



Whaddon C of E School newsletter number 4

18th October 2024

Squirrels' sharing assembly and celebrations

Thank you to Squirrels class, for their sharing assembly, this morning. It was lovely to hear all about their learning around plants and autumn poems Congratulations go out to those pupils who have been living our values and working hard in lessons. You are shining your light brightly and making our school a better place.

Health and safety

Please can parents ensure that long hair is tied back to prevent hair falling into eyes during lessons and to keep it out of the way preventing snagging.

Photo order deadline

Please order your photographs on line by today Friday 18th October. Alternatively, the forms can be completed by hand and given in to the office on 21st October, latest.

Pantomime forms

Please can all pantomime permission forms and medical forms be completed, signed and returned to the office the latest 23rd October.

Data collection sheets

Please can the data collections sheets sent home with the children be completed and returned to school by Monday 21st October. This will enable Mrs Ellis to get all of the important information onto SIMS so that we hold all the most up-to-date information for your child and family contacts.

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Whaddon
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Poppy appeal

We will be raising funds for the Royal British Legion by selling a range of poppy related items, in school. We have slap wrist bands, book bag poppies and pocket tags. Please speak to Mrs Ellis for more details.

Honey

A huge thank you to Charlie Tolfree and family for selling his honey. The honey sales raised a buzzing £182! These funds will go towards the Discovery Centre resources to enable child led 'in the moment' learning around the forest school area and school field.

Parents evening appointments

Teachers will be liaising with parents regarding the time slot they require for their Teams parents meeting next week. We are prioritising siblings and club users then the appointment times will be open to the general school community. Should you wish to email the school with your preferred time, we can take these into account and we endeavour to give parents the date and time as close as possible to the one requested.

These parents meetings are virtual and will be a maximum of 10 minutes. The meetings are to discuss how well your child has settled into their class, their learning behaviours and learning attitude and friendships. If there are matters you wish to discuss, which will require more time to discuss, another meeting will need to be made with the relevant staff in attendance. Written notes will be made, during the meeting, as a record of the conversation. You will receive a target sheet regarding your child's progress and advice as to what you can do at home to support them.

Parking

We have recently experienced issues with parent parking and parents turning in the road outside of the school. This is not only dangerous for other road users, it is also hazardous to pedestrians. Please can parents driving their children to school be mindful of other road users and children walking to school. Please be respectful of our neighbours' drive way access and avoid parking on the grass verges which are becoming churned up, due to the water-logged grass.

Lego Club

We are implementing Lego Club, which is an intervention to promote speech and language and social interaction skill development. This excellent and evidence-based intervention relies on the children involved using Lego sets to complete the tasks. We are sending out this request for any Lego sets that are no longer required, or which come up on Whaddon Facebook page or any others for that matter. We appreciate any help you can offer and appreciate your donations.

FOWS

Thank you to FOWS for providing the classes with the texts required to support the guided reading activities we have planned. We are grateful for the high quality texts which have been purchased and can't wait to start sharing them with the children.

A quick reminder that the spooky disco will be taking place on 25th October 3.15pm in the school hall. Please visit the FOWS Facebook page for more information.

Technology Donations

Thank you to Mr Mark Rose, a Whaddon villager, who has donated a wide range of hardware for the school. It was amazingly generous and we can't wait to start using it.

Clothing

For Hedgehogs and Squirrels classes, please can a complete change of named clothing be sent into school in a separate, named bag to ensure full access to outdoor learning and keep the children dry and warm in case of muddy puddles. In the same vein, please can forest school kit be kept in school all week.

For Badgers and Foxes, please can parents ensure that the children have wellies or a change of socks and shoes available to them. Please ensure all items brought into school are named in permanent marker; biro washes away making it hard for us to ensure all items get to the correct person.

Sports festival participation

A year 5/6 tag rugby event is being held at Buckingham Primary School Tuesday 5th November- *time of start and end to be confirmed*. Please let the school office know if your Fox would like to participate and we can put a team forward. Parents will need to transport children to the event and remain on site for the duration of the event.

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.

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.

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.