



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

*Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love*

## Newsletter 12/7/24

### News

#### Parent Volunteers



We want to extend a huge **thank you** to our amazing and very dedicated parent volunteers. They have been brilliant with our children and have made such a positive difference in our school. We have loved having them with us and are so grateful.

#### Attendance

I sent an email out to you this week with a link to a very wordy document which explains some of the changes to our statutory duties regarding attendance. It has been very high on the government agenda after the pandemic, and this doesn't show any signs of changing soon. I promised you an update as soon as I had the opportunity to summarise the document, which I am going to share with you for the sake of information, but it comes with a health warning, as we don't yet know how our local authority policy will look:

- Fines must be issued after 5 consecutive days (10 sessions) of unauthorised term time absence within a 10-week period, and *can* be considered for 10 unauthorised sessions within 10 weeks, even if they are not consecutive.
- Fines can be issued per parent for each child, and for the first offence will be £80, rising to £160 if the fine isn't paid within 21 days.
- A second offence within 3 years will rise to £160 per parent, per child and a third offence within 3 years will be presented to the Magistrate's Court.

We don't know how this is going to be monitored, or who is responsible for issuing fines. In the past we have operated under a blanket policy of not fining parents – unfortunately this will no longer be an option that we are permitted to operate. I'm sure I don't need to tell you, this is not how we want to manage attendance, and we hope you will understand that, as this is a statutory arrangement, we will have to follow the new arrangements.

#### Attendance

Year Group	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Weekly %	95.22%	95.65%	96.10%	96.08%	96.01%	96.93%	94.22%
Whole School %	95.76%						

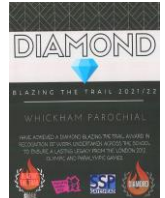
*Just a reminder, we will be sending letters using our new assessment system "A-Star", to let you know if your child has dipped below 95% or into the 'persistent absentee' realms of 90% or below. Please come and see us if we can be of any help with attendance. These letters are not intended as a criticism,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

#### Celebrations

Well done to our WonderWall winners – they have made us very proud with their excellent attitudes to learning and to each other. Our housepoint winners were Lindisfarne, and the TTRockstars engagement winners were Year 6 and Year 2 and Year 1 won the Numbots robot.



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## Dates for your diary...

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Chill-out day – £2 on ParentPay please.
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 and Reception Trip to Washington Wildlife Trust - consent is given through payment on ParentPay (FSM children just to notify of consent).
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Transition afternoon. Children will spend an afternoon in with next year's teacher in their new classrooms.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Second hand book shop and Uniform Exchange – 3.20-4pm.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 9:15am
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July - Last Day of the school year.

## Things to remember...

- **Year 5 and 6** – if your child is permitted to walk home next year, please let Mrs Baird know.
- Please could all **ParentPay** payments be made before we break up for the Summer?
- There won't be any **clubs** on next week, with the exception of Game Karate, Karate, Tennis, Prime Tennis, Guitar and Music.
- There isn't a Foodbank Friday this term!
- Flu immunisations are in September, **please give consent** using this link and the school code below:

<https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

The school code is: **NB108381**

- I have attached some more **holiday clubs and discounts** to possibly make your Summer easier (Nice Swan, Whickham School, Gateshead Libraries, Lobley Hill Family Fun Day and Nexus!)
- Could **Year 6** children return their red and purple CGP books, school books, Mrs Beasley's books and any football kit please?
- **Year 4** need to wear PE kit on Monday please, not on Wednesday, as swimming isn't on.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July will be fish stars and veggie shapes, not burger!

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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