



“You are the light of the world, let your light shine!”

Whaddon School Newsletter

(Number 9 Spring term 2025.)

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14th March 2025

Dear parents, please find this week's newsletter.

Illness

You will have been aware that the Whaddon School community has been blighted by a particularly horrid virus that has affected pupils and staff alike. This virus has affected staff with respiratory vulnerabilities and meant that they had to take the decision to stay at home to recuperate. This was not an easy decision to make and the staff in school truly lived the Whaddon School ethos of resilience and compassion and ensured the school remained open to pupils and that the pupils continued to have access to a broad and rich curriculum. Our pupils demonstrated amazing resilience, in the face of the changes over the week and had many opportunities to work collaboratively, creatively and were a true credit to themselves and the school.

World book day 2025

World Book Day was honoured in true Whaddon School fashion where the children came dressed as characters from their favourite books. The children participated in activities such as acting our traditional tales, a reading station and the chance to be an illustrator whereby they created representations of characters from descriptions given. All children received a World Book Day book and the book sale, after school was well attended and £30 was raised. Thank you!

Bingo!

Thanks to those who attended the bingo evening. Lots of fun was had and approximately £150 was raised from this event.

Red nose day 2025

Red nose day will take place on 21st March. For a donation of £1, the children are welcome to come to school in items of red clothing. If they are bringing red noses to school, please ensure they have their initials on them, as they will not be worn during breaktime, PE or forest school. If hair dye/ spray is worn, please ensure it is out of the hair for Monday, please.

Mufti day



Dogs on site

We would like to remind all visitors to the school site that dogs are **not** permitted on the premises, without prior arrangement and a comprehensive risk assessment. Assistance dogs and dogs present for educational purpose are exempt, but a risk assessment will still be required. We thank you for your support in maintaining our commitment to health and safety for the whole school community.

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.



School website

Please visit our school website for more information on what the children are learning this half term. This information and other useful information can be found on the class pages. The about us section has information on our curriculum offer and homework is also available here too! <https://www.whaddon.bucks.sch.uk/web/>

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.

Seed tray request

The children will be planting seedlings in the coming weeks and we welcome any seed trays, in order to do this across the three classes- in forest school. Please bring any seed trays you may no longer need to school for the children to use. Thank you!

Easter bonnet competition

Calling all crafters! Can you design and make a wonderful Whaddon Easter bonnet? This half term, we are holding a competition to present your original Easter bonnet, in our Easter parade, which will take place on the last day of term: **Thursday 3rd March**. The bonnets will be judged and winners selected by Reverend Dove, after the parade.

Any hat, cap bonnet will do, as long as it is decorated to celebrate Easter/Spring. Bonnets can be decorated with any crafting material or handmade items as long as the bonnet can be worn on your head! There will be a prize for the winner! All bonnets should be brought to school in a named bag. Good Luck- Teacher Read.

School Library Service books

Our amnesty for all School Library Service books, remains open. 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.

Volunteers

If you can help us with listening to readers, forest school or supporting in DT or Art activities please let us know. We always appreciate the benefit of the skills and talent in our parent community.

Forest school

Unfortunately, due to low uptake in numbers, Green Planet Forest School will not be offering the forest school after school club, from September 2025. We are all disappointed, as it is a much loved club. Should you wish for your child to join the forest school club, for the remainder of this school year, please head to the Green Planet Forest School website and click on the Whaddon School link to book the places you need. <https://www.green-planet.co.uk/for-parents/>

Please ensure that your child had a complete change of clothing. If they get excessively wet or muddy they will feel cold and miserable for the afternoon. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient spare clothing, as it has been issued and not returned to school.

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.**

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...

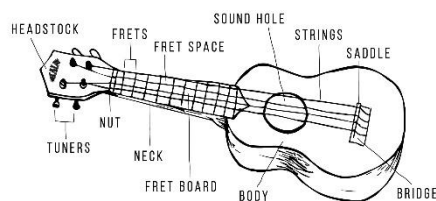
Week commencing 17th March and 24th March: Hedgehogs and Squirrels will need their PE kit on both Tuesday and Thursday.

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 open to children of all ages. 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...

21st March Red Nose day- wear red for £1

11th March Booster sessions start

26th March chocolate egg donation for children to come in their own clothes (mufti day)

28th Mother's Day celebration St Mary's church 08.40am

3rd April Easter service St. Mary's church 08.40am

4th April INSET day school closed to pupils

Please see the website for other calendar dates





Thank you to our reading volunteer, Mrs. Pit.

Thank you to Ms Lawrence, for supporting our afternoon activities!

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

Thank you to the staff of Whaddon School who tirelessly ensured the smooth running of the school during this period of ill health- we are all grateful for your dedication and flexibility.



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.