

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 1-18

4.09.18

Welcome Back

With the summer holidays behind us, (and wasn't the weather pretty good for a change), September is now upon us and we are at the start of yet another school year. We hope you all had a good break and enjoyed spending some leisure time with your children.

We welcome 20 new reception children into Elm Class and Mrs Helen Mitchell in the school office.

'CONTACT' is changing (slightly).

'CONTACT' the school's main newsletter has evolved over the past year moving from fortnightly to weekly and still being many pages long. To ensure key information is clear there will continue to be a weekly newsletter which will include key dates and information.

Alongside this there will be a Newsletter which will provide information about what the children have been doing throughout the month across the curriculum, including photographs and links to the relevant class pages on the schools learning platform. (more details to follow)

Both will be sent out by email to keep you up to date with all that is happening at school but hard copies are available from the School Office on request.

This first CONTACT newsletter is full of important information to help provide a calm beginning to the start of term.

Packed Lunches and Snacks

Just a quick reminder that no nuts are permitted as we have a number of children with allergies. Also if you are providing grapes or olives to remind younger children not to eat them whole as there have been a number of incidents of young children choking in schools.

We encourage one healthy snack for playtime.

Safeguarding All Children

As many of you are aware, any adult working with children has a responsibility to keeping children safe. As our pupil numbers continue to rise, we have to adapt our policies and procedures to ensure we continue to keep your/our children safe.

After reviewing our morning and afternoon routines we have made some key changes so please read this section carefully:



In the morning:

Children are supervised by a teacher on duty in the lower (Key Stage 1 playground) and the bottom Key Stage 2 playground from 8.50 a.m. We encourage parents to leave once their child is settled to reduce congestion both in the playgrounds and on the roads.

Reception children can be taken into class to help settle them and then parents can either leave their child with the class teacher or wait with their child in the playground until the bell is rung.

Year 1 to Year 6 children should take their belongings into their cloakroom and then come out to the playgrounds as follows:

Year 1 and Year 2 children - lower Key Stage 1 playground

Year 3 to Year 6 children - bottom Key Stage 2 playground.

If parents choose to stay until the bell rings then your child/ren must stay with you in the top Key Stage 2 playground (where the shelter is) and be under your responsibility. They then line up with their class when the bell is rung.

If children want to play they must go to the relevant playground and their parents leave the site.

This is really important as duty staff need to know which children they are responsible for. Children **cannot** play independently in the appropriate playground and then return to say goodbye to their parent. We need to know where they are and who is responsible for them.

Your co-operation in this matter is really appreciated. Children will be made aware of this in the first assembly on Wednesday.

Wet Mornings

If it is raining in the morning the children will be asked to stay in their classrooms rather than come back out to the playground. Please can you say your goodbyes before they go in and then we encourage you to leave so our sheltered areas don't become congested. The shelter in the lower playground is part of the outside classroom for the reception children and will often be set up with activities for the day so please refrain from standing under it. Mrs Terrett spends a lot of time making it look lovely. Thank you.

Home time

Parents of children in Ash and Elm, classes, (Miss Norton and Mrs Terrett) should wait for their children outside of their classroom in the Key Stage 1 playground. If you could stand along the length of the main building rather than on the grass area it enables greater visibility and access for all.

Children in Elm class will be handed over to each parent individually. To help this work fluently please keep an eye out for your child and if they are near the front of the line head over to the class teacher to collect. If your child isn't visible just hang back so others can see.

Key Stage 2 children are collected from the top playground. Due to increasing numbers we request parents of children in

Oak collect from the lower Key Stage 2 playground

Beech collect from outside their class (lower side of shelter) and

Willow collect from top playground.

This is to enable staff to ensure children have been handed over. We have had a number of heart-stopping incidents in the last school year where someone has come to collect a child and that child has already left with someone else.

If you have children in more than one class please collect from the youngest child's class first, as older children can wait with their class teacher.

At this point can I remind you that no child can be collected by someone else unless the school is informed prior to collection, so please phone the office to let us know if any collection arrangements have altered that we are unaware of.

Children that have not been collected by 3.40pm will be taken to the computer room to wait. Parents need to come to the office to collect them so we know when they have left.

If you bring younger siblings into school please keep them with you at all times as the playground is a busy place and we have had children wander onto the road.

Dates for your diary

September

Wednesday 5th September First day back to school for pupils
Friday 14th September Fantastic Friday starts
Monday 17th September M&M production of Pinocchio

Term dates for pupils - 2018/19:

AUTUMN TERM 2018

5th September to 21st December 2018

Half term - 22nd to 26th October 2018

SPRING TERM 2019

8th January to 5th April 2019

Half term - 18th to 22nd February 2019

SUMMER TERM 2019

23rd April to 23rd July 2019

May Day holiday - 6th May 2019

Half term - 27th May to 31st May 2019

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 3rd & 4th September, 7th December, 7th January, 3rd June

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