



**Whittington
Church of England (Aided)
Primary School**

NEWSLETTER

Spring Term	Issue No. 2	January 2014
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Dear Parents and Friends of Whittington CE (Aided) Primary School

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. The children have clearly had an exciting Christmas and have been busy telling me and other staff about their presents and holidays! I hope all parents managed to have a refreshing break although I know what it is like rushing around getting everything ready and then rushing around packing everything away again!

This is the time of year when pupils are likely to catch colds, coughs and tummy bugs. As a result we sometimes need to contact parents and ask them to collect children who are unwell. Can I therefore ask and remind all parents to keep us informed of changes to phone numbers, places of work and lists of contacts. Can I also ask parents to let us know on the first morning if children are off for any reason. Obviously if children are physically sick we do ask that the child is kept off school for 48 hours as we do not want other children catching sickness bugs-thank you.

A newsletter called 'The Bell' is emailed out on a weekly basis so can I remind parents to check their emails on a regular basis. These weekly newsletters contain important dates, news and details of what clubs are on so we do ask to please keep your 'Bell' for reference. There are spare copies in the drawers that are in the entrance to the school.

As previously mentioned in the Bell, we want to try and email parents as much as possible so we use less paper and also be kinder to the environment.

We ended last term with our Christmas production. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends supporting the occasion. The pupils rose to the occasion and performed their parts beautifully. Once again many thanks to all the staff, parents and children for all their contributions and hard work, it really would not be possible without all their help. We finished the term with parties, a visit from Father Christmas who also bought each class some presents and a disco for the pupils which was enjoyed by all.

Finally it is at this time of year that there can be icy conditions. Please can all parents be aware that it is only the pathway from the gate to the main entrance that is gritted -not all of the playgrounds so please take care. Obviously we assess the risks before deciding whether the children go outside for their breaktimes. If the school has to close then this announcement will be on Radio Shropshire (96FM) before 7.30am and also on the Shropshire Council website (www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-closures)

We hope you find this newsletter of interest and that it answers some of your questions but please do not hesitate to contact the school or myself if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you Sean Sibley



Reception Class - Mrs Beaumont

I hope you all had an exciting and enjoyable Christmas break.

During this term in reception the children have decided what they would like to learn about and they have chosen the following topics.

- Space
- Animals
- Dinosaurs
- Minibeasts
- Cowboys

Our aim is to cover as many of these topics in the next two terms. The first topic we intend to learn about is Space.

We shall continue to follow the Primary Framework for Literacy and Numeracy. In literacy we will be looking at a range of genres related to the mini topics the children have chosen, starting with Whatever Next by Jill Murphy and lots of information texts on space and the different planets.

In Religious Development the children will consider special words by discussing our class rules, kind words and greetings. Also we will discuss the rules and words from Jesus. At the end of the half term the children will be celebrating Chinese New Year. In personal and social development the children will be covering the topic, 'Say no to bullying'. In physical development we are going to be using a range of large equipment to explore moving in a wide range of ways.

Your child will continue to bring home a reading book every evening and I hope you will be able to hear your child read regularly. **Please when you read with your child at home, can you record this in their home-school diary.** They will be reading stories from the Oxford Reading Tree and Rigby Rocket books. You can also look at the BEAR/BUS/HOUSE/SHIP words and the maths target cards. Please write a message in your child's reading diary when they are confident with them and I will send home the next set. If your child has completed their letter formation book, please return and I can send home the next one.

Please can you make sure that your child has their P.E. kit in school all week, this should include a red tee-shirt, black shorts, black tracksuit or leggings and black pumps. Next half term your child will have some sports coaching from Johnny Hughes on a Wednesday afternoon. They will need a P.E. kit suitable for activities outside. This should include a tracksuit and trainers. **Can you please ensure that these all have your child's name on and also name other items such as your child's uniform, coats, gloves etc.**

Muddy Mondays are continuing so if your child could continue to wear old clothes and their school shoes to school on a Monday. Their wellington boots and a waterproof coat/suit must be placed in a separate bag with their name clearly labelled.

We welcome any ideas or resources that will contribute towards our topics, so if you have any suggestions for this term, please come and see me. If there is anything you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to come in and see me, after school is usually best.



Happy New Year
Mrs P. Beaumont.



Year 1 and 2 - Miss Hampson and Mrs. Poole

In both classes spellings will be given out on a Wednesday for a test the following Wednesday. Please will you help your child learn their spellings each week. It is important that not only does your child know their spellings but that they use them within their written work. Homework for both classes will be handed out on a Wednesday, to be completed by the following Monday. We regularly monitor when homework is not being completed and contact you if necessary. **Please make sure that homework and spelling books/home school diaries are in school on the relevant days.**

We would greatly appreciate your support in hearing your child read on a regular basis, for short periods as often as possible and to initial or write a short comment in their home school diaries so that we are able to move the children onto the next stage.

