



Whipton Barton Federation

Newsletter

Autumn Term | Issue 4 | November 8th 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents

PE Kit

This is less of an issue in the Infants, where I usually see most children wearing the right PE kit. In the Juniors it is a different matter. On Wednesday this week, three children turned up for my Tag Rugby club with no PE kit and more children than I could count in Y6 did not have kit for PE. I don't want to start getting heavy about this but it is simple: CLEAN PE KIT IN ON MONDAY – HOME TO WASH ON FRIDAY. That's what I do and I always have my kit in school. Please try and help us out here and make sure your child always has kit in school.

Term Dates

As I said on Facebook, I am waiting for governors to ratify the 2020/21 term dates next week. I can tell you, though that the children will be starting back to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020, just in case you need to know when to get back from any holidays you might be taking.

Junior School Building Works

We are coming to the end of the planning stage for the re-fit of the Junior School. I can tell you that when it is finished, the school will look and feel like a twenty-first century school with upgraded classrooms, new windows and heating systems, a remodelled entrance area, the best internet connection of any school in Exeter and much

more. You will start seeing some signs of work starting in the New Year; I will share plans with you when they are finalised.

Attendance Update

Federation attendance target: 96% Current attendance:

- Juniors 95.8
- Infants 95.5

Across the Federation we record how many minutes late children are when they arrive in school after the register has closed. Last half term across both schools, the total amount of minutes late added up to an extraordinary 3468 minutes which is equal to 57 hours! We want our pupils to arrive on time so that they are ready to begin learning and can make the most of every learning opportunity available throughout the day. Every minute really does count.

LATENESS
How much time can you lose?
IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR
5 minutes
late each day
= 3
days off



Hoodies

In the Juniors, a number of children are coming into school in patterned hoodies rather than coats and then trying to wear them all day. Please make sure children have proper, water resistant coats for school. If you have any trouble getting your child to wear a coat, come and see me and I'll help you sort it out.

Before School in the Infants

Just a reminder that parents should be in the playground with their children until the first bell goes (perhaps enjoying a lovely bagel!). Most of you are doing this but we are seeing a few parents coming in early because it is chilly. Many thanks.



Keeping Children Safe – we are all responsible

We all want to keep children safe. In the age of instant web-based communication, we might feel that this is getting harder. I've been around a long time and have seen the age of children with access to online devices drop rapidly in the past ten years. We do a lot in school to ensure the children know about online safety but I realise for parents this is sometimes hard. To help, I will give you regular updates to help with this and other safeguarding issues. Follow this link to the NSPCC website. There is some excellent advice about starting a conversation with your child about online safety:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/>

Fantastic phonics

Our new Read, Write Inc teaching is going very well and the children are making great progress. Here is Miss Guppy's class in action. A big thank you to the many parents who are supporting their children at home; it's making a big difference!

Upcoming events!

Pop these dates in your diaries. More information will follow:

- 15th November – Children In Need
- 2nd December – Flu Vaccinations
- 4th December – Theatre Alibi perform I Believe in Unicorns, Reception to Y6
- 9th December – Juniors dress rehearsal and performance (time TBC)
- 11th December – Yr 3/4 performance 9.30-10.30
- 11th December - Yr 4 plastic free Christmas in school and Singing in Sainsbury's in the evening
- 12th December – Infant Christingle
- 12th December- Yr 6 Premier Dance Performance at St Lukes (performance times 4.30 and 6.30)
- 13th December- Junior Christingle at St Boniface Church
- 16th and 17th December- EYFS Nativity
- 19th December – Infants and Junior Christmas Crafts Morning
- 19th December – Christmas Dinner, Parties and last day of term