



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2016 – NUMBER 6 – MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers

New sports kit

We have been very fortunate to receive sponsorship from three local firms to help pay for some new sports kit for our teams when they compete against other schools. Rockbeare Motor Services, Purple Balm Care Homes and E&JW Glendinning have all been very generous and their names and logos will shortly be appearing on new kit. The first of these will be kit for our Tag Rugby team. Here is the initial design (without the sponsor):



I have arranged our first fixture against Stoke Hill in December, which will give me time to get the team up and running. On that note, I was a little disappointed with the turnout to my first session for Y5/6 on Wednesday lunchtime this week. Out of the 55 or so children who said they wanted to come, only ten turned up! If you have a child in Y5/6 who is interested in playing tag rugby and possibly representing their school, I'd appreciate it if you could remind them about commitment!

Parent School Association

Our PSA exists to organise social events for you all and in the process raise money that directly benefits your children. With Christmas just over the horizon, the PSA has dates for both Christmas Bingo and Christmas Bazaar. Bingo is on Wednesday 14th December at the Infant School with doors opening at 5.00pm and eyes-down at 5.30pm. The Christmas Bazaar will be on Friday 9th December

from 2.30 to 4.00pm. See posters around both schools for further information.

A plea to Y2 parents

I know you all can't wait to see your children at the end of the day and it's lovely to see you all waiting for them in the playground, but can I please ask a favour? Could you wait for the children well away from the steps leading up from the classrooms? It is quite difficult for teachers to match children with parents if there is a scrum at the top of the steps. Many thanks for your understanding.

Good news on attendance

You are doing a great job at making sure your children are in school. Attendance in both the Infant and Junior schools is now at least in line with the national averages with Y1 and Y2 being above at 97.2%. Good attendance makes a big difference to every child's life chances. I've said before and I will again, children who are in school more, do better. Make sure your child is one of those!

Uniform Update

Since my last reminder, I have noticed a definite improvement in children wearing the correct uniform and shoes. That means that the children who are not, stand out more. I'm not going to let this one go, so if your child comes to school in a hoodie as a coat, they will be asked to remove it when they come in to school. If they are wearing trainers in any other colour than black, we will contact you and ask you to make sure you have the right uniform. There may be times (such as when shoes are broken, or a medical condition means different footwear is needed) when your child can't wear the correct shoes then you need to let us know via the office. Otherwise, we will be asking the children and getting in touch with you. We want Whipton children to be proud of their schools and wearing the uniform proudly is part of this.

Infant Top Table

I had the pleasure of dining at Top Table in the Infants on Friday last week and had a lovely time. Apart from their company, which was delightful, what I most enjoyed was hearing them talking about their learning. They were all articulate, saying things like: "I love school because it's where you learn new things." One of the children then chipped in: "You get to learn so that you can know everything, like a teacher." What a responsibility us teachers have!

Sensory Garden

It's finished and looks great! Many thanks to Paul and David who worked really hard on this and were both really flexible when it came to amending designs. They also were so generous in the "extras" they provided for the children. There will be an opening and Mrs Wills will be taking lots of photographs to share.

Grounds Day reminder

Mrs Nash and her Wildlife Champions will be smartening up the growing and seating area between the infant and junior schools on **Thursday 24th November**. They need help, so if you are free, please come along. You should have received a letter about this with a slip. If you've lost it and would like to help, come to either school office and let them know.

Taster Menus

As you probably know, as a federation we are part of the Food for Life Partnership and as such serve healthy school meals to encourage great lunchtimes and provide food education that has a positive impact on both pupils and the wider community. Debbie West and her catering team do their best to introduce new, tasty and healthy menus to the children and will occasionally provide "taster menus". She will be cooking the following this week and this is what's on offer for the children to try:

Tuesday: Southern Fried Chicken and home-made BBQ sauce

Wednesday: Chicken Balti Pie

Thursday: Custard and Rhubarb Cake

I have spoken to the children about trying new experiences and I hope you will encourage them to have a taste!



School Uniform

Please can you make sure that all school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. Lots of children remove their jumpers and often pick up another child's jumper by mistake. This doesn't have to be a sewn in label – a laundry pen works just as well.

Life at Whipton Barton ... more photographs