Year 1:

Science - 1. Sound and Hearing 2. Light and Dark

ICT - We are Treasure Hunters & We are Personal Trainers

Art and Design - Picture This

Design and Technology - Winding Up

Geography - Mexico

History - Great Fire of London

Music - Exploring Tempo and Dynamics & What's the Score

PSHE - Relationships & Being With Other People

RE - Islam and Easter Foods

PE - Gym/Dance (Y1 Sportsjam after half term).

- PE will take place on a Tuesday and a Thursday for the first half term. After half term Y1 will be doing Sportsjam on a Wednesday so will require outdoor P. E. kits.

Year 2:

This term Year 2 will be slightly different to Year 1. Our topic will be **Oceans and Seas**. This topic will include elements of History, Geography, Art, Design and Technology and Music. There will also be a lot of links with Literacy. Below is a brief outline of what will be explored within each of these:

Art - Colour mixing, shell art, observational drawings.

Design and Technology - Designing and making a boat/raft.

Geography - Continents, UK, Oceans and Seas, Contrasting Countries to the UK (Galapagos Islands).

History - Darwin, Seaside past and present.

Literacy - Poetry, Non-Chronological Reports, Fiction, Non-fiction.

Finally:

Science - 1. Sound and Hearing 2. Light and Dark

ICT - We are Painters & We are Journalists

Music - Exploring Tempo and Dynamics & What's the Score

PSHE - Relationships & Being With Other People

RE - Islam and Easter Foods

PE - Gym/Dance (Y1 Sportsjam after half term).

- PE will take place on a Monday and a Friday
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Please make sure that PE kits are in school all week, including trainers and warm clothing for outdoor PE. It is becoming increasingly difficult to cater for children who regularly do not bring their P.E. kit as we do not have enough spare stuff. Please ensure that your child brings their kit in and LEAVE IT ON THEIR PEG OR IN THEIR LOCKER.

All of the children will be having Spanish lessons on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs. Harrison. As always, please feel free to pop in after school for a chat if you have any concerns.

Year 3 - Miss Salmons

Happy New Year!! I hope you have had a lovely Christmas break!

We have an exciting term planned and will hopefully be going on a school trip to link in with our topics this term! For the next seven weeks, our class will also have an Associate Teacher who is on the second of her three placements. Miss Ward will be teaching a range of curriculum subjects alongside myself.

In Literacy, the children will be working on Traditional Poetry, Myths and Legends, Recounts and Stories About Imaginary Worlds.

During Literacy, some children will be receiving a fast-track phonics, reading and writing intervention programme called Read, Write Inc. which runs alongside the normal Literacy session.

Mathematics follows the National Framework for Mathematics and includes lessons on number, calculation, shape and space and data handling.

This is what we will be learning about in Science and the Foundation subjects this term:

- Science: Light and Shadows
Circuits
- History / Geography: Ancient Egypt
- D&T: Storybooks
- Art: Take a Seat
- RE: Islam
Easter Traditions & Rituals
- ICT: We are Presenters
We are Opinion Pollsters
- PE: Outdoor & Adventurous Activities
Dance
- Music: Play It Again - Exploring Rhythmic Patterns
- PSHE: Relationships (SEAL)
Children's Rights

PE is on a Monday and a Thursday - please make sure that PE kits are in school all week, including trainers and warm clothing for outdoor PE.

Homework will be handed out on a Friday, to be completed by the following Wednesday. Children will be given a piece of Literacy and Maths homework and are expected to write sentences that include their spellings in. Spellings will be handed out every Friday for a test the following Wednesday. We will also be having Mental Maths tests in class every other Wednesday. We are continuing to use the bookmarks in your child's Home/ School Diaries, so please continue to initial in their books if they have read at home.

Your child is welcome to bring a water bottle into class and a piece of fruit for morning break.

As always, please feel free to pop in after school for a chat if you have any concerns or questions.

Year 4 - Miss Duggan

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. The children worked really hard last term and made some great progress. I'm sure this term will be the same.

This term's topics.

Science	Light and Shadows Circuits
History/Geography	Ancient Egypt
PE	Dance - Egyptians Outdoor education
RE	Islam Easter
Art/Design Technology	Take a seat Storybooks
PSHE	Relationships Children's Democracy
ICT	We are historians - Then and now databases We are travel presenters - Trip slideshow
Music	Violins

As normal, children will be given homework on a Wednesday and this should be returned by Tuesday of the following week. If the homework is not handed in by Wednesday morning, children will complete it during lunch time.

