



Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love

Newsletter 2/2/24

News

Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday is 'Safer Internet Day'. We will have a special assembly around this year's theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. Our school focuses this half term's computing on using the internet safely and it is a recurring theme in our RHE lessons. Being a parent in this age of social media and online presence from an early age can be daunting, and we are having to protect our children in ways that our parents didn't need to think about. If you need any help, please come and chat to us, and look out on our Facebook page for 'Wake-Up Wednesdays' – useful bits of advice for parents from the National Online Safety organisation. Please remember, you will only be permitted to join our page if you answer the membership questions in full.



Attendance

We have just sent home our second round of fortnightly attendance letters 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. We understand that it is very difficult to meet attendance expectations with so many bugs and viruses around at the moment. Please rest assured, these letters are not intended as a criticism, and remember that each percentage is taken from September, so if your child has been poorly during the autumn term, it may take quite a few weeks for their percentage to move back into the 'above 95%' category. We will still send you the letters to help you keep track of their percentage. You may have noticed that the government have launched a campaign to improve school attendance and our policy complies with some of the actions that they have asked of us. However, we will not be going back to attendance awards, as attendance is not a Parochial value – we celebrate kindness, service, resilience and friendship. Children cannot help being ill!

Attendance

Year Group	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Weekly %	94.4%	94.8%	96.2%	96.5%	94.8%	96.1%	94.7%
Whole School %	95.4%						

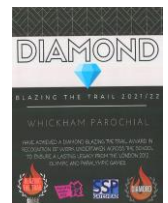
Just a reminder, we will be sending letters each fortnight to let you know if your child has dipped below 95% or into the 'persistent absentee' realms of 90% or below. Please come and see us if we can be of any help with attendance. These letters are not intended as a criticism, we are keeping you informed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

Celebrations

Well done to our WonderWALLERS this week! Our house points winners were Lindisfarne and the Times Table Rockstars engagement leaders were Year 4.



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Dates for your diary...

Wednesday 14th February is our Valentine's Day Disco – please get your tickets on ParentPay! The children can also come to school 'wearing what they love' on Valentine's Day too!

Foodbank Friday is on Friday 16th February, thankyou in advance for your generosity!

Things to remember...

- Could Year 5 and 6 parents ensure they've given/withdrawn consent for the transition days at Whickham School?
- A reminder for Year 6 parents, that Robinwood souvenirs are available to purchase on ParentPay.
- We have extended the 'Spring Sing' at the Sage to include our Year 3 choir members – if your child is in Years 3-6 and a member of the choir, they will have received a letter. Please ensure we have the reply slip if your child would like to go.
- I have 1 x Year 1 tote bag and 1 x Reception tote bag available to purchase, please get in touch if you'd like to buy either of these.
- We are hoping to get some wall art painted onto the panel where the climbing wall used to be – if you know of anyone who does outdoor art, please could you give us their contact details?
- Here is this week's lost property photo:



Many thanks as always for your support – have a great weekend and remember we are here if you need us!

Mrs Walton and Mrs Baird

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.

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