

# Newsletter



Autumn Term

August 2018

## Welcome Back

A new term, new classes, new teachers and new friends. A time of excitement for some; apprehension for others. For me it is a time of great excitement, pride and anticipation as I take up my role as Headteacher at Whitwick St John the Baptist.



Having had the privilege of the role of deputy head here for the last eight years, I know how supportive you are of the school and how invested you are in your child's happiness and wellbeing. I'd like to reassure you that a new headteacher does not mean that there will be a lot of sudden changes to the rules and routines that your children are used to. I know how unsettling change can be for children and during this period of transition I will be working with the staff and the governors to ensure that the children continue to feel safe, happy and reassured. Sometimes change is necessary; but any changes will be small and introduced gradually.

My priority is and always has been the children. My vision is to ensure that every child has 'their moment' in school, whether this be through sports, performing, music, maths, science or something else. For as long as I am the Headteacher here then this is what I will strive to achieve.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, then please come and see me. The Penguin Parents group will be meeting again on 3rd of October at 2:15 and always welcome new faces.

We welcome our new members of staff. Mrs Rushton in Year 4, Mrs Thomas in Year 2 and Miss Armstrong in Year 1. There have also been quite a few new children in addition to our Foundation Stage which means our numbers have now risen to 345. We are still able to keep class sizes below 30 in all year groups.

Have a great beginning of term

Mrs Noon

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## Reminders

Please remember our **no chocolate policy** for snacks and packed lunches except on Fridays. Also, it is important that **long hair is tied up**. This is for hygiene purposes as well as safety. Make sure any ribbons or hairbands are not overly decorative, small and in school colours. Thank you to **Y4, Y5 and Y6** parents for remembering to allow your children to begin to develop some independence by letting them come into and out of the school on their own and arranging a meeting place. The children really appreciate the trust you show. This is the first step in building their confidence so that over the next couple of years they prepare for the transition for secondary school.

## Rockhopper

Our Rockhopper Club is continuing to be very popular. We have increased the maximum capacity to 50 but places are being filled.

**You MUST complete and send in a booking form if you want a place. If you do not do so, your child may not have a place and you will have to collect them.** We have to be able to ensure the correct staffing as well as catering for meals. Booking forms are sent out in plenty of time so to be sure your place is reserved please return the forms as soon as possible as places cannot be guaranteed. **Having had a place previously is no guarantee of one in the future.**



## School Nurse

It is possible to contact the School Nurse directly on the following number:

**01530 468570**



## NUT FREE School

Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school. Children should not be bringing anything in to school that may contain any type of nut. Anything that is brought in will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. This includes Nutella products.



## Penguin Pre-School

Are you looking for childcare for your 2-4 year olds? Our Penguin Pre-school is now taking provisional bookings for the Spring term. If you are interested please contact the pre-school manager Sally-Ann Price using the school number: 01530 832116. Please get in touch as soon as possible as places book up very quickly.

## Weduc

We have now launched our new virtual learning environment, Weduc for parents and carers. This has replaced e-schools. We hope you have all had chance to log in— information was sent home in your child's report at the end of last term. Our new parents should receive their log-ins within the next week. This is a new system for everyone, so please bear with us as we populate it with useful information. Some features that are available now for our parents include:

- A list of calendar dates
- An electronic grant of leave request form
- An opportunity to communicate with your child's class teacher



If you download the Weduc app on apple or android devices, then you should receive instant notifications of any new content that has been added.

If you have lost your log-in details, or are having any issues with logging on, then please contact the school office.

## Parent Pay

We would like to encourage all our parents in supporting the school to become cashless by using our online payment system—Parent Pay. We are pleased that over 70% of our families are now using this system to make regular payments for dinners, toast, Rockhopper club and school trips. Now all our new starters have settled in, log-in details for foundation stage parents will be sent home within the next week. If anyone requires any help, then please visit the school office and we will be happy to assist you.



## Office Reminders

If you are unable to use our online payments system, parent pay, and need to bring in cash to pay for anything, please make sure that it is handed over to the office in a sealed envelope. The envelope needs to have written on it: your child's name, class and what the money is for. If you are sending money in for dinners and toast it is always helpful to write down which days you require your child to have these. **We will only except cash on a Monday morning.** It is important that dinners and toast are paid for in advance, to avoid any debt building up. We would like to remind parents that we have a red "parents to office" box in reception where envelopes can be posted to save you waiting at busy periods such as first thing in the morning.





### **Free School Meals**

If you are entitled to free school meals please claim these by contacting the following number:-

**0116 3056588.**

It is particularly important for those parents of children in FS, Y1 and Y2 to register even though you are already receiving a free hot meal.

Registering will enable the school to access funding for your child every year while they remain in primary school. They are not obliged to have a hot meal every day. This money will help to fund valuable support for your child. Details of what may be provided are on our website.

If any of our families are serving in the armed forces, please let the school know.

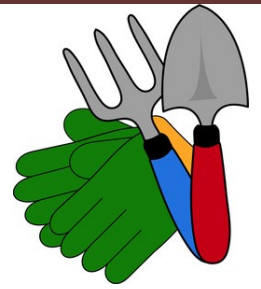


### **Twitter**

Please follow us on twitter:  
@WhitwickPrimary

### **Help Required!**

During the summer our garden and pond area has become quite overgrown. We do try to keep it tidy during golden time but could really use some help. If there are any parents, grandparents or carers who could spare an hour on a Friday afternoon between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock to help us, we would be very grateful. You don't have to be an expert gardener just as long as you don't mind getting a bit dirty. If you would like to help or for more information please contact or pop into the school office.



### **Dates for your diary.**

Attached to this letter is a list of dates for your information for this term. The staff have worked hard to ensure all events are planned well in advance to give you as much notice as possible. Please bear in mind that sometimes last minute issues arise, often out of our control. We will make every effort to keep you informed and up to date with any changes.

After the first celebration assembly on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**, I would like to invite you to join me for tea and cake. An opportunity to come and have an informal chat with me and meet other parents. Any donations made will go to Macmillan.

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

At Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School we know it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare.

All our staff and volunteers are alert to possible concerns about every pupil. We have a safeguarding and child protection policy and anyone may request a copy from the school office.

**If you have a concern, please speak to the headteacher and we will treat your concern seriously**