



Whaddon School Newsletter

(Number 7 Spring term 2025.)

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

01908 501719

office@whaddon.bucks.sch.uk

14th February 2025

Dear parents, please find this week's newsletter.

Have a happy half term!

Saint Valentine's day

As we approach the half term, we have been thinking about the compassion living in our school and the ways in which it is visible. Our children are ambassadors for this value and as a result, they make our school the special and happy place it is.

We have learnt some interesting facts about the saint that we celebrate today, as we remember his values and commitment to love.

Saint Valentine was a bishop who was alive in 3rd Century Rome, under the rule of Emperor Claudius. Claudius was known for his cruel and selfish behaviour as well as his love of war. When he ordered soldiers to go to war, Claudius was angry to find that soldiers did not want to leave their wives and children to fight, so he simply made being married illegal.

Valentine, believed everyone who wanted to be married should be able to be and he set about marrying people in secret. When Claudius found out he ordered Valentine be imprisoned, until he was to be put to death.

Whilst in prison, Valentine continued his compassionate ways and in his final days taught one of the guard's daughters to read. On the day he was to be put to death, Valentine wrote Julia a note signing it off with "from your Valentine" It is this message that is used all over the world to symbolise love, romantic and Christian, on the anniversary of the day Valentine died.

Top fact: Saint Valentine is the patron saint of happy marriages, bee-keeping and roses.

Parent questionnaires

Please find the link to the parent questionnaire embedded in the parent mail message that went out, this afternoon. If you would like a hard copy or you experience issues accessing the form, please contact the school office, via the school email address.

Parents consultation evenings

You will have received notification of your parents evening appointments. These are taking place on 26th and 27th February. If you have not made an appointment, please contact the office to make one. If you can't make the dates, we can see if the teacher is available for a mutually convenient alternative date and time.

To help keep these appointments smooth running and punctual, please note that these appointments are only 10 minutes long. Should you require a meeting to discuss something in more detail, please make this arrangement with the office for another time.

A selection of your child's books will be available for you to look at, before/ after your appointment.

So that conversations can be held in a succinct way, we request that, where possible, children are not present during the conversations. It is not always easy to keep the meetings to time, when children are present and parent attention is divided.

If children are to be with parents, please can they be provided with suitable activities to occupy them. There are no additional adults to supervise children during this time and we request that the play equipment on the back playground is not used.

May fayre tombola prizes

Please bring any items, suitable for tombola prizes, to school. Please can expiry dates be checked, so they cover the period after the May Fayre.

Nut free lunches and snacks

Please can food containing nuts, not be provided in lunch boxes or break snacks. We have a child and member of staff with severe nut allergies to a variety of nuts. Cross contamination is a strong risk and we want to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please help us by not including items with any nuts in, into packed lunches.

Water bottles

We endeavour to promote a healthy lifestyle, at Whaddon School. Please help us to uphold this by ensuring that only water is brought into school in your child's water bottle. Juice is not permitted, for dental hygiene reasons and helping us to ensure our learning environments are free from sticky juice, which takes Miss Lawrence longer to clean up.

World book day and book sale donations

March 6th is World Book Day and we will be marking it in a host of exiting activities. In class groups, the children will move from class to class, completing book related activities. The children have the opportunity to dress up as a character from their favourite book but this is not compulsory. There will be costumes, but we request no masks. Please prepare your child for the changes that will take place, should they be upset by such changes to the school day/routine.

Please can any pre-loved and unwanted books be brought to school ahead of the World Book Day sale, which will be taking place on 6th March 2025. Books for younger children and adults are welcome, please help us by checking that the titles are appropriate for small eyes.

School Library Service books

We are holding an amnesty for al School Library Service books that may have made their way home, over the years. A book amnesty box will be on the bench on the playground. Currently, the school has a list of over 100 books showing as missing. If we can't find them before the box is collected, we will have to pay full RRP for each book "lost". Please check book boxes, under sofas and on shelves for any books with an SLS sticker on the spine or a School Library Service stamp inside. Some books were borrowed by the school from 2017 onwards. We appreciate your help with locating and returning these books.

Governor vacancy

A governor vacancy remains for our Governing board. The role is for foundation governor. Should you be interested, please email the school office for a form. A current or historic link to a church is necessary, but you do not have to attend a church regularly to apply.

Forest school

Please can forest school clothing be taken home (including wellies) to be cleaned up, ready for forest school, next half term.

For safety reasons, please can **all children with long hair have it tied back to avoid injury from the trees and camp fire**. Children who do not have their hair tied back will not be permitted to participate in the forest school activities. This is for health and safety reasons.

Homework club

Due to booster clubs commencing March 11th, there will be no homework club running, until after 19th May. We appreciate the time Mr Small has put into offering homework club.

Homework

Homework for the Spring term can be found on the class pages of our school website. 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, especially with the multiplication checks taking place in the Summer term.



As such, 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 the TTRS platform is very similar to the format of the actual times table check format.

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 will notify parents of the pre-loved uniform sales that will be held this term.

Please remember that our uniform **does not** include nail varnish, eye make-up **or ornate hair accessories**. 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.

Long hair must be tied back for health and safety and concentration reasons. Any pupils coming to school with long hair that is down will be given a hair band to tie it back.

Absence

Please can parents let the office know, **no later than 08.30am**, if your child is unwell or going to be late in for any reason. This helps us complete our registers accurately, in a timely way. Any absences that have not been reported by parents, in person, by phone or email will be followed up by the school as part of our safeguarding commitment. More information on this is available in our child protection and safeguarding policies, on our website. Children who have been reported as unwell previously still need to be reported **each day** that the child is absent from school.

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

Parents bringing their children onto the playground are welcome from 08.20am. When it is raining, we allow the children to go straight to their classes, without needing to line up.

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 latest.**

Children must be supervised by their parent or responsible adult,

until the receiving adult is there to collect the children and take them to their classroom. Parents who have an arrangement with school for their child to walk to school independently, should ensure their child is not arriving too early and therefore having to wait outside the gate- before 08.20am, when the gate opens.

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 our registration system SIMs.

Celebration/class assemblies...

We warmly welcome parents and family members to attend our celebration/class sharing collective worships on Friday mornings. **The dates for the spring term sharing assemblies are available on the school calendar, on our website.**

Sometimes these dates have to be changed, sometimes, due to other events that arise, throughout the school year. We endeavour to communicate these to you, via Parentmail, as soon as possible.

We aim to notify you, if your child is receiving an award, by the Thursday before the Friday collective worship. 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.

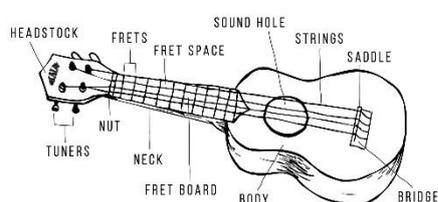
P.E days...

Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit, which should be suitable for the weather, when they are learning outdoors. We are delighted to share that Miss Hall is continuing to lead our PE lessons this term.

Hedgehogs	Tuesdays
Squirrels	Thursday
Badgers	Friday
Foxes	Wednesday

Music lessons

PARTS OF THE UKULELE



Music lessons will continue with MK music co-operative guitar and ukulele, Wednesdays 11.15-12.00pm

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

Payment is to be made directly to the music teacher.

French club

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



Website / dates for your diary...

Please see the website for up to date calendar dates



Thank you to our reading volunteer, Mrs. Pit

Thank you to FOWS for all of your fundraising and support!



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

Thank you to all of the children, for all you have done, this week, making our school a brilliant place to learn, for being such good role models, for shining brightly and living our school values.

Have a wonderful half term!