



July 2024
24.7.24

Whitegate C/E Primary School

Fortnightly Flyer



What a great end to our school year! It was wonderful to join with you all for the maypole dancing and summer fair on Friday afternoon. There was a great atmosphere and it once lovely for the children to once again be in their finery. Many thanks to the staff, especially Mr Heathcote, who worked so hard to put the dances together. A huge thank you also to our FOWS team for a successful fair. The teachers loved 'Soak the Teacher' this year as we could get our own back with the water pistols! A special thank you to Marcus in Willow Class who was the DJ.

Thank you to those who joined us in church on Thursday as we marked the end of Mrs Ross' time at Whitegate. It was a very special service which was testament to how much Mrs Ross is loved at Whitegate and the impact that she has had. She will be sorely missed but we wish her every blessing as she steps out on the next part of her journey,

Yesterday, we were wowed by our youngest children when Acorns presented all of the activities that they have been engaged with this year; and what a lot they have done! The children delivered their lines beautifully and sung their hearts out. We could not have been prouder.

Today, we say goodbye to our wonderful Y6 children. What a journey they have been on over the last seven years! They had a wonderful day in Llandudno on Monday and an equally great party in the school hall last night. I know that there will be many tears - sadness that they are leaving us but also joy that they have achieved so much here at Whitegate. They are truly ready for the next step along their journey. We are also saying good bye to many parents - some of whom have been part of our Whitegate family for many years having had older children move through the school. I wish to thank them for all of their support and kindness. I will truly miss you.

RE Gold Mark

You may have noticed that we have a new logo on our school letterhead. We have recently been awarded the RE Gold Quality Mark in recognition of the high-quality teaching and learning in this subject, the report stating that 'Whitegate is a beacon school for RE'. This is a huge achievement which we are immensely proud of. We will be celebrating this with the children on Wednesday 18th September where we will be holding a 'Golden Day'. More details to come at the beginning of the new school year.



Uniform

Please remember to donate any uniform that is too small to FOWS for our pre-loved shop. You can simply place this in the donation bin at the front of school. Many thanks. FOWS has a great deal of stock so can I encourage you to purchase pre-loved items ready for September. Please contact the team directly on FOWS: fows@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk.

Please do not purchase any stationery - everything is provided in school. In addition, please do not purchase a book bag: we simply do not have room for them in school.

Timings of the School Day/Attendance

Our consultation period has ended and **the school day will officially start at 8:45am from September**. Any child arriving after this time will be marked as 'late' on the register and will need to enter via the school office. All children who are late must be accompanied into school by an adult who will need to provide a reason for the lateness. Any child arriving after 8:55am, will be marked as 'Unauthorised' on the register. The whistle will still be blown at 8:40am for the children to come into school.

From August, new legislation around attendance comes into force and I will write more about this in the new school year. For now, please refrain from booking holidays in term-time. A reminder that when a child is taken out of school for the purpose of a holiday in term time without the prior permission of the school, the parent/carer (both parents), will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

For those children who are collected for medical appointments during the school day, from September, we will require proof of these appointments.

Reading

Please do encourage your children to keep on reading over the break: the more they read, the more successful their transition will be to their new year group. One way of doing this is to engage in the library's Summer Reading Challenge - a flyer has been stuck into your child's Home School Contact Book. We will celebrate with those children who compete this challenge once we are back in school in September.

Staff News

Today, we also say goodbye to Mrs Shapland who has supported the children in Oak class this year. We thank you for all that she has done and wish her well.

Residential Visits

We are still firming up arrangements for our residential visits for the next academic year and will confirm costings early in September.

The Ark

Please take the time to read the separate correspondence that has been sent out about changes to The Ark for September. It is important that you book a month in advance. Payment must also be made before a child attends a session.

E-Safety

With the Summer holiday finally here, some of our older children will be communicating more frequently online. Please find attached a poster explaining how to help keep children safe online if they are using group chats, whether through messaging apps or in online games.

The move into Year 7 and the growing independence that comes with starting high school means that many children will be receiving their first smart device. Also attached is an easy-to-follow checklist for setting up your children's device safely. It would also be helpful to check that existing devices are safely set up.

Finally, as a reminder of all the positive opportunities that technology offers, please also find attached a guide to different educational apps and tools (EdTech). From gaming to coding, sports to music and photography to art, there's something in there for everyone.

The New-Build

I am sure that you will all agree that the new-build is coming on quickly and it is already looking great! The builders are definitely on-track and will be ready for our start back to school. The official opening will take place on the 26th September when we will be joined by Bishop Sam Corley. Please do join us for this occasion.

First Day Back

On our first day back, Wednesday 4th September, I encourage you to join us in the hall for a coffee morning (hosted by FOWS). What a great way to catch up with everyone after the summer break, but also a great opportunity to welcome the new starter parents who are joining us for the first time.

Toast

Toast will be £9.00 for the first half-term. Please pay for this via ParentMail **by 12noon on Tuesday 3rd September.**

Dates for September

Wednesday 4 th September	8:45am	School re-opens. FOWS Coffee Morning
Tuesday 17 th September	5:30pm	Birch's Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 18 th September	All day	Golden Day!
Thursday 19 th September	5:30pm	Hawthorn's Curriculum Evening
Thursday 19 th September	6:30pm	FOWS AGM
Monday 23 rd September	5:30pm	Elder's Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 24 th September	5:30pm	Oak's Curriculum Evening
Thursday 26 th September	9am	Official opening of the new-build
Thursday 26 th September	6pm	Acorns' Curriculum Evening
Friday 27 th September	9:30am	Y6s to host the Macmillan Coffee Morning

On behalf of all of the staff and myself, thank you for all of the many cards and gifts that we have received. They are not necessary but very much appreciated. I wish you all a wonderful summer break. Have lots of fun and make special memories.

C Mackenzie