



Whipton Barton Federation

Newsletter

Spring Term | Issue 7 | January 22nd 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents

We have settled back into the new term and the children are keen and eager to learn and do new things. There are a lot of positive things happening and this newsletter will tell you about a few of them.



Our Oasis Day Nursery goes from strength to strength. We have had eighteen new starters in Oak and Ash this term and we are attracting more children in Sycamore too, where we are encouraging the children to be independent!



Attendance Update



There are two £25 Smyths toys vouchers up for grabs (one per school).

To be in with a chance to win, children need to qualify for a ticket to our attendance raffles.

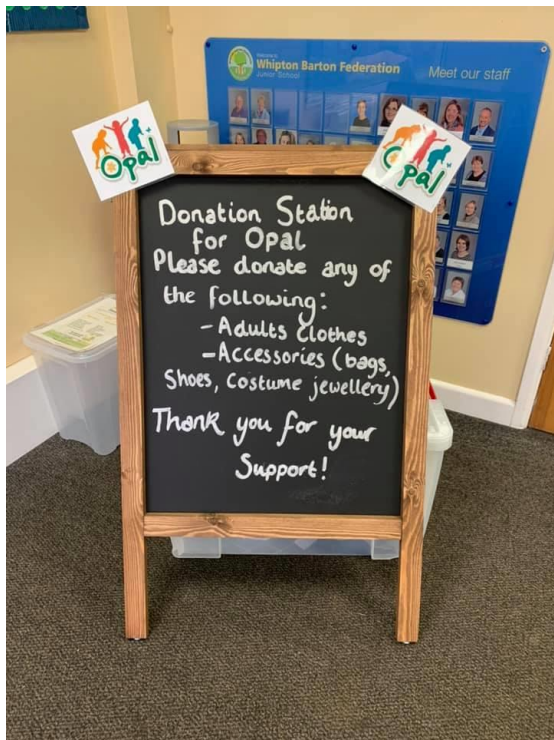
100% attendance for the Spring term = 2 tickets

98% (1 day off in the Spring term) = 1 ticket

The raffle will be drawn in the final celebration assemblies of the term.

Why does good school attendance matter?

- There is a direct link between good attendance and achievement in school
- It can be hard to catch up if your child has missed important teaching
- Being in school helps children to feel like part of the school community
- Regular attendance supports children to form strong friendships
- Absence from school can create anxiety



This is the Opal Donation Station in the Junior School entrance. Mrs Steer and Mr Melton are taking the lead on lunchtime play and we will continue to encourage high quality, imaginative play for all children. To help with this, we want to continue to refresh the “loose parts” that the children love to play with. As you can see, we are after adult clothes for dressing up and accessories to match. Just drop your donations in the box.

New lunchtime appointments

We are very pleased to announce that we have filled our lunchtime staff vacancies and will be welcoming Mrs Michelle Soanes and Mrs Nadia Williams. They will be starting with us on Monday. You may have seen my Facebook post about “bank staff” to cover lunchtime staff absence. If you are interested in being considered or in finding out more, contact Mrs Gambie on admin@whiptonbarton.org

Parking improvement

I would like to say that I have noticed a slight improvement in parking congestion and I know for a fact that a number of parents have made the decision to park away from Hill Lane and walk in. This is much appreciated. We will keep up the effort to improve congestion and I am currently working with DCC and the local police on improving enforcement. We also have lots of exciting plans to make getting to school by scooter and bike a bit more attractive. I will give you more information soon, but it includes a bike pump track, cycle

confidence sessions for parents and bike maintenance lessons! Watch this space.

Litter Patrol

Mr Graham has gathered together a trusty band of volunteers in the juniors to form The Litter Patrol. The children are aware that some people still drop litter in our grounds and they are keen to do something about it. You might see them around in their tabards with little pickers and bin-bags making our school environments more attractive. Mrs Grogan will be discussing this with Y2 children so we can have a team in both schools. Here are some of the team:



Whipton Barton Active Challenge

I have really noticed the children becoming more active over the past year and we are determined to build on this. Miss Cordwell has set up our Active Challenge in which children from Y1 to Y6 can earn points for being active. This will include running the Golden Mile on our track, walking, cycling or scooting to school, attending a sports club and working out on the turbo-bike (in the juniors). Teachers will be keeping a points tally and at the end of the term we will award a medal for the most active boy and girl in each class. The running track has been particularly well used. We have at least 10 children in Y2 who can run a mile in less than ten minutes and a number in Y3 who can run it in less than eight!



Last week, Max in Y5 suggested that we raised money to help the animals injured in the devastating Australian bush fires. Many people at Whipton Barton know people in Australia and they report real despair and what has happened to the native wildlife. To raise money for WWF, we will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 31st January. Please donate at least £1. Thank you.