by Thursday afternoon, if your child is receiving an award. We welcome achievements outside of school but do ask that parents let us know in advance to enable us to manage the timings of our assemblies. Class sharing assembly dates will be shared on the website calendar and as a document on the class pages, for your reference.

Our website contains valuable information and policies, which are updated at least annually. Please check there for the most up-to-date copies.

We thank you for your on- going support and look forward to sharing your child's learning and achievements with you, throughout the year.

All good wishes,

Mrs Prior and the Whaddon School team