



Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Let your light shine!

Newsletter 16/5/25

News

SATs week

We have been so incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils this week. They were a bit nervous about the tests, but they have worked so hard and been very resilient. They enjoyed an ice-cream yesterday, are at the cinema today, and they received the much anticipated leavers hoodies (for which we are very grateful to the Friends). It would be amazing if we didn't have to put our children through exams at such a young age. We take great care not to put pressure on our children as we don't feel it is the most important factor of future success, but we know that some schools really worry about their scores. If you would like to know more about what some charities are doing to try to end SATs please take a look at this website [Home - More Than a Score](#)

Mobile Phone Usage

Our staff had such an interesting training session on trauma and mental health this week. The trainer explored some of the reasons why there are increasing numbers of children who are suffering from anxiety. A percentage of children would be likely to have anxiety no matter what the current situation; however, while COVID has certainly contributed, the rise in mental health issues can be directly correlated to the rise in smartphone and social media access. Our children will need to learn to navigate the digital world as it is a huge part of life now, but I wonder if it could be put off so that they get to enjoy their childhood a little longer? A parent very kindly passed me some information about this, which supports parents in the same class in having smartphone-free childhood pacts! If you would like to look into this, the links are here: <https://smartphonefreeschools.co.uk/>
<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Attendance

Year Group	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Weekly %	97.66%	96.36%	97.16%	97.46%	97.88%	96.49%	98.07%
Whole School %	97.30%						

Celebrations

Our Wonderwall winners really let their light shine this week, we're very proud of you!
Alnwick won the house points, to round up the end of the half-term, and Year 6 won the very sought after TTRS trophy!



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Let your light shine!

Dates for your diary... (Remember, whole school dates are on our website and ESchools calendars)

- **Wednesday 21st May** – 'Ice Lolly Wednesday' (payment to be made on ParentPay before Monday please).
- **Thursday 22nd May** – School closed, inset day.
- **Friday 23rd May** – School closed, occasional day and beginning of half-term holidays.
- **Monday 2nd June** – First day of the final half-term!
- **Wednesday 4th June** – Year 2 Captain Cook Museum (payment to be made on ParentPay), Year 5 School of Computing (consent to be given to Mrs Baird), Year 1 Forest School.
- **Tuesday 10th June** – Year 6 Durham Cathedral (more information to follow).
- **Wednesday 11th June** -Uniform Exchange Event (3.20-4pm), Year 6 Forest School.
- **Friday 13th June** – Sports Day (more information to follow).

Things to remember...

- We sent out a plea for **neutral lamps**, earlier this month. If you have any cream/white/beige lamps (standing or tabletop) that you are getting rid of, please could we have them for school?
- We would also be very grateful for donations of **craft supplies**, if you're having a Summer clear out and 6 wooden pallets for Reception!
- For those children with **medical dietary requirements** in school, an email has been sent to you with forms to complete and return to school. Please could completed forms be handed to Mrs Baird, **no later than Wednesday 21st May**.
- I have attached the posters for: Ice Lolly Wednesday, the Summer Fair, lost property, the Uniform Exchange event, an event about 'People Who Help Us' and the 'Big Garden Bio Blitz.'
- The **Summer Fair** is approaching quickly! We would be thrilled for:
 - ♥ Raffle Prizes
 - ♥ Soft Toys
 - ♥ Books
 - ♥ Volunteers to label the tombola (Friday 4th July)
 - ♥ Volunteers to help with set – up (Saturday 5th July, 8.30-10.30am)
 - ♥ Volunteers to help at the fair (Saturday 5th July, 11am-2pm, or whatever you can offer!)
- Please could **Year 6 parents** send over their child's baby photo and first day of school photo, as soon as possible?
- **Paperwork** – please could Year 4 return the home-time collection arrangement form for September and Year 2 return the KS2 ICT user agreement form. Thank you!