

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

Whimble Primary School

Issue 1

01.09.22

I hope you have all managed to have a reasonable summer - I would say we can't complain about the weather but some may have found it too hot!

Before the children return to school on Monday we just wanted to provide some general information regarding the school day.

Start and End of the School Day

The school day commences at 9am. Children should ideally arrive at school by 8.55 am to be in good time for a prompt start at 9.00 am. Please wait in the top playground behind the rainbow until a member of staff comes out to greet children and send them into class. Both the main gate and the lower gate by the bridge will be open at that time. Older children are able to walk to and from school on their own if parents have signed the relevant paperwork.

School finishes at 3.30 pm for all children. KS2 parents wait in the area by the main gates; parents collecting from Elm wait opposite their class, against the main building and those collecting from Ash wait nearer to the grass side. Please make sure you keep younger siblings with you and not play under the shelter or the equipment; once your child has been handed over, please also keep them with you.

Parents are able to leave via the bottom gate if they need to walk towards Grove Road/church side of Whimble, avoiding the busy road. This departure access route is also available to adults and children from other classes as well to save walking on the unpaved road.

Reminder for parents of our Reception Children - whilst these children attend part-time, please wait outside the double doors at the main entrance of the village hall and children will be brought to you. **Collection is at midday Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday then 1.15pm on Thursday and Friday next week.** (Please ignore previous correspondence regarding dates—our brains have been on holiday!!)

Packed Lunches and Snacks

We continue to encourage healthy snacks for children at school. We have a **NO NUTS** policy in school as we have a number of children with significant allergies, this includes ALL NUTS and NUT products not just peanuts. It is surprising just how many snack bars contain nuts, so please can we ask you all to check ingredients listings before sending any in, instead of making the assumption that it wouldn't contain them.

All school dinners, including universal free school meals for reception, year 1 and year 2, should now be ordered online with School Gateway. Please make sure you order meals in advance. If you are unsure or need any assistance please call into the office.

If you have a new Reception child and are having difficulty ordering lunches, it will be because your child has not officially started. By Monday mid morning, you will be able to order their lunches for Thursday 8th September and onwards.

School Uniform

We expect our families to support our uniform guidelines for the following reasons:

- To promote pride in the school.
- To give children an identity related to belonging to the school.
- To present the best image of the school to visitors and the wider community.
- To help parents avoid conflict over dress and reduce cost.

Since the return to school after Covid we have been flexible in our approach to our uniform policy. From September we ask that all our children/families follow the following:

Uniform

- Grey or black trousers, dress or skirt (no jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms please).
- White polo shirt
- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- In the summer, blue and white gingham dresses and black or grey shorts may be worn.
- Black footwear without logos.
- Black, grey or white socks or tights.

PE

- Plain blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Yellow T-Shirt with school logo
- Trainers



PE kits need to be in school everyday please so children have access to them whenever needed.

Optional

- School bag with logo

Please ensure that all clothes are named. If items are lost, please check the lost property box. Unnamed and unclaimed clothing will be washed and then recycled at the end of each term.

Our logoed uniform is available from the school office. Second-hand uniform is available through the PTA at various events throughout the year.

No jewellery other than wristwatches and plain stud earrings are allowed but, these must be removed or covered for P.E. We prefer hair accessories to be in school colours. Long hair must also be tied up. Make-up, temporary tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted.

If there are any concerns about uniform costs, please contact the office.

Parking

Please consider both other road users and especially pedestrians when parking and dropping off and collecting children at school. We ask that you park away from the school in The Thirsty Farmer car park and then walk into school to avoid congestion. Parking along the road between school and the hall limits access on the pavement when car doors are opened. Please also consider our local neighbours and do not use their driveways for parking or turning around in.



Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on school property (not even in the arms of an adult). We continue to have a number of children that are fearful of dogs and have to walk home so please stay away from the pavement outside of the gates and railings - please arrange to meet your children a short distance away.

Dates for your diary

Term dates for pupils - 2022/23:

AUTUMN TERM 2022

5th September to 16th December 2022

Half term - 24th to 28th October 2022

SPRING TERM 2023

4th January to 31st March 2023

Half term - 13th to 17th February 2023

SUMMER TERM 2024

17th April to 21st July 2023

May Day holiday - 1st May 2023

Half term - 29th May to 2nd June 2023

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 1st and 2nd September, 31st October 2022, 3rd January, 30th June 2023

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