



## Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30  
0UA

(01284) 386203

Executive Head Teacher – Mrs. Claire Flatman

Head of School – Ms. Imogen Wallis

office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot quite believe that we are only a few weeks away from the end of term. What a year this has been! A year full of the 'new normal', self-isolation periods, restrictions easing, restrictions tightening and another lockdown! Who could have predicted that? Even with all that said, we have still had an amazing school year where we have tried to ensure that our pupils have felt safe, loved and have enjoyed learning. They are an absolute credit to all of you.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful teaching and support staff for working hard to give all of our children a positive experience and approaching every challenge they have been thrown with a smile and positivity. Also, a huge thank you to all of you for your understanding, support and for following the guidance we have in place in and around our school building. It means a great deal to all of us. A real team effort.

Please find attached some important news and reminders as we approach the end of this term.

### **Thank you Karen Soons**

Our local Councillor, Karen Soons, has generously supported the school by providing us with a locality funding grant. We have used this money to enhance our EYFS outdoor area and have been able to purchase a builders shed. Mrs Masson, Mrs Coe and all of Larks are thrilled with their new addition to the outdoor area and we are very grateful for the support.

### **Free School Meals**

The financial impact of the pandemic is still being felt with the result that many more parents now fall into the income bracket which entitles their children to free school meals. The benefit of applying for free school meals is not just limited to having a free school lunch. A successful application entitles your child's school to an annual grant which can then be used to help support your child in their education during their time with us. If you feel that you qualify for this additional funding, then it is incredibly important that you put in an application via the Suffolk County Council website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/apply-for-free-school-meals/> If you need any assistance, then please do get in touch and we will be more than happy to help with this.

### **School Values**

I recently asked the parent community and the children at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School to vote for the values that they felt represented our school community. These values would permeate everything that we do and would be an integral part of our

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school life. I am delighted to inform you all that the following five values have been chosen by all of you:

Respect Perseverance Thankfulness Truthfulness Friendship

I would like to thank all of the parents that took the time to vote for these. The staff will spend time focusing on these values with the children in the coming weeks in class and as part of our collective worship. We will celebrate all five by creating a display in our school hall. Well done and thank you again.

### Uniform

Parents this is a reminder. To ensure delivery to school before the end of term, orders need to be placed with Brigade, our online supplier, by the 30th June. There is also the option for home delivery (which incurs a postage charge). The deadline to ensure delivery before the start of September is 1st August. In any event you are advised to order as early as possible. Please visit [www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com](http://www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.com) to place your order.

- Left over stock of school uniform - We still have a limited number of items which are available to buy directly from school at very favourable prices as follows:

Item	Sale Price	Chest size
Sweatshirts	£7	Sizes 24 and 26
Cardigans	£7.50	Sizes 26 and 28
Sports Jackets	£10	Sizes 32 and 32
Bookbags	£2	Green, yellow and Red
PE Bags	£2.50	Blue
Baseball caps	£2	Blue

Please contact Mrs Kimber for these school-based items.

### Parking

The school has been contacted by a local neighbour who explained that her driveway was blocked recently by a parent at the end of a school day. She was very understanding and asked us to remind parents not to park in areas that would block access for our residents. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

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### Transition

As we approach the end of term it is vitally important to plan transition for our children to help them prepare for the next stage in their schooling career. Our Year 6 children are incredibly excited about spending time in their chosen secondary schools in the next few weeks. This will help them become more familiar with their new environments and their new routines. We are excited for them. The dates for these visits are:

Sybil Andrews: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July (provisional – these could change)

Thurston Community College: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

We are welcoming our new Reception intake for the 2021-2022 academic year to Great Wheltenham C of E Primary School on the following dates:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July- 9.30am-11.30am

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July- 1.30pm-3.15pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July- 9.30am- 12.30am

We are very excited about welcoming our new children and getting to know them all better. We will be supporting them to become more familiar with our daily routines and life in Larks class. We will hold a parent information evening for our new Reception children on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July. We look forward to welcoming all of them to our school and working with them in the months and years ahead.

All of our other classes will also have an opportunity to experience a “move up day” on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. We are currently supporting those children that may be worried about the changes and Miss Tyler, our school SENCO, is working with staff to share ideas and support for our SEND children.

In order to help with this, I would like to share the structure of how the classes will work next year.

Class	Class teacher
Year R/1	Mrs Masson- Larks
Year 2/3	Miss Tyler- Robins
Year 4	Ms Wallis/ Mrs Lockwood
Year 5/6	Mr Sharp

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Our Year 6 children have also chosen the lunch menu that the school will provide on their last day, 16<sup>th</sup> July. The menu (a change from that published) is as follows:

Main - Sausages

Vege option - Vege nuggets

Potatoes - Wedges

Veg - Baked beans and sweetcorn

Dessert - Ice cream and cookie

### **CEO's Visit**

I am delighted to inform you all that Mrs Barrow visited the school as the CEO of our school's Trust for a learning walk on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May. She was amazed by the progress that she could see during her visit and praised the staff and children for the excellent work that continues at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School. It is clear that the expectations of all staff are incredibly high and that the children are making pleasing progress as a result. Mrs Barrow spent time in all classes and commented on the excellent marking and feedback in books, pace of the lessons, excellent behaviour and learning environments. We are currently assessing the attainment and progress of each cohort and we are delighted with the results that we are receiving. Despite all the challenges that we have faced this year, our children continue to make such great progress - we are very proud of all of them!

### **Plans for Next Year**

We are in the process of finalising our curriculum plans at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary and we are delighted that the children remain at the very centre of everything we do. We are looking into the possibility of extending our music offer next year and are liaising with Suffolk Music service to see if they can facilitate the teaching of a musical instrument to all the children in Years 5 and 6. Watch this space! We are also looking to expand our clubs offer and we hope to offer more of a varied range that will appeal to all our children from September. Swimming will likely be planned for the children in Years 3 and 4 and we will confirm all of these with you as soon as we can. A little taster of what we can all look forward to!

Thank you all for your continued support.

Claire Flatman  
Executive Headteacher

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