Spellings and timestables will continue as normal. A few children are now onto mixed tables so it is important to keep learning all of the ones they know.

PE will be on Thursday. It is however helpful if kit is in school all week in case the time needs to be changed. Full PE kit is black shorts, red t-shirt and suitable trainers.

If you wish to discuss your child please don't hesitate to come and see me.

Jen Duggan

Year 5 - Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Gambrell

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas! We have a busy term ahead of us! In literacy we will be looking at journalistic writing and arguments and debates. In maths we will be focusing on the four written methods and also be doing lots of investigative and problem solving work.

- **Science:** Earth & Space
- **Geography:** America
- **History:** The Moon Landing
- **R.E.** Islam & Easter
- **ICT:** We are Advertisers & We are Architects
- **Art:** Objects & Meanings
- **D&T:** Controlled Vehicles
- **PSHE:** Relationships & Children's Rights
- **Music:** Violins & composition
- **P. E:** Sportsjam & Dance - it is important that children come prepared for their PE lessons, this includes having the appropriate kit for the activity.

Homework: Homework will be given out on a Wednesday afternoons and needs to be returned the following Tuesday. There will be a spelling test and times table test every Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs Griffiths is teaching the class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and Mrs Gambrell is teaching the class on Fridays.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and see us.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the term.

Mrs. Griffiths & Mrs Gambrell



I hope you all had a great Christmas. We have another very busy term ahead! In preparation for SATs, the class is now split three ways on a Friday morning into focused boosting groups for literacy (same as last term), but also now for maths too. The groups are taught by me, Mr Sibley and Mrs Frost. Children will be expected to complete an additional piece of homework for these groups. In literacy this term, we will be studying the classic narrative poem *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes. The children have already produced some lovely pieces of art representing the vivid imagery in the poem. Later in the term, we focus on non-fiction texts and writing. In maths, we will be continuing to work at higher still levels on calculation, word problems, data handling, algebra, shape, space and measure. I am hoping to take the children on two trips this term to support our topic on Charles Darwin, evolution and inheritance. I am looking at the Natural History Museum in London with the possibility of an overnight stay (details to follow in a separate letter). Also, a trip to Shrewsbury is in the pipeline to follow a trail looking at Darwin's birthplace, school and memorials to him.

Spring term curriculum areas:

- **Science:** Evolution and Inheritance
- **History:** Significant historical individual - Charles Darwin
- **Geography:** Geographical skills and fieldwork
- **R.E.** World Faiths - Islam
 - Easter - pilgrimages and remembering Jesus
- **ICT:** Architecture - using computer aided design
 - Photography - editing images
- **Art:** Building design and architecture
- **D&T:** Controllable vehicles
- **PSHE:** Relationships
- **Music:** Singing rounds and using pitched instruments
- **PE:** Gymnastics
 - Outdoor Education
 - Sports coaching with Mr Hughes

P E - All children will need a full P.E. kit in school every day.

Homework - Class homework is given out on a Wednesday and needs to be brought back in the following Tuesday. Boosting homework is given out on Fridays and needs to be back the following Thursday. Homework club is available to the children at school on Monday lunchtimes and Wednesday after school. Detentions will be given if homework is not back by the specified day as we must prepare children for the expectations of secondary school.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.
Best wishes,

Mrs. Jones

Parents' Evening

Every year we hold three sets of parents' evenings. Our first this year was in October 2013 and our next one is **Wednesday 12 March**. This meeting provides parents and staff with the opportunity to raise issues or concerns and discuss how children are progressing and to set some targets for the coming term. If for some reason parents are unable to attend that evening you can make alternative arrangements with class teachers. If you need to see staff before this date please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Home Learning

Home Learning is considered an essential element of children's study and is set for the benefit of the pupils. At Whittington we recognise that pupils often attend a variety of out of school clubs e.g. brownies, dance, swimming etc. and on occasions have limited time to complete homework. Home Learning supports all that the children do in school and the more consistent they are the better their progress in school. We therefore depend upon parents to ensure that home learning is completed and returned at the appropriate time.

Contact Numbers

During the year we sometimes need to contact parents if children are ill or have had an accident. There have been occasions when this has been difficult because parents have not notified us of changes. I would therefore remind all parents of the importance of letting us know if there are any changes in circumstances i.e. changes in places of work, mobile numbers, family contacts. We also need at least 2 contact numbers in case one is not available. This is especially important if there is an emergency.

School Dinners

Each week a copy of the menu is displayed on the wall in the main entrance of school. School dinners currently cost £2.10, this includes a main course and dessert. Payment is now done on-line using Allpay. If you think you may be entitled to claim Free School Meals please see Mrs Lightwood in the school office for an application form.

