



# Whaddon Wheatsheaf Newsletter

(Number 2.)

*Whaddon C of E School, Stock Lane, Whaddon, Bucks, MK170LS*

01908 501719

[office@whaddon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@whaddon.bucks.sch.uk)

**Welcome to the second edition of the Whaddon Wheatsheaf.**

## **Thank you!**

Thank you to all of the children for such a smooth return to school and learning. The staff at Whaddon School have been very impressed with the learning behaviours and attitudes, since the children have returned to school.

The Sports4all, PE lessons are being very well received and we are very excited to have our new curriculum schemes which are making learning exciting and newsworthy. Feedback so far is that children are sharing what they are learning in school more, which is fantastic!

Thank you for the generous donation of games and books to support wet play, as we move into the soggy Autumn weather. Outdoor learning and experiences are central to the Whaddon School experience and we aim to have children learning and being outside, as much as is practical. However, we must consider the consequences of children being outside in torrential rain, with regards to their safety, the safety of the site and them sitting in soggy clothing to learn in. We appreciate children have their waterproofs in school, but the decision as to the health and safety and impact on learning will be factored into any wet play decisions. With this in mind, please ensure that your child comes to school with the appropriate coats and accessories for the weather and a water bottle.

## Timings...

We are seeing patterns in late arrivals to school and would like to urge parents to get their children to school for 08.30am, so they are in time for registration and the vital interventions the teachers have planned. Starting the day with their friends offers a calm and productive start to the day. Children arriving late is not only unsettling for the individual child, but also detrimental to the class and interventions groups, as when late comers arrive they need to be settled in by staff, which takes them away from their intervention groups and the children in them.

## Uniform...

We are pleased to inform you that we have made links with a local family-run uniform provider, in Wolverton Milton Keynes, Maisie's. The addition of this provider enables us to keep to our commitment of offering parents affordable choices for uniform. Links for the school ties and other elements of embroidered apparel are available on the Whaddon School section of their website. The ties have been approved and will be available to purchase for our year 6 children.

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.

**We have already received communication from parents about named clothing going missing and request that all parents check that the correct item has gone home with the correct child.**

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.

## Lunches...

We have trialled a new lunch time schedule, in response to feedback from the children about their lunch time experiences. From now onwards we will be grouping the children so that the younger children eat first, whilst the older children are having their play time, swapping at 12.30pm. This change has enabled the hall to be more peaceful and the outdoor play to be happy and positive. The feedback from the children and staff is highly positive.

We hope that as many children as possible take up school dinners. We understand that broadening tastes can be a challenge for some of our little people, so if you would like your child to have a small taste of some meals, this can be arranged with sufficient notice.

Please note that we have children and staff in school with severe allergies and due to these, we request that **no nuts** or **nut products** are brought into school, this includes Nutella spread, peanut butter and biscuit bars with almonds, peanuts and walnuts. We aim to promote a healthy lifestyle and request that the packed lunches provided are balanced and sugary treats are kept to a minimum. Break time snacks, for Key Stage 2 pupils should be a piece of fruit or vegetables.

## Reading...

We will be providing parent workshops to introduce our parents to our Little Wandle phonics and reading scheme, as the way in which reading is organised is slightly different to the traditional way. We are a school that promotes reading for pleasure and ask that a range of texts are accessed by children outside of school to promote reading for pleasure and fluency.

## Houses...

The new children joining us in Hedgehogs class have been allocated to house teams and any siblings will be placed in the same house; making sports day and other whole school events fun and accessible for all of the children. There was a tie for the house cup, at the end of the school year, where Robins and Woodpeckers drew on the weekly house point wins. House captain applications will be open again from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September and children who wish to be considered for the role will need to provide a letter stating why they wish to be house captain and how their personal qualities enable them to be a great house captain. **Details will be shared with pupils in the Wednesday meeting, this week.**

## Celebration/class assemblies...

We would like to welcome parents and village members to attend our celebration/class sharing collective worships on Friday mornings and we will aim to notify you, if your child is receiving an award by the preceding Thursday. The children will not know if you are able to attend or not in advance. Should your child achieve an outside achievement, this too will be celebrated in these assemblies, we ask that 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.

## Sports day...

After the awful weather, last week, we decided to postpone our sports day event until the 26<sup>th</sup> September. The children will need to have a T-shirt that matches their house colour. Should you require a reminder of the house colour, please contact the school office. This event is a great way for our new Hedgehog parents to meet the parent body and the Friends of Whaddon team, who work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for amazing resources and experiences for our children.

