



Fortnightly Newsletter - Week ending 16 September 2022 – Edition no. 1

Mrs North's News

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. It is a real pleasure to join the school and become part of the Whitley Chapel community. Just to give you a little bit of my background; I have lived and worked in Windsor, Berkshire for about 20 years in schools which also are in the three tier schooling system. I grew up in Northumberland and moved away when I went to University, but I always knew I would return to my native county. I return with a husband and daughter, Ava (in Class 2) in tow and to my family who live on the coast.

I have hugely enjoyed my first weeks at school, and as I have hinted in the letter I sent out earlier this week, the staff and I are hard at work planning some very exciting opportunities for the children to experience this year, (some of which are mentioned in the dates section below), which we shall be sending out more information about in the coming weeks.

It is important that we keep you informed of what is going on in school as there is always so much to remember, and so we will aim to get a newsletter out to you at the end of every two weeks; so you will know what has happened in school and also what is coming up. It will be published in hard copy in book-bags but you will also be able to find it on our website, and we will email it on the following Monday.

I have received a couple of queries following my letter about why After School Club information was not published sooner. Clubs do not usually start in the first week back, though Miss Morgan had kindly arranged this to happen, and this was communicated last term. The communication I sent out was intended to clarify and remind.

I am slowly matching faces of parents to children and seeing you at collection time, however if you would like to chat with me for longer or have something that you wish to discuss I am always available before or after school so please book an appointment via Mrs Thompson in the Office. I also have Tuesday and Thursday afternoons where I can meet between 2pm and 3pm, if you would prefer to come into school just before pick-up time.

I am really looking forward to working with you all and shaping the Whitley Chapel ways together.

Best wishes

Mrs North

^Key dates for your diaries

Day/Date	Event/time	Further info will follow
TERM 1		
Sat 17 Sept	Leek Show 3pm – 5:30pm	
Mon 19 Sept	NATIONAL BANK HOLIDAY for the QUEEN'S FUNERAL	
Sat 24 Sept	St Helen's Open Day 10am – 2pm	
Wed 28 Sept	Reception Vision Screening	
10 Oct	Parents meetings week	Yes
13 Oct	Harvest Lunch	Yes
18 Oct	Arrival of the Whitley Chapel Illuminated Sheep	Yes
21 Oct*	Teacher Training day – INSET no. 3	
24 – 28 Oct	HALF TERM	
TERM 2		
Tuesday 1 st Nov	Whole School trip to see the Lindisfarne Gospels, Newcastle	Yes
14 Nov	Anti-bullying week	Yes
18 Nov	Children in Need activities/fundraising	Yes
25 Nov	Adult wreath making	Yes

[^A full set of dates for the year will be available on the website soon](#)

Further INSET Days – Mon 27th Feb (no. 4), Mon 5th June 2023 (no.5)

*Flu vaccinations were originally scheduled for this day but we are in consultation with the school nursing team to reschedule this. Please complete the online consent form as requested and the date will be announced as soon as we have it.

Celebrations and mentions

Each week we have a **Celebration assembly**; this year we will have this on a Wednesday. This is an opportunity for all staff to recognise children's achievements, from excellent classroom participation to good manners or perhaps being a helpful friend. Going forward we want to share these with you and will publish the names and reasons in each edition (please let us know if you do not want your child named in this way).



Proud Pegs is a new addition where children (and staff) can peg up things that they are proud of (displayed in the hall) to share with others during the week. There is a line of pegs for each class with enough for one peg per child, as well as a line for staff. They

might for example 'peg up' that they have competed in a competition in or outside of school where they feel they have performed well, they may have bettered a personal best; they may have persevered when faced with a challenge. Again these will be published for you to share in this newsletter too, but for now you can see from the photos how this has already been started.



News from the classrooms

This is a section where there will be a roundup of what has been happening over the previous fortnight from each class.

Whole School news

We were saddened to hear the news of the Queen passing last week and held an assembly in school last Friday, as well as selecting 4 children to ring the bells at St Helen's from 12:10 – 12:30 with Reverend Andrew, which was an event that was carried out throughout the county, as a sign of respect for the period of national mourning. The children have this week written their thoughts and memories about the Queen.

Along with schools throughout the UK we will be observing the National Bank Holiday on Monday 19th September and therefore will be closed. We will reopen as normal from Tuesday 20th September.

We are looking forward to the Leek Show this Saturday and the children have completed fantastic work/projects for this. Thank you for your support at home too.

EYFS – Nursery and Reception

Miss Tweddell, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Wilson

Round up of the fortnight

Early Years have had a lovely start to the new school year! We were so excited to welcome the children back and to help our new classmates settle in! Everyone is bonding so well, which has been wonderful to see. We have enjoyed lots of imaginative play, with the 'Home Corner' and fancy dress being firm favourites! Reception children also began their Level 2 phonics and have been working so enthusiastically on this, they have knocked our socks off! Nursery have enjoyed Level 1 phonics, with some help from 'Polly the Parrot' and 'Waldo the Wizard', experimenting with sounds, including exciting musical instruments... 'School of Rock' here we come! We have also enjoyed our 'Leek Show' preparations, including beautiful orchid paintings and taking super 'selfies'! Our daily stories in our woodland area have also been particularly special highlights! Well done Early Years!



Class 1 - Years 1 and 2

Mrs North, Miss Harrison

Round up of the fortnight

Class 1 have been working hard since the start of term – they have been helping me get to know the routines in school. We have been moving things around in the classroom and they have been really observant with spotting what has changed overnight; from new rugs to the removal of computer desks which has opened up the space. Their first topic of work was 'All about me' and we have created this lovely display showcasing their art, writing and maths skills already.

