

Whytemead Primary School
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Whytemead News

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the first term of the new school year. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. I would also like to say a very warm welcome to our new children and their parents and carers; I am sure you will enjoy being part of life at Whytemead and part of your child's education with us.

The staff work very hard to give your children exciting learning opportunities throughout their time at Whytemead. Below are the themes the children will be covering in this term. It would be helpful if you could find time to talk with your child about their topic and ask them what they are learning. (Let them be your 'teacher')

Year group	Topic	Stunning start/ trips
EYFS	Muddy Paws	Teddy Bears Picnic
Y1/2	Wheels, Wings and Wagons	Bus ride
Y3/4	Perfect potions	Potion mixing
Y5/6	Tenacious Tudors	Visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Shakespearian workshop

Six Week in meeting

There will be meeting for parents of our new Reception children on Thursday 18th October 9am-10am. This is an opportunity to find out about your child's learning at school and how you can help them at home. It is also a chance to talk about how they are settling into school life. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

New to Year 4

If your child has started in Year 4 this year and you are happy for them to walk home without you will need to complete a permission slip. The slip is available from the office or on the school website in the year 4 letters area.

School Gates.

The school gates are locked at 8.55 in the morning so please ensure you leave enough time to get out before then, to avoid having to come back through the school.

The gates will be locked at 3.30pm ready for after school clubs to use the school and playground. **Please do ensure that you are off the premises by that time as you will not be able to exit through the school building.**

Harry Potter

The Y3/ 4 children are reading Harry Potter books as part of their 'Perfect Potions' topic. If you have any unwanted Harry Potter books that you would be willing to donate (permanently), the children would be very grateful for the extra copies. Please send any donations in with your child and we will make sure they reach the Y3/ 4 children.

Staff news

We would like to welcome new members of staff to the Whytemead team.
Mrs Shelley has joined as an LSA supporting children in Year 1/ 2
Miss Thompson has joined as an LSA supporting children in EYFS.
Mrs Ramprasad has joined as an LSA supporting children in Year 5/ 6

Pastoral LSA- Mrs Millard

We recognise the impact of children's mental health on their success at school. In light of this, we have employed Mrs Millard as our new Pastoral LSA.

Her role is to support the emotional needs of children who might be feeling worried. She is available for children at all break times and will be running nurture and social groups within school as well as supporting children 1:1 where needed.

She is another 'listening ear' for parents. Parents can speak to Mrs Millard on Thursday mornings between 9am and 10am. Please use this email if you would like to make an appointment.

pastoral@whytemead.school

You will also find her on the playground at the end of the day.

I would like to point out that chatting to Mrs Millard is in addition to speaking to your child's teacher and our senior team if you need to.

Harvest Festival Monday 8th October

We will be holding our Harvest Festival for Keys stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) at Broadwater Baptist Church on Monday 8th October at 2pm. All parents are welcome to join us. Key stage 2 children will be having a special harvest assembly in school. The minister from Broadwater Baptist Church will be giving this assembly, which will be a children only assembly.

We will be donating to Worthing Churches Homeless Projects and helping to re-stock the cupboards with items to support the homeless. They have asked for: anti-bacterial spray, biscuits, cereals (not cornflakes please), coffee & sugar, dish cloths, dried noodles & pasta, juice & squash, mayonnaise, rice, wet wipes.

PTA

Huge thanks to everyone in the PTA, who spent over £6000 on new equipment for the children of Whytemead last year. Please read the PTA newsletter for details of upcoming events

There will be a PTA Welcome Meeting on Thursday 27th September at 2pm (venue to be confirmed). If you are able to help in any way please come along.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Attendance and Term time Holiday

Attendance is a very important contributing factor to your child's academic progress and achievement.

The Government does not allow us to authorise any holiday during the academic year. The following guidance has been issued by the DFE:

Holiday may only be taken during the school holiday (of which there are 175 days). Withdrawal from learning in term time now may only be authorised by the Head teacher if they consider there are exceptional circumstances or medical issues. Unauthorised absence can lead to the issue of a fixed penalty notice.

A leaflet explaining Fixed Penalty Notices further has been issued by West Sussex and is attached to this newsletter.

Reminder- Hoodies

The school hoodies are for PE only. Children should wear their Whytemead sweatshirt or Cardigan to school, not their hoodie.

After School clubs

You should hear today about places at after school clubs. If a club was oversubscribed, you will be informed and may given a space in that club later in the year.

Keeping children safe online.

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings, and advice and tips about how to talk to your children at:

- www.childnet.com/sns
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- www.parentzone.org.uk
- www.parentzone.org.uk](www.parentzone.org.uk)
- www.askaboutgames.com

Allergies- A reminder

We have some children who have a severe nut allergy.

To reduce the risk to these children we would like to remind parents to avoid products containing nuts in lunchboxes if your child is bringing a packed lunch.

Parent Helpers

Do you have any spare time during school hours to help in school? We would be extremely grateful to any family members willing to give up their free time to help the children. If you think, you can help please complete the form at the bottom of the newsletter and take it to the office. If you would prefer to work in different class to your child, that can be arranged. You will need to complete a DBS check for this, which can be done via the school office.

Dates for 2018-19

Autumn term

Autumn term begins Tuesday 4th September 2018

Monday 17th September -clubs start this week

Friday 21st September Yr 5/6 trip to Portsmouth

Monday 8th October KS1 Harvest Festival, 2pm Broadwater Baptist Church

Monday 15th October- Parents Evening 3.30-5.15pm

Thursday 18th October EYFS 6wk in meeting- 9am

Thursday 18th October Parents Evening 3.30-7.20pm

Half term 22nd-26th October 2018

Monday 29th October Inset day

Thursday 1st November PTA Monsters Ball

Last day of autumn term Wednesday 19th December 2018

Spring term

Spring term begins Thursday 3rd January 2019

Half term 18th-22nd February 2019

Last day of spring term Friday 5th April 2019

Summer term *

Spring term begins Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Half term 27th- 31st May 2019

***Y6 SATS week is week beginning Monday 13th May 2019**

Last day of summer term Friday 19th July

The INSET days for next year are below.

Monday 3rd September 2018

Monday 29th October 2018

Monday 25th February 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Best Wishes



Mr G. Ward

Head teacher

Parent Helpers

I would like to volunteer as a parent helper.

Name _____

Child's name _____

Class _____

I would be interested in working: **in my child's class / not in my child's class**

I am available on the following days/sessions (please tick)

Day	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
A.M					
P.M					

Please return to school office