



Washingwell Primary School

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@washingwellprimaryschool

Newsletter Number: 2

Date: Friday 15 September 2023

Attendance

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	98.5%	100%	96.7%	98%	98.5%	98.4%	98.7%	90.7%
Whole School attendance %	97.1%							

News

Bikeability

Children in Year 6 had the opportunity to complete three days of bikeability coaching sessions this week. The conditions were (mostly!) perfect for cycling and the children who took part had a fantastic time. Tom and Nick, our two bikeability coaches, commended our children's resilience, attitude and behaviour throughout and can't wait to visit school again. Well done Year 6 - what a fantastic start to the year.



Cycle to School week

Cycle to School week will commence on **Monday 25 September** through to **Friday 29 September**. During this week, we encourage all children to either ride or scoot to school to gain points for their house. Each morning, our House Captains will be stationed on the Key Stage 1 yard. On arrival at school, go to your relevant House Captain who will give you a sticker and house point. Over the week, the points will be added up and the winning house announced in assembly on Friday 29 September.

Bikes must be left in the following designated areas:

Early years on the grass outside the entrance gate to the garden area;

Key Stage 1 in the bike shed on the yard;

Key Stage 2 on the grass inbetween the car park and Reading Den.

I wonder which House will win this month's challenge?

FUNdraisers

Washingwell FUNdraisers are holding a meeting **4.30pm Tuesday 26 September**, in school. They would warmly welcome any parent or grandparent interested in becoming involved with the PTA, to come along. The more support they have, the more funds they can raise to support the school with all the extras. In the past, the FUNdraisers have: paid for children to go to the theatre; purchased IT equipment; provided treats, prizes and presents; arranged all our fairs; and generally supported the school as much as possible. Please join them in helping to ensure Washingwell remains a great place to learn and grow.

A huge thanks to our FUNdraisers for contributing towards class novels and texts for each year group. Reading as a class is a highlight of our teacher's day and our new books are full of exciting stories, ambitious language and interesting ideas. We love reading at Washingwell. 📖💡

Librarians

This week our School Librarians met for the first time this academic year and already have grand plans to help improve our amazing library. Their ambition and enthusiasm bodes well for an exciting year of reading ahead.



After School Clubs

As a school, we have made the difficult decision that after school clubs will not be on offer during the autumn term, due to limited space and staff capacity. As we use the school hall for Whizz Kids, we have no capacity to hold clubs inside and fading light and weather greatly restricts what can be achieved. Going forward, clubs will be offered in the Spring and Summer term.

Year 5 and 6 Football

Mr Turner managed to fit in a coaching session for all children who would like to be part of the Year 5 and 6 football team on Thursday lunchtime. There has been a very enthusiastic response so far and it will be a very difficult decision to quickly pick ten players for our first competitive match next week! We have a full season ahead filled with fixtures for both mixed and girls-only teams so our keen footballers will have many opportunities to play as the year progresses.

Homework

Homework has been issued this week to children in Year 1 to Year 6. Please read our Homework Policy which was issued to all parents on Monday, via Operoo.

Attendance and Punctuality

The Government has issued some guidance around mild illness and school attendance.

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms, such as a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to share the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) with parents and carers in your schools and communities which has further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes evoking difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. DfE has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#) and those who are experiencing persistent symptoms can be encouraged to access additional support.

Please ensure that you report any absences by 9.15am on the day of absence by telephoning school on 0191 4884400 or alternatively complete the form **Reporting Pupil Absence** via Operoo.

Reminders

Uniform

Can you please ensure your child's name is in all items of clothing. We can not guarantee safe return of any items of school uniform which are not named. Thank you.

Admissions to Reception / Year 7 in September 2024

If your child is due to start Reception or Year 7 in September 2024, the application process enabling you to choose a school for your child will be open from today – Friday 8 September 2023. Logon to www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions to complete the online application.

The Year 7 Secondary School Deadline is 31 October 2023.

The Reception Primary School Deadline is 15 January 2024.

Whickham School will be holding open evenings for Year 6 parents. Events will take place on the dates and times below. Please note that there are two separate events on each date which you can sign up for on the Whickham School website.

- Thursday 21 September at 5.00pm and 7.00pm
- Tuesday 26 September at 5.00pm and 7.00pm

Prospective Parents for Nursery/Reception 2023

If you know of parents who have children who will be starting either Reception or Nursery in September 2023, school tours can be arranged via our school website; www.washingwell.org.uk

Parent Governor Vacancy

All nominations need to be returned to Mrs Gardner. The closing date for nominations is **3.30pm, Friday 22 September 2023**.

Paper copies of the vacancy form can be obtained from the school office.

Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

Planned Staff Training and Arranged Class Cover for the week ahead.			
Staff Member	Class	Date	Cover
Mrs Erskine	Neptune	Tuesday PM	Mrs Bridger

Monday 25 September 2023

Cycle to School week – House challenge (information on next week's newsletter)

Tuesday 26 September 2023

Year 4 Parent meeting about residential visit – school hall, 9.00am

Wednesday 27 September 2023

Year 5 Parent meeting about residential visit – school hall, 9.00am

Year 6 visit Whickham School – pm

Thursday 5 October 2023

National Poetry Day

Tuesday 17 October 2023

School photographs – individual and family groups

Thursday 19 October 2023

Harvest Assembly 2.15pm – parents welcome (more information to follow)

Friday 27 October 2023

School closes for half term

Monday 6 November 2023

8.40am – school reopens to all pupils.

Tuesday 7 November & Wednesday 8 October 2023

Parent consultation evenings 3.00 -6.00pm

Thursday 16 November 2023

Year 5 visit Whickham School – pm

Friday 17 November 2023

Children in Need – more information to follow

Monday 4 December 2023

Elf day – more information to follow

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day

Wednesday 13 December 2023

Early Years & Key Stage 1 Christmas performance – 9.30am and 2.15pm

Thursday 14 December 2023

Key Stage 2 Christmas performance – 9.30am and 2.15pm

Friday 15 December 2023

Earth Christmas party 1.15pm

Monday 18 December 2023

Mercury Christmas party 1.15pm

Tuesday 19 December 2023

Jupiter Christmas party 9.15am

Venus Christmas party 1.15pm

Wednesday 20 December 2023

Mars Christmas party 9.15am

Neptune Christmas party 1.15pm

Thursday 21 December 2023

Saturn Christmas party 1.15pm

Friday 22 December 2023

Carols around the Christmas tree 2.00pm – parents invited

School closes for Christmas holidays 3.20pm - No Whizz Kids after school session

Monday 8 January 2024

School re-opens to all pupils 8.40am

A reminder that we are a Safeguarding School and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services