School website www.whittingtonschool.co.uk

Don't forget to check our school website regularly. There are allsorts of links and information that you will find useful. The website contains school holiday dates, useful parent links, the history of our school, information on The Friends of Whittington School (our PTA) and much much more. We are currently changing our website with the Parent Council. We will let you know when it is updated.

School Uniform www.yourschooluniform.com

All of our school uniform is available online from www.yourschooluniform.com. If you do not have access to the internet please ask Mrs Lightwood in the school office for assistance.

Nearly New Uniform Sales

Once a month we hold a sale of Nearly New Uniform in the school hall. We have a wide variety of clothes including coats, shoes, PE kit, sweatshirts, trousers and polo shirts. We always welcome fresh stock so please send in anything you no longer need. The dates are advertised on The Bell.

Emergency Closure

As the winter approaches there is always the possibility of bad weather and an emergency closure of the school. We will always try to remain open. In the event of an emergency closure an announcement will be made on BBC Radio Shropshire 96FM between 6.00 and 8.00 a.m. An Education Department help-line telephone number will also be given. Information will also be available on the Shropshire Council website.

Absence / Lateness

Increasingly the government monitors school performance including absence and attendance. All periods of absence and lateness cause disruption to education and it is therefore important that we are aware of the reasons for absence or late attendance. Parents are asked to contact the school early **every morning** of any absence so that we can be aware of the reasons why children are not in school. If pupils arrive after registration is complete we also have to mark this as unauthorised absence unless there is a medical or other specified reason. **We request that parents do not come into school with the children in the mornings unless they need to see a member of staff. Please ask Mrs Lightwood if it is possible for you to see your child's teacher and they will then go and check.**

A prompt start to the teaching day is essential.

Holidays in Term Time

Attendance and punctuality at Whittington School for most of our pupils is excellent and I would like to thank parents for their support with this matter. However, the single largest cause of pupil absence is holidays in term time. Legally, any holiday is at the Headteacher's discretion. Whilst we recognise that for some families a choice of holiday time is often dictated by parents' places of work, we do ask parents to consider the impact of absence on your child's education. Work time lost in school is often difficult if not impossible to make up and for some pupils this does affect their overall performance, confidence and progress. Each year we set a whole school attendance target. Our attendance target for this academic year is 96%. When holiday request forms are received in school we check your child's attendance percentage. If their attendance is below 96% permission for a holiday during term time will not be granted. I fully understand that financial pressures are a key issue and can influence your decisions but I would request that parents try to keep absences to a minimum.

DIARY DATES

JANUARY

Monday 27 Year 6 to watch Annie at Marches

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5 School Nurse coming in to measure height and weight of children in Reception Class and in Year 6

Tuesday 11 Year 5 to Lakelands to watch Little Shop of Horrors

Friday 14 Non-school uniform day. Children wear red and pay £1 which will be donated to Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.

Singing Festival at St Martins School (9.30 - 11.30am) for children in Years 3-6 who are in the choir. These children should come to school in uniform and bring red clothes to change into after the festival.

2.00pm - Parent Council Meeting. (Please let a parent on the council or the school office staff know if you would like an item on the agenda.)

Break up for half term

Monday 24 Children return to school

Tuesday 25 Full Governors Meeting

Wednesday 26 Mad Science after school club starts. 3.15 - 4.15pm

Thursday 27 Parents of children in Reception Class invited to sample a school dinner.

MARCH

Tuesday 4 Parents of children in Year 1 invited to sample a school dinner.

Wednesday 5 Ash Wednesday -Whole school Church service at 9.15am

Thursday 6 Cross Country at Moreton Hall 3.45pm

Wednesday 12 5-a-side girls football at Marches

Parents' Afternoon (1.30pm - 3.00pm) and Evening (3.30pm - 6.00pm)
(Appointments only)

Thursday 13 Instrumental Workshop at school

Parents of children in Year 2 invited to sample a school dinner.

Tuesday 18 Parents of children in Year 3 invited to sample a school dinner.

Thursday 27 Parents of children in Year 4 invited to sample a school dinner.

APRIL

Tuesday 1 Parents of children in Year 5 invited to sample a school dinner.

Wednesday 2 Last Mad Science after school session. 3.15 - 4.15pm

Thursday 10 Parents of children in Year 6 invited to sample a school dinner.

Break up for Easter

(Friday 11 April is a PD Day when children do NOT attend school)

Easter Holiday 10 April - 27 April 2014

Return to School for Summer Term 28 April 2014

Summer Half Term 26 May - 1 June 2014

PD Days: 18 July and 21 July 2014