



Whaddon Wheatsheaf Newsletter

(Number 8.)

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Welcome to the eighth edition of the Whaddon Wheatsheaf.

9th February 2024

End of half term message

It is hard to believe that another half term has whizzed by and we are on the eve of our much needed half term holiday.

This half term has been filled with amazing learning, amazing work and amazing effort and achievement! Our new curriculum is definitely a hit!

The pupils have worked so hard and we are proud of the work they have produced. The children are keen to share this with you, during the parents evening appointments.

Parents evening

Most bookings have now been made and **green** confirmation slips will be going home via your child, in their book bag. Due to issues we have experienced with our emails, recently, we did not want the appointment confirmations to come through in fits and starts.

Appointments are over two nights, the teachers have back-to-back appointments, so your punctuality is appreciated. The appointments are 10 minutes in length, to discuss progress and strategies to support, at home, so if you require more time to discuss a matter, an alternative appointment will need to be arranged. This will ensure that all appointments are kept to time and other parents don't miss any other appointments.

Forest school

In order for all of the children to be able to fully participate, we ask that their forest school waterproof clothing be kept in school. This will also enable full and spontaneous outdoor learning, all week round. Alongside this, the children also require a complete change of clothing in school, for such days, as today, where they had so much fun, but got soaked! We don't want children to be damp and cold for the rest of the day, so please ensure your child has this bag of spare clothes, including socks, in school. **Please return forest school clothing to school on the first day of the new half term.**

Learning this half term

We have many exciting units planned across the curriculum, this half term. **For more detailed information about what your child will be learning, in each subject, please visit the school website and click on the relevant class page, here you will find the class overviews.** If there are any areas that you have expertise or skills in, please let us know, so we can share your talents with the children.



Homework

Homework can be found on the class pages and 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.

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 it is very similar to the format of the actual times table check format.

Mrs Rudiger would like to say thank you to all of the of Squirrels children, for engaging with the history homework so enthusiastically. The children loved the activity and really enjoyed working with you to complete their homework tasks!

Distinctive Christian Vision



As a Church of England school, it is important to us that our Distinctive Christian Vision supports our aspirations and enables us to shape and guide all areas of our decision making. This included our policies accurately reflecting the lived experiences of our stakeholders. As such, we will soon be sharing the biblical reference, we feel, best suits the school we are and the school we wish to become; enabling all of our all of our stakeholders to shine and flourish. In order to ensure accurate representation and contributions, from all areas of our

communities, please contact the school office via the usual email address, if you feel that you would like to contribute to the shaping of our new vision as a vision team member. Thank you to those who have already made contact.

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.

Any jig saw puzzles that people no longer need would be gratefully received by the Foxes class, 300 pieces + please.

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.

Parking

It has been brought to our attention that parents and taxis are using the entrance to Church lane to park whilst collecting children. This is a highway and access to residential homes. When parents block this access it is frustrating to home owners trying to access their homes and dangerous, should emergency services require access to this road.

Please help keep our roads safe and our neighbours happy and **DO NOT** park vehicles in this junction.

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.

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...

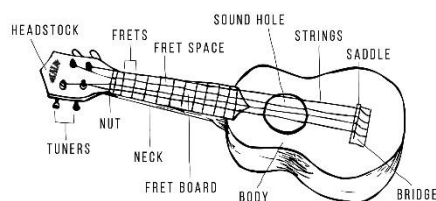
Sports4all are providing high quality P.E coaching to all of our children. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit, which should be suitable for the weather, when learning outdoors.

Hedgehogs	Tuesdays
Squirrels	Wednesday
Badgers	Friday
Foxes	Thursdays

Music lessons

Paul, the MK music co-operative guitar teacher will not be in school Wednesday 21st, as MK schools are on half term that week. He will arrange a make it up session and parents will be told when this will be as soon as he has the date.

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

12th - 16th 2024 Half term

19th February back to school!

20th February parents evening- face to face meetings

21st February parents evening face to face meetings

21st February Reading workshop 08.30-09.30am

29th February Reading workshop 2.00-3.00pm

March

1st National school offer day

4th March Height and weight checks 11.30am Hedgehogs and Foxes

6th March Thames Valley Police visit -with patrol car

7th March 2024 World Book Day- more details to follow

8th March 2024 Mother's Day celebration St. Mary's church

22nd March celebration assembly- last of the term

26th March 2024 Easter celebration at St. Mary's Church

27th March Easter egg hunt children hunting in houses- coloured T-shirts for their house needed

28th March INSET day, school closed to pupils



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

Thank you for the books and board games donated for wet play.

Thank you for the donations to the Riverbank furniture fund. All but £10 of the £135 raised has been used to purchase lovely furniture for the Riverbank. Our big opening will be shared soon!

Thank you to Janet Pit, our lovely volunteer reader and first hand history source of many fascinating facts for our Squirrels class. They really enjoyed her visit and her talk about her favourite toys, whilst exploring toys through time.



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

Henry W and Greta

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

Well done Siskins for achieving the house cup, this half term!