



Great Whelnetham Primary Newsletter



September 2020

Welcome to our September newsletter. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new starters and their parents / carers. We are delighted that you have joined the Great Whelnetham Primary school community and we look forward to getting to know you all better in the months and years ahead. The children have settled extremely well into their class routines this month and have made a fabulous start. It's wonderful to have everyone back in school. Considering the circumstances that we all find ourselves in, we are all very proud of them.

The staff and I are really excited about the plans that we have put in place for the year ahead. We have spent some very useful time before the children's return creating our school development plan and focusing on our key priorities. We are looking forward to working positively with all of the children to ensure that they all reach their full potential and enjoy their experiences at school.

Well done everyone on making the return to school such a positive one!

Volunteer help

We were delighted to receive such a positive response to our request for volunteers to paint the fence at the entrance to the school building. It is still a work in progress but I'm sure you will all agree how splendid it now looks. Thank you parents for your time and your enthusiasm. We are loving the difference you are making.

Our team of parent volunteers.

Hannah Palframan
Sam Keast
Michelle Snelling
Rebecca Adams
Rob Nicholas

Thank you to all of you
You are doing a great job!



Financial support

Covid-19 has had a financial impact on schools and their families and we wanted to take the time to remind you of the availability of free school meals to those families eligible.

We ask that you apply, even if you are only eligible for a short period of time because our school will receive additional support for your child which makes a difference. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you are in receipt of 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)

The application process is straightforward (please have your National Insurance number to hand) and can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If you have any queries or we can help in any way, please contact Mrs Kimber who will be happy to assist.

Parents' Evening

It is important that you are kept informed about the progress your children are making. We are currently planning how we will be able to communicate your child's progress to you this term. We feel that the safest and best way to do this will be online. We are finalising plans for parent meetings for the week beginning Monday 19th October. Your child's class teacher will confirm a time for a consultation with you in the coming days.

Reading at home

Can we please emphasise how important it is to read with your child at home. Even a couple of minutes every other day makes an incredible difference to pupils progress. We aim to read with children in school as much as we can— but support from home is vital and we really appreciate this and cannot stress what a significant difference it makes. Thank you for your support!



WW2 Day in Swans

Swans class are studying WW2 this term and in order to enhance their learning they participated in a history workshop earlier this month. They met a German officer, an Air Raid Patrol Warden, built both an Anderson shelter and a Morrison shelter and tried them out to decide which one would feel safer in a bombing raid. The children also had to use their wits to defuse and un-exploded bomb! Please check out the fabulous photographs from this wonderful day on our school website!



Viking Day

Year 3 and 4 (Owls Class) went back in time to AD 793 when Thor the Viking came to our school. They were ready - all dressed as Vikings of course, with helmets, swords, jewellery and tunics secured with broaches, just like Vikings. Some of us said we felt like real Vikings that day - Mrs



Lockwood and Mrs Barbrooke even had beards! They found out which European countries the Vikings came from (Scandinavia) and where they invaded and settled in Britain. They even saw how Viking coins were made, collected facts about Viking life and examined artifacts - a drinking horn, bowl, cauldron and wild boar skin rug. It was a wonderful day!



Diary Dates for Autumn Term 2020

Half term: Monday 26th October—Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November: Children return to school

Thursday 17th December: Final day of Autumn Term

Friday 18th December: Staff PD day



Apologies for mentioning Christmas in September! We are making plans for the children for Christmas and for Harvest this year. Whilst we won't be able to celebrate these wonderful events in the same way we will be marking them with the children in school. We will keep you updated on our plans.

The school has set up a fb Page to celebrate the wonderful work that is going on in each of our classrooms. The children will not be named personally on the page and the photographs will be posted as they are on our school website. We hope to launch this week once all parents have confirmed their preferences.



PLEASE NOTE: We have a PD day on Friday 18th December.