



Whaddon C of E School newsletter number 2

27th September 2024

Parent drop in

Thank you to the parents who dropped in, this Wednesday. It was an informal opportunity to meet the teacher and see the classroom and some of the work your child has done, so far this year.

I am sure you will agree there has been some wonderful art work, great writing and amazing science work completed, this half term.

Harvest Festival

On the 2nd of October, we will be celebrating Harvest festival, in St. Mary's church, from 08.45am. We look forward to seeing you there! We are continuing our support for Milton Keynes Food Bank, this year. Please bring donations to the school. In order to be used by the food bank, all donations must be well within the use by date and nothing that needs to be kept in the fridge.

We will be having a special collective worship about the food bank and the good it does for the community.

Sports festival participation

As part of our commitment to encourage as many children as possible to participate in sports activities, we have joined the Buckingham partnership festival of sports run by Sports4All. The events are inclusive and fun. They are aimed at all children in schools, but will be grouped in their year groups.

The first festival of sport is at Buckingham Primary School and is for Squirrels aged children. It will be held on **1st October** The event starts at **3.45 for a 4.00pm actual start** and **ends at 5.15-5.30pm**. Parents will need to remain on site, during the event. Please note, parents need to transport their children to the events and take them home, after the session. It would be lovely to see as many children as possible attending. Please see the Useful information tab on our school website for the flier of dates and events. We will contact the year groups who will participate, in separate communications.

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Hand washing

Across Buckinghamshire there have been instances of diarrhoea and sickness bugs doing the rounds. In Buckingham, there has been an outbreak of Ecoli being spread, so we are asking parents to be vigilant with handwashing, at home. As always, we are maintaining our hand hygiene routines, so this should help keep us all healthy.

Fund raising 2024-2025

This year, with our library relocation and restock almost complete, we are turning our fund raising attention towards the development of our "Discovery Centre" which was formerly known as The Cabin." This fantastic outdoor classroom has, historically, been used for forest school sessions. However, we have planned to repurpose this space as a research and scientific study space. The Discovery Centre will enable all children to explore their outdoor environment even more closely with a range of science equipment such as pooters, collection pots, microscopes, reference books, identification charts, digital thermometers and a range of binoculars and magnifying glasses!

All funds raised by the school, this year, will be put into the development of the Discovery Centre and will ensure our children's learning and curiosity about their immediate environment can continue in breaks and lunchtimes.

Forest School

Forest school was attended by both Hedgehogs and Squirrels this week and they had an amazing time. With the weather due to change soon. **Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school.** Without them, children won't be able to participate in outdoor activities, in wet weather. When the children choose to work outside, it is essential that they have a complete change of clothing to keep them comfortable, if they get wet or muddy. Please ensure all kit and spares are named, so we can reunite errant clothing with their owners, easily. Practicing dressing and undressing would be a great way for the children to gain independence and we appreciate the support from home in this area.

Forest School club is available to all pupils, on Friday afternoons. Please visit the Green Planet forest school website and search for clubs, select Whaddon School and book the places you require.

See-saw

We have sent out links, to new Hedgehog parents, to gain access to our See-saw platform. This is an opportunity for parent to see what their child has been participating in. You will only be able to see your own child's photos.

School lunches

Please ensure that school meals are ordered, by the deadline, to ensure your child has the lunches you require in the coming weeks. There is a Wisepay link on our school website home page.

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P.E

Our sports4All coach, Miss Hall, has lots of exciting P.E lessons planned for this term.

To ensure full participation in PE lessons, we ask that children come to school, on their P.E days, in their school P.E kit, as they did last year. The class P.E days can be found on the class webpages, on the school website. As the weather changes to more typically autumnal temperatures, we ask that children are clothed so they are warm, for outside P.E activities. To ensure hoodies get back to the right owner, please ensure they are named.

Key dates and Communication

All key diary dates are now on the calendar of the school website and the key dates, for this half term, have been sent out to all parents via Parentmail.

Parentmail should now be working for all parents. If you find that you are not receiving communications via Parentmail, please let the school office know, so that we can look into it and rectify any issues.

Our website is a good source of information and gives you details about your child's learning, when you ask "What have you done today in school?" and they give the age old answer of "Nothing!"

There are also details of homework and vocabulary for the units they are learning- this is a work in progress. By sharing the key unit vocabulary in this way, parents can go through this with their children, so that they have a good understanding of the vocabulary meaning, ahead of their learning.

School open days

We have a wide selection of open days available to parents with children who will be school aged, in September 2025. A copy of the open day poster can be found on our website and bookings can be made through the school office. There is also a F.A.Q sheet to help answer some of the questions parents may have about their child joining Whaddon School. Please spread the word among your friends and any toddler groups or pre-schools you know of.

With thanks for your support. Have a happy weekend!

Mrs Prior and the Whaddon School team.