



Newsletter

SUMMER 2017 – NUMBER 1 – FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

A belated welcome back to the summer term. It seems such a long time since the last newsletter. I can't believe that we are over two-thirds of the way through the school year and at the end of this term, I will have been Headteacher at Whipton for a year. I can honestly say I am really enjoying being here. I feel at home.

OFSTED

You will know that OFSTED visited the Infant and Nursery School before Easter and because of the Easter break, the report was delayed. It's out now; Infant parents have had a hard copy and an electronic version is on our website. If you haven't read it already, do have a look. Our school officially remains a Good school and as the report points out, we are determined to do even better. I would like to thank you for your continued support and a particular thank-you to those of you who responded to the OFSTED Parent View. I of course also need to thank our wonderful staff and children, who make the school what it is. Well done everyone.

Communication

One of the things I picked up from looking at the Parent View, is that there are a few areas of school life about which some parents are not happy. I can't emphasise enough that if there is something that is troubling you, please come and tell us. We might not always agree, but one thing you can be certain of is that we are committed to doing the best by your children. I've said this before, but class teachers are your first point of contact. Mr Norman and Mrs Willis are also very happy to see you and you know that I am out and about most mornings and my door is almost always open (literally and metaphorically).

PTA Reminder

Car-boot Sale; Saturday 20th May; Junior School Playground. See posters for details.

Online payments

We are pleased to say we have launched an online payment facility. This is now up and running and some parents have already used it to pay for Schools Out, nursery fees & trips. Online payments for lunches will be available mid May.

What you need to do now

Activate your School Gateway account. It's quick and easy to do. All you need is your email address and mobile number that school holds on record for you.

- **Download the free app:**

OR

- **Visit the website: www.schoolgateway.com**

We would like to encourage you to use the Instant Bank Transfer facility instead of paying with a debit/credit card as this reduces the transaction costs for the school.

Contact the school office for more information.

Thank you!

I am very grateful to Jon-James Bauer's parents who have offered to donate £50 worth of Usborne books to the nursery! That is very kind and much appreciated with the purse-strings being so tight.

Litter

Mr Waite and Mr Guest are very diligent in their litter picking and the children very rarely drop litter during the school day. However, I am noticing more litter at the end of the day, particularly in the Junior School. We have lovely grounds and I'd like to keep them tidy. If your children have end-of-day snacks, could you remind them about not dropping wrappers? Thank you.

Parking problems and solutions

In my last newsletter, I wrote about our Travel Plan and the problems of parking. As you know this has been going on for a long time and not only does it inconvenience many of you, some poor parking is both dangerous and illegal. I have spoken to PCSO Adam Bates and he will be working with us on a campaign to encourage more considerate parking and he will also be doing some enforcement. So, if you are a car-driver and park on zig-zags and double yellow lines, now's the time to break the habit; before Adam gives you a ticket!

Fisherman Jake

I was really pleased to talk to Jake Hayman in year six earlier this week. Jake is a keen fisherman, mostly in freshwater ponds. He has recently landed a personal best carp, weighing in at over 26lb! Jake and I exchanged fishing tales (I do a bit of sea-fishing) but it is clear that Jake is much more skilled than me. Here Jake is with his catch, which won him Catch of the Week in a national carp-fishing magazine. Well done Jake!



Bait-Tech Catch of the Week

This week's sward goes to young up-and-coming carp angler, 10-year-old Jake Hayman, who took a cracking personal best mirror of 25lb 6oz from Todber Manor Little Hayes. Well done, Jake; you win five kilos of Bait-Tech's new Triple-N boilies in 15mm and 18mm sizes. To claim your prize, phone Bait-Tech on 01473 241811, verifying the issue number of this week's Carp-Talk. You must claim your prize within a month.

Right: Jake Hayman with his new personal best 25lb 6oz mirror from Little Hayes, earning him the Bait-Tech Catch of the Week prize

Oasis Day Nursery

I am sure you have heard that we are now taking two-year olds into the nursery. Since word got out, we have had a run on nursery places, so much so that we are almost full! You might also know that when we get our new, additional nursery building in September we will be extending the nursery hours from 7.45am to 6.00pm. If you, or any of your friends would like nursery places, I advise you to contact the Infant School office soon to request a registration pack.



Open 7.45am to 6.00pm

- Funding accepted for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Led by a qualified teacher with highly qualified staff
- Discounts available and no retainer for term time only
- Online access to view your child's learning
- Welly walks, forest school, allotment and pond

To arrange your personal tour of our Nursery call:

01392 467556

www.whiptonbarton.org/oasis-day-nursery admin@whiptonbarton.org