



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

*Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love*

## Newsletter – 3/10/22

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for engaging with our new communication platform, e-schools. I'm hoping our newsletter comes through well on the app, but if not, it can be viewed on our website.

### Ofsted

We had our Ofsted visit on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, but our report still hasn't been made public! We keep checking and ringing but I think that Ofsted tried to get lots of visits done before the summer, so they are working to get through the backlog. On 10<sup>th</sup> October, we will reach the last 'usual' date that it should be published by. Don't worry, we will send it out to you as soon as we get it.

### Good News

In the last few weeks, we have been notified that our school has achieved some awards. We have gained the Primary School Quality Mark for Science (Gilt award), the Diamond Blazing the Trail Award for maintaining the ethos and legacy of the Olympic values, and the Health and Wellbeing Focusing award. We are very proud to have achieved these awards and grateful to the staff who facilitated them.

### Small Nags

Those of you who know me at all, will know how much of a dog fan I am; they are the one thing that get me out of my office quicker than cake. However, while I'd love nothing more than to meet all of your furry family members, I need to remind you that we can't have dogs on our school yard. We need school to be a safe space for all children, including those who are nervous of dogs, and we cannot risk a child being bitten. We also stop our children from stroking dogs through the fences on our yards during playtimes – even if the dog is well known to the child. During school hours, it is our responsibility to safeguard the children from harm. Could this message please be passed to neighbours and relatives, as we don't want to offend or surprise them in any way. Pupils are welcome to go over and say hello!

### Coming Soon, Whole School Events:

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Hello Yellow Day** Our annual day of exploring mental health and wellbeing. Children are encouraged to bring in £1 in aid of Young Minds and to dress in cheerful yellow.

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October – Parents' Evening** Many thanks to those who have signed up for an appointment. If you are struggling to get onto the booking part of e-schools, please let Mrs Baird know.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival** We are so pleased to be welcoming Father Barry into our school for a Harvest Eucharist. Unfortunately, we are not yet at the stage where we can open our doors to all parents at once, so we will send invitations to parents of all pupils currently attending our Tuesday Junior Choir and also to parents of children who are given a speaking part (this will be arranged in week beginning 10th October).

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Last Day of half term and Foodbank Friday.** If you would prefer to bring your donations in the day before for our harvest festival that will be fine, we will start collecting at the beginning of the week.

All these dates are on our website and also on the calendar found in e-schools, in addition to other upcoming dates and holiday information. Please call or message if you have any questions.

Many thanks, as always, for your continuing support.

R Walton

Mrs Walton and the Parochial Staff

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!