



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Let your light shine!

## Newsletter 6/9/24

### News

#### Welcome Back

We hope you've had a lovely Summer holiday with your families and the children were excited to get back to school; they've all settled in brilliantly to their new classes. We'd like to give an extra warm welcome to the parents and children of our new Reception class!

#### 'Let your light shine!'

Our motto, "Let your light shine!" is being fully embedded in our school this term. We chose this, as it relates to our aims for pupils to achieve their potential, to be happy and successful and also to make a difference in their community. It is linked to a Bible verse (Matthew 5:16), but we feel it also speaks meaningfully to children of other faiths and to those with no religious background, and will inspire all of us to be our best selves. The overarching value we link to this motto is love: love of ourselves, our families, our communities and for some, love of God.

#### Social Media

We've been conscious that our X (twitter) posts haven't had much engagement, but we stayed with it as it was preferred by Gateshead as a method of communication, and because we were able to post securely. However, you will be aware that over the summer, the content of X has become increasingly unpleasant and we have decided we no longer want to contribute to a platform that will allow toxic and dangerous content. We have done some technical fancy footwork and found a way to have our staff post on Facebook. We have already had much better engagement, but some of our staff are still having a few technical issues. However, we are going to persevere and hope to make our closed Facebook group our method of sharing classroom news. If you aren't part of our group, please search Whickham Parochial C of E Primary School and remember it's a group, not a page. It should ask you to agree to our rules and answer some questions – if it doesn't then you're in the wrong place! We won't approve requests that don't answer the questions. We will continue to use e-schools as our method of communicating administrative or urgent information.

### Attendance

Year Group	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Weekly %	95.56%	96.43%	98.89%	97.22%	98.33%	98.92%	100%
Whole School %	97.93%						

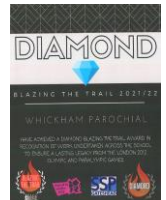
Just a reminder, we will be sending letters using our new assessment system "A-Star", to let you know if your child has dipped below 95% or into the 'persistent absentee' realms of 90% or below. Please come and see us if we can be of any help with attendance. These letters are not intended as a criticism, we are keeping you informed as we are asked to do so in guidance from the LA and DfE.

### Celebrations

Well done to our first WonderWall winners of the year, we are very proud of you! Our housepoint winners of the week were Lindisfarne. There wasn't a winning year group for TTRS or Numbots this week.



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## Dates for your diary...

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Year 2 ‘Animals Including Humans’ Parent Workshop
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Roald Dahl Day, the children will be watching ‘Matilda’ in the afternoon
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 Art Lesson at Whickham School
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 Trip to Beamish Museum
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Reception Parents Meeting (5:30pm)
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Reception Vision Screening

## Things to remember...

- Please remember to park considerately. We’ve already received two complaints this week from upset neighbours, who are not only having cars block their driveway, but are also having unpleasant interactions with the parents. It’s so important for us, as a school, to be respectful of our community and we’d like parents to consider if they’d be happy with where they’ve parked, given the shoe was on the other foot.
- A lovely parent has told us ASDA Rewards gives you the opportunity to choose a school when you shop with them. If you’d like to choose us, we would be very grateful! ASDA will then donate 0.5% of any shop, to us.
- There is one space available in Violin, beginning after October half-term. Please let me know if your child is interested and they’re in Years 2-6.
- Year 6 will be having an Art lesson at Whickham School on the 17<sup>th</sup> September, and a German lesson on the 16<sup>th</sup> October – please could you email Mrs Baird, giving your permission for them to attend.
- We hope your children have enjoyed their first week back with us, it’s wonderful to have the children back in school!

Don’t forget, you can find lots of school information on our [website](#) – our letters are saved on there, you can find out about our curriculum, and we have our calendar and term dates too. If you are ever in need of information, it’s a good place to start! Additionally, all dates are on our E-schools calendar.