Year 1 Phonics focus sounds are:
'ai' 'ay'

Year 2 Phonics focus sounds are:
'igh' 'y'

Please refer to these as much as you can when reading each night.

Class 2 – Years 3 and 4

Mrs Hilton, Mrs Hardcastle

Round up of the fortnight

A great start to the term by class 2! We have revisited the handwriting, started challenging ourselves in Maths and have had fun collecting nuts, seeds and berries for the Leek show entries. The children are settling well into the new routines and expectations and wrote some truly wonderful Haiku poems this week too.

Notices



We hope that you will hear your children read every day as well as the following additional tasks. Children in Classes 1 and 2 will be given a reading record for you to record their progress. Is it vital that you record a comment so that we can see all the little steps of progress that they make beyond, as well as in, the classroom.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
EYFS	Reception Phonics 'Sound of the Day'	Reception Phonics 'Sound of the Day'	Reception Phonics 'Sound of the Day'	Reception Phonics 'Sound of the Day'	
Due	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Class 1	Daily Reading Phonics – Sounds of the week Spellings	Daily Reading	Daily Reading Writing journal task	Daily Reading	Daily Reading Maths
Due	Monday		Tuesday		Thursday
Class 2	Daily Reading New spellings	Daily Reading	Daily Reading Maths	Daily Reading	Daily Reading
Due	Monday (test on a Monday)		Wednesday		

Clubs

Breakfast Club

- Runs from 8am – 8:45 every term time morning
- Breakfast provided within the £3 per child per day cost. Items can include cereal with milk; toast with butter, jam, marmite, marmalade; juice, milk or water.
- Activities are selected, weather dependent, after the children have finished eating.

- Payment is collected at the end of a half term. You will receive a letter.

After School clubs update - we have now secured a dance club on a Wednesday, which completes our line-up for the first term. **(If you would like to sign your child up for this please complete the reply slip on the last page)**. We know that these are all sports-based activities and we are planning some additional arts/crafts clubs in the term just before Christmas. Thereafter we will have a different feature club each term in addition to the sports ones.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chat and relax	3:15 – 4:30/5pm Mrs Parker	3:15 – 4:30/5pm Mrs Parker	3:15 – 4:30/5pm Mrs Parker	3:15 – 4:30/5pm Mrs Parker	No clubs
Full of Beans	--	3:15 – 4:30 John Paul or Kaitlin	--	3:15 – 4:30 John Paul or Kaitlin	
Mr Hill Sports	3:15 – 4:15 Mr Hill	--	--	--	
Dance class	--	--	3:15 – 4:30 Miss P Wilde	--	

- Cost of Chat and Relax is £2 per half an hour.
- Payment is collected at the end of a half term. You will receive a letter.
- When children have finished in the Sports/Dance clubs they can transfer to the Chat and Relax club if you wish them to remain in school till the later time.
- Please collect children from the Cabin at the end of Club.

Medical reminders

We have those in school with nut allergies and therefore we need to try to maintain as far as possible a nut-free environment. Can you please be mindful when sending in food to avoid products which contain nuts, in particular peanuts.

If your child has Asthma, we need an in-date inhaler in school please. This should be labelled with their name and class.

If you need to update us about any changes with medical issues please complete another medical information form, which you can obtain from the School Office.

Uniform updates

The reminder about uniform has raised some queries which I shall address here.

The list was obtained from the already established school uniform policy, I haven't knowingly changed the core uniform. However, I am happy that children wear grey or green tights if preferred to socks (and have added this to the list overleaf), and socks can be knee length or ankle height. I've also added in about dresses.

- Yellow polo shirt or t-shirt (plain or branded)
- Grey skirt, pinafore, dress, shorts or trousers
- Dresses – green or yellow, striped or checked
- White or grey socks, green or grey tights
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan (plain or branded)

With regard the PE Kit – queries have been around the colours, which haven't been 'set' in the past – again this list is taken from the policy so my intention has been to remind rather than impose change. However, I know myself as a parent that due to many reasons a full PE kit is not always possible and we are happy that adjustments may be needed on occasion. Likewise items your children may be wearing for lessons currently may need to be 'grown out of' before replacing.

PE Kit

- Yellow or green polo or t-shirt
- Bottle green hoodie or sweatshirt
- Bottle green shorts or skirt
- Bottle green or black jogging bottoms
- Trainers

Uniform can be purchased from the School Office. We do sell branded items with the school logo on, these are nice but not a necessity to purchase.

PE DAYS

This term PE Days are as follows:

- EYFS Tuesday
- Year 1 & 2 Monday and Thursday
- Year 3 & 4 Monday and Thursday

We'd like to trial Classes 1 and 2 coming to school in their PE kit on their PE days, so that we have more lesson time. This will start from Tuesday 20th September.



The School Office hours



Monday, Tuesday and Thursday - 9am-4pm

01434 673294

If you need to speak to your child's teacher please see them at the end of a day or send an e-mail to the School Office and your query will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Safeguarding



Safeguarding is about protecting vulnerable children or adults from abuse or neglect. It means making sure people are supported to get good access to an education, health care and stay well, to have full and happy lives. If you have any concerns about a child's safety, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL).

Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs K North

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss A Tweddell

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility

Reply slip for Wednesday Dance Club (please detach and return to the Office)

Name of child _____ Class _____

I would like my child to stay for Wednesdays Dance Club till 4:30pm

Signed _____ Date _____