## 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.

<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Fridays</b>
<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Wednesdays</b>
<b>Badgers</b>	<b>Tuesdays</b>
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>Thursdays</b>

## **Volunteers...**

As with all areas of life in school, we rely on the support of parents to ensure our children can access the full offer of learning, both inside and outside of the classroom. If you can help from 1-2.45pm, on either Thursday or Friday afternoon, we would welcome your support in forest school. We will need to carry out a DBS check, as it would be frequent contact with the children.

If you would prefer to help us in another way such as supporting the renovation of our pond area, etc., please let us know. This is a particular area of focus for the school, this year and anyone with expertise in ponds and pond life would be most welcome.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered time to support our forest school activities.

## **Music lessons...**

As a part of our commitment to offering our children affordable enrichment opportunities there are now two music lesson teachers offering sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Wednesday sessions are provided by the Milton Keynes Music Cooperative and these are lessons for guitar and ukulele. These sessions are organised through the school so parents wishing to sign their child up need to contact the school in the first instance. Payment will then be requested in arrears. The more parents that sign up their children, the cheaper the price. Payment can be made weekly to make it more affordable.

For these sessions children will need to bring their own guitar/ukulele. A very small number of instruments can be borrowed from the school/cooperative.

On Thursdays, a local music teacher, Mr Dunham, offers piano, flute and clarinet sessions on a 1:2:1 basis. To book these, parents should contact Mr Dunham directly via the email address [Ldunham100@gmail.com](mailto:Ldunham100@gmail.com) to arrange lessons and payments directly.

## **Vacancies...**

We are looking for an Office Admin Manager and Finance Officer. More details are available on our website, on the Vacancies tab. Please share this information so that we get a wide pool of candidates.

## **School Places...**

We are aiming to fill our school, now that we go all of the way up to Year 6. We are holding open days on October 19<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>. Please share this information with anyone you know who is considering school places for September 2024.

We currently have 3 spaces in Reception, 4 spaces in Year 5 and 7 spaces in Year 6.

We have previously benefitted from the word of mouth of existing parents and would like to request that you share your child's positive experiences of Whaddon School, so that we can fill our wonderful school.

## **Website / dates for your diary...**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1.15-2.30pm Sports day**

**29<sup>th</sup> September Harvest 09.00am-09.45am at St. Mary's church**

**29<sup>th</sup> September food bank donations collected and distributed**

**11<sup>th</sup> October individual and sibling photographs**

**13<sup>th</sup> October flu vaccine sprays in school**

**19<sup>th</sup> October open morning 09.00-09.30am and 1.00pm-1.30pm**

**20<sup>th</sup> October 3.00pm treat sale Friends of Whaddon School**

**20<sup>th</sup> October Spooky disco Friends of Whaddon**

**10<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Service St. Mary's church 10.45-11.15am**

**17<sup>th</sup> November Children In Need Day- non-uniform day £1 donation for the charity**

**12<sup>th</sup> December Nativity Dress rehearsal to school**

**13<sup>th</sup> December afternoon performance to parents and family- refreshments available**

**13<sup>th</sup> December evening performance to parents and family 6.00-7.00pm- Licenced bar**

**15<sup>th</sup> December Christmas meal Friends of Whaddon**

**15<sup>th</sup> December Special visitor 2pm**

**18<sup>th</sup> December Table top sale 1.30-2.30pm**

**18<sup>th</sup> December Carol service in the school hall 2.30-3.00pm**

\*\*Parents, you will be notified of the dates for the parent consultations; in a separate communication. These meetings will take place remotely, this term. The meetings will be a feedback session on how well your child has settled into school life their learning behaviours, strengths and areas of focus.

\*As events are organised and confirmed, we will add to the calendar.

**For more Friends Of Whaddon School events please look at the Friends Of Whaddon Facebook page, the notice board on the playground and ParentMail letters.**



**Golden ticket winners W.C 18.09.23 were:**

**Minha- Squirrels class**

**Beau- Badgers class**

**Henry H- Foxes class**

**Teacher award winners W.C 18.09.23 were:**

**Indie - Squirrels**

**Greta - Badgers**

**Issy M - Foxes**

**Well done on your hard work and demonstration of our school values!**