



Whipton Barton Federation

Newsletter

Autumn Term | Issue 3 | October 28th 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents

Welcome back. Looking back to the first half term of the year, we have managed to squeeze in the launch of our new phonics teaching in the Infants, Tapestry for EYFS and Y1 (see below), swimming, Bikeability, a number of school trips, clubs, Harvest fundraising, parents' evenings, Wednesday Workshops in the juniors, parking protests and of course, lots of learning. I hope this newsletter and our Facebook posts have kept you all informed about what has been going on. To keep you up to date, please make sure we have your correct email address and that you follow our Facebook page.

Parents' Evenings

It was good to see many of you at our parents' evenings and I hope they were useful to you. Some teachers had a number of "no-shows" which was a little disappointing and they will be following this up after half term. It is important that teachers and parents get to meet face to face so if you did miss your appointment, please make time to see your child's teacher as soon as possible.



Tapestry is an online journal that lets you see what your child has been learning at school or nursery. We launched

Tapestry a few weeks ago for children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and so far 129 parents have signed up. If you are yet to activate your account then please speak to your child's class teacher who can give you a copy of the consent form that we need you to complete. Thanks also to the parents who are 'liking' photos or making comments, it is important to us and your children that you are involved in their learning at school.

Help with Swimming

We are always looking for helpers to walk the Junior School children up to swimming on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested and can commit to definite dates, then please see Mrs Willey in the Junior office.

Attendance Update

Federation attendance target: 96% Current attendance: 96.6%

100% attendance!

Well done to the children in the Infant School and the Junior School who received an attendance certificate in assembly last half term for having 100% attendance and being on time every day this half term. This is contributing to us reaching our attendance target (we are just ahead of our target, so keep it up!)

Well done to the following classes who are topping the attendance charts in each school:

- In the Juniors, Mr Graham's class are ahead with overall attendance of 99.6%.
- In the Infants the honours go to Miss Guppy's Class with 99.8%



Parking

Our safer parking campaign certainly got people talking and the overwhelming reaction was very positive. I hope you managed to catch the item on Spotlight where our children and parents spoke very eloquently about the issue. We will keep up the pressure and will be taking the following actions:

- Chasing up DCC to ensure the road markings are compliant so that fixed penalty notices can be issued.
- Working with DCC Highways enforcement team to have a “blitz” on illegal parking
- Looking for alternative “drop-off” points away from school to enable safe walking
- Encouraging older pupils to cycle to school more frequently

Thank you to those parents who have chosen to change their parking habits as a result of our campaign. I have noticed this and the children have told me. This is much appreciated. Please spread the word!

Free School Meal applications

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals (even if your children are in the Infant School) then it is really worth applying. You may be eligible if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

I will post information on how to apply on our Facebook page. It is worth noting that once your child is eligible for FSM, our school budget increases by £1320 per pupil! We use this money to help pupils with their learning, so it’s really worth doing.

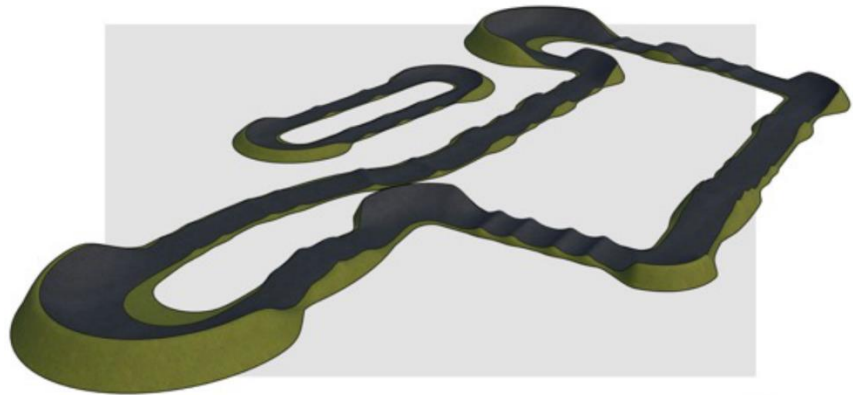


Our Harvest Appeal raised almost £170 for the child.org charity. Thank you to those of you who encouraged your children to do jobs around the house and community for payment. Child.org is grateful for all funds received.

Junior School Refit

I can finally confirm that the planned refit of the Junior School is underway! We are still only at the design stage but we have a timeline and it is likely that work will start soon after Christmas. This is a substantial piece of work (£4.3 million) and is funded directly by the government; it will make a huge difference to our school. The school was selected on a set of school condition data. Unfortunately, the Infant School was not selected but we are hopeful that it will meet the criteria in the next funding round. I will give you more information nearer the start of works.

Whipton Barton Pump Track



We have been very fortunate to be given a significant capital grant through DCC and public health to encourage physical activity. We already do a lot in school so have decided to build a pump track that can be used by all children (nursery to Y6) during lesson time as part of PE, after school as an off-road bike club and possibly during lunch breaks. The track will be constructed between the woodland and the nursery and will add to the resources available to children at Whipton Barton. Work starts in early November. Fingers crossed for good weather.