



Whaddon Weekly Newsletter

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Welcome back...

A warm Whaddon welcome back to school! We hope you had a restful holiday and that the children have been sharing their school news with you. We were excited to hear their holiday news and to see them in their school uniform

We also extend a warm welcome to Mrs Marchant, our Hedgehog's Reception teacher, and Miss Evans the Badgers' 3/4 teacher. Congratulations go to Mrs Marchant and her husband, as they celebrated their marriage, over the summer break.

Summer renovations...

We had some much needed renovations and refurbishments carried out and are now very pleased to have 3 extra toilets, for the children and a new visitor/staff toilet, to reflect the increase in our numbers of pupils and staff. There was sadly damp rising in the walls of the hall (built 1811) causing the plaster to blister. This was rectified and we now have a watertight roof, walls and foundations, meaning the hall should remain fabulous and in full use, for another 200 years!

Timings...

The school day starts at 08.30am and in order that the children have a calm and productive start to the day we request that punctuality is observed strictly with children on the playground, in their lines by 08.25am. Children arriving late is not only unsettling for the individual child, but also detrimental to the class and interventions groups, as late comers arrive and are settled in by staff.

Uniform...

It was lovely to see the children in their new uniforms looking so smart and ready to learn. Part of our uniform policy is that jewellery, make up (including nail varnish) and shaved in hair designs/ coloured hair are NOT accepted as part of our school uniform and request that parents work with us to ensure that these elements are not “worn” by the children.

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.

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 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 implemented our phonics scheme last year, with great results and are now focussing on the reading element of this scheme. There will be parent workshops to support reading at home, as the way in which reading is organised is slightly different to the traditional way.

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 4th 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. **Applications close on 13th September.**

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 success of sports day, last year, we have decided to repeat our sports day event on 20th 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.

Hedgehogs	Fridays
Squirrels	Wednesdays
Badgers	Tuesdays
Foxes	Thursdays

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.

Website / dates for your diary...

12th September mock secondary transfer test (11+)

13th September guitar and ukulele lessons start

14th September formal secondary transfer test morning (11+)

18th Food bank donations to start coming in

20th September 1.15-2.30pm Sports day

29th September Harvest 09.00am-09.45am at St. Mary's church

29th September food bank donations collected and distributed

11th October individual and sibling photographs

19th October open morning 09.00-09.30am and 1.00pm-1.30pm

20th October 3.00pm treat sale Friends of Whaddon School

20th October Spooky disco Friends of Whaddon

10th November Remembrance Service St. Mary's church 10.45-11.15am

17th November Children In Need Day- non-uniform day £1 donation for the charity

12th December Nativity Dress rehearsal to school

13th December afternoon performance to parents and family- refreshments available

13th December evening performance to parents and family 6.00-7.00pm- Licenced bar

15th December Christmas meal Friends of Whaddon

15th December Special visitor 2pm

18th December Table top sale 1.30-2.30pm

18th 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.



This week's golden ticket winners are:

James- Squirrels class

Dhwani- Badgers class

Mari- Foxes class

Teacher award winners are:

Olivia M- Squirrels

Tori- Badgers

Teddy- Foxes

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