



# Whaddon Wheatsheaf Newsletter

(Number 7.)

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

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

**Friends Of Whaddon School**



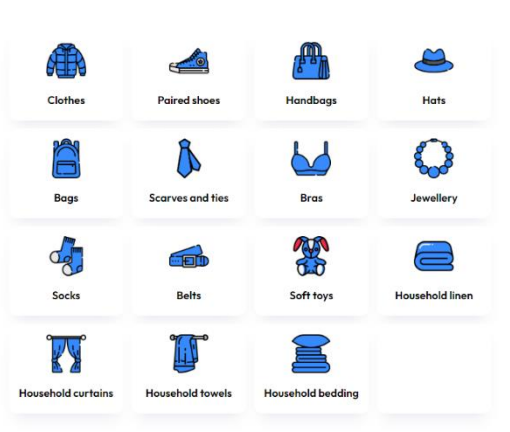
Hello all,

As many of you may have seen through the Friends of Whaddon Facebook page or Parentmail, we are looking to purchase or receive donations of various furniture items for The Riverbank. We are looking for a 2 seater sofa, large rug, floor lamps and bean bags. Donations need to be from a smoke free, pet free home. If you are unable to donate items but would like to contribute financially, please use the following link [Friends of Whaddon Fundraising 2024 - Give A Little](#)

We are looking to set up a Whatsapp group for volunteers who are unable to commit fully as trustees, but who would like to help us on a more flexible basis. If you are interested, please just speak to one of the team and we will be able to add you to the group.

It always feels good to have a clear out of our homes and donate items to clothes banks to do our bit. With this in mind. The Friends of Whaddon team have organised on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February for Bags 2 School to come and collect our unwanted items. All we must do is have the items in bags at the school gate by 9am on the day. Please feel free to

ask other family friends and neighbours if they have any items. The more bags the more money we can raise. They will take:



We also will be hosting a donut sale in the playground at pick up on the last day of term Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> February- £1 per donut. We

Will also have the preloved uniform available to purchase. If anyone has any donations, they are greatly received.

Many thanks and kind regards

The Friends of Whaddon team.

## Half term voucher scheme

### February half-term holiday food vouchers

Utilising funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to support those most in need with cost-of-living pressures, Buckinghamshire Council is pleased to confirm that families with children and young people eligible for free school meals, early years' pupil premium or 2-year-old funded free education places will be entitled to a **£15** digital voucher to assist them during the February half-term.

For children who are not eligible but whose families need urgent support with food, we have the Helping Hand scheme operating and I would urge schools to make families aware of this through newsletters and school communications. More details can be found below.

Evouchers, (part of Wonde) has successfully established a Free School Meal voucher platform. Buckinghamshire has awarded a contract to Wonde for the management of digital voucher schemes. Evouchers will be facilitating the scheme once again for all schools and Early Years settings across Buckinghamshire.

## Forest school

In order for all of the children to be able to fully participate, next session, we ask that their forest school waterproof clothing be kept in school. This will also enable full and spontaneous outdoor learning all week round.

## Doodle

Sadly, we are having to cancel our Doodle subscription. **The Doodle account will cease On 5<sup>th</sup> February.** We understand that there are three dedicated Doodlers who have worked tirelessly on Doodle, but the quote was in excess of £400, which is far too much for a small school to pay. Good news, we do have **Spag.com** and **TTRS** platforms for spelling, punctuation and grammar and times tables practice. TTRS also offers children a taste of the layout that the times table check uses, in the times table check that will be carried out, in June.



## 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.



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.

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.

Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the temperature outside, as we have had some very cold and sad children, this 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.**

## 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...

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.

**Badgers class 02.02.24**

**Squirrels class 09.02.24**

**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.**

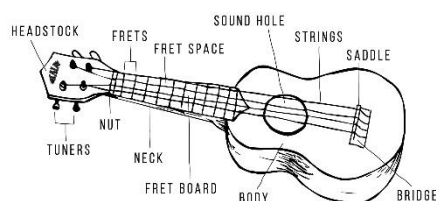
## P.E days...

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.

<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Tuesdays</b>
<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>Badgers</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>Thursdays</b>

## 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.

**Please persevere with trying to make contact with the MK music co-operative, as there appears to be a glitch in their webpage. We can always let the teacher know of any parents wishing to take up lessons.**

## 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.**



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

## **February**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February Badgers sharing assembly**

**5<sup>th</sup> February Children's mental health week**

**6<sup>th</sup> February Safer Internet Day**

**9<sup>th</sup> February pancakes at forest school**

**12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 Half term**

**19<sup>th</sup> February back to school!**

**20<sup>th</sup> February parents evening- face to face meetings-booking information sent separately via email**

**21<sup>st</sup> February parents evening face to face meetings-booking information to follow.**

**21<sup>st</sup> February Reading workshop 08.30-09.30am**

**29<sup>th</sup> February Reading workshop 2.00-3.00pm**



## **March**

**1<sup>st</sup> National school offer day**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 World Book Day- more details to follow**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Mother's Day celebration St. Mary's church**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Easter celebration at St. Mary's Church**

**27<sup>th</sup> March Easter egg hunt children hunting in houses- coloured T-shirts for their house needed**

**28<sup>th</sup> March INSET day, school closed to pupils**

### **A message from the governors...**

The full governing body met on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and we will be actioning the points raised in the meeting, throughout this term. We are still looking for one more foundation governor! Please contact Amanda Hardman, if you or someone you know, are interested in the role. To be a foundation governor, you do not need a current link to the school, but you do need to have a link to Church (any church, not just St. Mary's).



**A huge thank you to the Governors and parents who have donated items for The Riverbank!**

**Thank you for the dressing up clothes and books donated to the school- the Hedgehogs class have loved using them.**



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

Elena, Teddy, Alma, Harper W, Darius

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