

JANUARY 2024

5.1.24



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Fortnightly Flyer

Happy New Year and welcome back! It has been lovely to hear from the children about their Christmases and the exciting activities that they got up over the break. It was quite a shock to return to school so early this year. I've already been double checking the dates for next year and we return on the 6th January, which will be more manageable! All of the holiday dates for the rest of this academic year and the following year can be found on the school website under the 'Office' tab.

Once more, on behalf of all of the staff and I, thank you for the many gifts, cards and messages that we received for Christmas. They are not necessary, but very much appreciated.

We have another busy term ahead with visits out (starting on Tuesday with our whole school visit to Chester Zoo), sharing assemblies and FOWS events, including another family ceilidh on the 22nd March.

Chester Zoo Visit



On Tuesday, the whole school will head off to Chester Zoo for an educational visit. We will leave school just after 9:00am and will return for 3:15pm. The children should wear their school uniform with extra layers, sensible footwear, a hat and have a waterproof coat. All children will need to bring their lunch in a **rucksack/backpack type bag** along with a drink (no fizzy drink/glass bottles). Please ensure that their **rucksack has straps that go comfortably over both shoulders**. Drawstring bags, like those used for PE kits, would not be suitable or comfortable for children to carry all day.

Reggie

Excited voices may have already let you know that this week, we welcomed a tiny new member into the Whitegate family: Reggie, an 8-week old daschund, who has been a huge hit with children and staff. As Buddy's new sidekick, he will be our second school dog. For the next few weeks and months he will be acclimatising to all the exciting sights and sounds in a busy school so will spend most of his time in a special enclosure. We look forward to slowly introducing him to the rest of our school's family for scratches, tickles and cuddles.



Water bottles

Thank you for your support this week in not sending in water bottles. Whilst we know some children have slightly struggled to adjust, your support in the matter has helped them a great deal. The decision to move away from water bottles was made for several reasons. First, children in all classes were often forgetting to bring them into school, resulting in them going thirsty as they sometimes wouldn't let staff know or ask for a cup. We also noticed that some bottles were not always being regularly cleaned and that some children were using old Prime bottles or other unsuitable containers. Finally, and most importantly, all of the children drinking from the same size cups allows us to properly monitor how much children are drinking over the course of the day. Proper hydration is key for good physical and mental health; we have already noticed the benefits for some children now that we are more able to support them in drinking sufficient amounts. Again, thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

Clubs

Again, this term, with the dark nights, there will be limited clubs on offer. Our sports coach will still be running their clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays (a separate flyer was sent out earlier this week); Craft Club for KS1 will still be running on Tuesdays.

Staffing

At the end of last term, Miss Gallimore, who worked in The Ark every morning and on a Wednesday evening, finished her time with us. Miss Gallimore was instrumental in the setting up of The Ark in September 2022. I am sure that you will join me in thanking her and wishing her well. She has said that she will pop back and visit in the future.

On Wednesday this week, Mrs Winnington, who is one of our Midday Assistants, also started her new role as our Administration Assistant. Mrs Winnington will be working in the school office in the mornings each day, allowing Mrs Shephard to concentrate on her role as School Business Manager.

Governor News

I am pleased to introduce you all to Rev. Margaret Byrne who took up her role as a governor in November 2023.

I grew up in Chester but have lived in Moulton for nearly thirty years. I am married and have four teenage boys. I used to be a primary teacher (teaching across KS1 and KS2) before raising my family. I am passionate about providing the best possible education, taking the whole needs and development of all children into account, so that every child can achieve their full potential. After teaching, I was a governor at a local primary for seventeen years.

Last year I completed my training at Emmanuel Theological College and was ordained in July. I serve as curate at St. Mary's, Whitegate and St. Peter's, Little Budworth. When I first visited Whitegate Primary, I was thrilled to see the strong Christian ethos of the school, and since, the infectious enthusiasm of children in collective worship. It is both a delight and a privilege to be part of this thriving school family – to offer any support I can to pupils, parents, and staff as we grow together in the love of Christ.



And, for those of you who have not met Mr. Pickering, our new parent governor, here is his welcome message:



I'm thrilled to join you all as a school governor! Both my children have called Whitegate home: my eldest recently embarked on the exciting (and slightly terrifying!) journey to high school, leaving only James keeping the house filled with Whitegate chatter. Witnessing their growth within these walls, with all the laughter, learning, and challenges that come with it, has instilled in me a deep appreciation for Whitegate's unique spirit. While I may spend my days navigating the world of automotive engineering at Bentley Motors, my heart remains firmly invested in fostering that same spark of passion and potential in Whitegate's students. I'm here to offer my experience, both as a parent and a professional, to ensure Whitegate continues to be a springboard for young minds to take flight. I am keen to work together to make Whitegate's future as bright as every child within it!

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend. The forecast is for sunny weather, albeit cold, so hopefully we will all be able to get out and about in the fresh air!

Every blessing,

C Mackenzie

Dates

Tuesday 9th January	All day	Whole school visit to Chester Zoo
Wednesday 10th January	Morning	Willow start Forest School
Monday 22nd January	All day	Y6 visit to Safety Central
Thursday 25th January	5pm	Willow Class American Food Diner Experience for parents
Friday 15th December	1:30pm	Break up for Christmas
w/b Monday 29th January	All week	Assessment Week
Friday 9th February	9:10am	Oak's Sharing Assembly
Friday 9th February	6pm	FOWS Bonkers Bingo
Friday 16th February	9:10am	Willow's Sharing Assembly
Friday 16th February	3:15pm	Break up for half term
Monday 26th February	8:50am	School re-opens