



Whipton Barton Federation

Newsletter

Autumn Term | Issue 5 | November 22nd 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents



Thank you all for your generosity on Children in Need day. We raised over £400 for this worthy cause. Well done everyone!

School Term Dates

Governors have agreed term dates for the 2020/21 school year and they are now on our website. Go to About and then Term Dates.

When teachers are not in

I thought it might be helpful for you to know when your child's teacher will not be in school. Obviously sometimes teachers are poorly and they also have training and additional release time. From now on, we will get a message to you to let you know as soon as we do. That way, you can let your child know in good time. The message will come through School Gateway in the form of an email. I hope this will be helpful to you.

Cyber bullying is a growing issue in all schools. Check out the NSPCC advice here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

Attendance Update

Federation attendance target: 96% Current attendance:

- Juniors 95.0%
- Infants 95.3%

As we head further into the winter months, it is inevitable that children will pick up more bugs and viruses. We understand and appreciate that children can become ill and that it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or keep them at home. Please see the guide below to help you make a decision.

RED - STAY AT HOME

- Sickness and diarrhoea
- 48 hours must have elapsed from the last episode before a child can return to school.

AMBER - SEEK ADVICE

- Headache, feeling sick, tummy ache
- Children often feel unwell if they are anxious, so if in doubt contact the school for advice.

GREEN - COME TO SCHOOL

- Mild cough, cold, sore throat, feeling tired
- We will always contact you if your child is unwell during the school day

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office before 9.25am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school.

Debt Problems?

Money is often tight for many people, particularly at this time of year. At school, we are happy to talk to you about this if it is affecting your ability to pay for things like trips, school lunches or School's Out. At the moment, we have a significant amount of outstanding debt; money which we cannot now spend on the children's education. While I am happy to explore ways to help those who are struggling, I will be looking to recover the debt where there is no attempt to clear it. If you owe us, come and see us and we can work something out.

Schools Out from January 2020

From January, we will be tightening up on bookings for places at School's Out. From then all bookings must be done on the Gateway by 5.30pm the day before you require the session. **There will be no 'same day bookings'**. Any parent that owes for sessions will not be able to book until the debt has been cleared. The only exception to this is parents that pay with childcare vouchers who will need to book in the office or with the schools out leader. There are some fun things going on in School's Out as you can see from the pictures on this page.



High quality PE at Whipton Barton with Real Legacy

We are one of the first schools in Devon to adopt the Real PE programme of teaching. We started with teacher training to support our PE provision in order to develop the whole child and it extends across the school and will include supporting families and the wider school community. Not only are we on a mission to get our children more active by developing the fundamental physical skills that are so often overlooked, our PE lessons are centred around the child to enable them to be successful in the classroom and in later life. Watch this space ...

Cold weather arrangements

Your response to my request to ensuring children have their waterproof coats in school has been excellent. It's great to see the children out in the elements. I think snow is a long way off, but our Facebook page is the go-to place for information about potential school closure. We will also follow up with text and/or email. Let's hope it only snows at Christmas!

